

Empire Virtual Times

Spring 2014

Quarterly Volume 2 No. 2



*Happy Memorial
Day!*



Empire State Virtual Branch NCCWSL 2014 Scholarship Winners!

The Empire State Virtual Branch is proud to announce the two winners of NCCWSL 2014 Scholarship Award of \$500 each!

Come and join us at
the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL),
the nation's premier conference for college women, on
June 5-7, 2014 at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD.



L-R: Dr. Rani, Maria Ellis, Kimberly Picone, Katherine Moreira & Savi Alex

The Empire State Virtual Branch has awarded a scholarship to Katherine Moreira and Kimberly Picone, senior students at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx, New York. Katherine & Kimberly along with their mentors, Dr. C.S. Rani and Maria Ellis will attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), the nation's premier conference for college women, on June 5-7, 2014 at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. The NCCWSL is a transformative experience that teaches our mentees how to get the most from their college experience. It's a fast-paced, two-and-a-half day event that addresses the needs of current and aspiring women student leaders. At the conference, our mentees, Kimberly & Katherine will choose from over 50 workshops that offer women preparation for professional careers following college; introduce them to incredible role models including Chelsea Clinton, Vice Chair of the Clinton Foundation. For more information about the CMSV Mentoring Program and/or NCCWSL, email Maria Ellis, AAUW NYS Membership VP at mellis@fsacap.com.

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**AAUW— Empire State
Virtual Branch**

973 216 4181

<http://empire-ny.aauw.net>

*"Leadership is the
capacity to
translate vision
into reality."*



A LETTER FROM THE EMPIRE STATE VIRTUAL BRANCH PRESIDENT, MARIA ELLIS



Dear Friends,

We are pleased to report that AAUW NYS 2014 Convention 2014 was very success and the Empire State Virtual Branch congratulates the AAUW NYS Board with special recognition to Jean Havens, Karen Carr and Ann Pin-



na for making the convention at Honor's Haven Resort such a success. The theme was "A World of Wellness: Stimulating the Mind, Inspiring the Soul, Energizing the Body".

We had engaging conversations with Patricia Ho, President of AAUW national and Kim Pollard, AAUW NYS Organizer about AAUW's value to our communities, the membership work of our states and branches and AAUW's priority issues. The conference was informative and fun and we learned about women's public health issues, reproductive rights, techniques for revitalizing branches with an emphasis on membership growth and leadership, and an historic look at issues of work/family balance.

The Empire State Virtual Branch (ESVB) won many awards including **Silver Branch for outstanding 2013-2014 programming, Bronze Star Public Policy Award, 21st Century Communications Award of Distinction for Newsletter and Print Media 2013-2014, Top 5 Branch in Total LAF Evvie Currie Giving Circle Contributions, Top Ten Branch for Total Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Contribution, Consistent Efforts to Educate Members about Public Policy Issues through the Branch Newsletter, Legal Advocacy Fund Star Branch for Contribution of \$5 per capita or more, Award of Merit for Communication/Visibility (Website) in 2013-2014 and Visibility Award of Merit All Categories (Website, Newsletter and Print Media, Social Media)**. Thank you again for your active participation, generous donations and for living our AAUW mission while having fun! As it is our tradition, the ESVB had its annual meeting at the convention and we talked about our programming accomplishments and the upcoming National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

The **ESVB's two NCCWSL scholarship recipients** are **Katherine Moreira** and **Kimberly Picon** both junior students at the **College of Mount Saint Vincent (CMSV)**. Katherine's and Kimberly's winning essays stated "our acceptance into the Mentorship program has been one of many blessings. Through this mentoring program we have met incredible AAUW women who have given us insight on their successful careers and we also learned about Eleanor Roosevelt leadership style". Kimberly also stated "the ESVB & CMSV Mentoring Program allowed me to gain confidence and happiness in my life and career path."

Finally, some of our ESVB members will be travelling to the University of Maryland, College Park with Kimberly and Katherine to NCCWSL on June 5-7, 2014 and you are all most welcome to join us! For more details, email mellis@fsacap.com.

With a grateful heart,

Maria L. Ellis, MBA
Empire State Virtual Branch, President
Mobile: 973-216-4181
<http://empire-ny.aauw.net>

"Work is easier to carry if your heart is involved."... ER

Empire State Virtual Branch Won Many Awards!



Congrats to all the ESVB members and friends who made possible winning so many awards at the AAUW NYS Convention on April 25-27, 2014 in Ellenville, NY.

Awards!

1. Silver Branch for outstanding 2013-2014 programming that was consistently Marketing the Mission of AAUW
2. Bronze Star Public Policy Action Award
3. 21st Century Communications Award of Distinction for Newsletters and Print Media 2013-2014
4. Top 5 Branch in Total LAF Currie Giving Circle Contributions
5. Top Ten Branch for Total Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Contribution
6. Consistent Efforts to Educate Members about Public Policy Issues through the Branch Newsletter
7. Legal Advocacy Fund Star Branch for Contribution of \$5 per capita or more
8. Award of Merit for Communication/Visibility (Website) in 2013-2014
9. Visibility Award of Merit All Categories (Website, Newsletter and Print Media, Social Media) 2013-2014

Empire State Virtual Branch Emerging Leader

Congratulations Dr. C.S. Rani for being nominated as an "Emerging Leader" for the Empire State Virtual Branch and being recognized at the AAUW NYS Convention on April 25-27, 2014 in Ellenville, New York.

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Empire State Virtual Branch Bylaws



Empire State Virtual Branch Bylaws

Draft Dated: Sept. 13, 2012
 Revised draft: Dec. 11, 2012; Jan. 8, 2013; Feb. 5, 2013 & March 19, 2013
 Final Version: April 16, 2013
 Mandatory Bylaw changes: April 29, 2014

BYLAWS

THE EMPIRE STATE VIRTUAL BRANCH

ARTICLE I. NAME AND GOVERNANCE

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization is The Empire State Virtual Branch (the "Branch"). Section 2. Governance. The Bylaws of the American Association of University Women, Inc. (AAUW) shall govern the Branch in all practices, and the bylaws of this organization shall in no way conflict with the AAUW Bylaws.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Branch shall be to further AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

ARTICLE III. USE OF NAME

Section 1. AAUW POLICY. The policies and programs of AAUW shall be binding on all members and the Branch, and no member or the Branch shall use the name of AAUW to oppose such policies or programs. Established channels may be used to change a policy or program.

Section 2. Freedom of Speech. The freedom of speech of the individual member to speak a personal opinion in the member's own name is not abridged.

Section 3. Violations. Violation of the use of AAUW's name shall result in action taken in accordance with AAUW policy.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Composition.

The membership of AAUW shall consist of individual and partner members.

Section 2. Qualified Institutions.

Qualified institutions are educational institutions that offer recognized associate, baccalaureate, or higher degrees and that have full regional accreditation or appropriate professional association approval.

Section 3. Basis of Membership.

a. Individual Member.

- 1) Eligibility. A graduate holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a qualified educational institution shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership; such membership shall be granted upon payment of AAUW dues. The provisions set forth in this section are the sole requirement for eligibility and admissibility to membership. Refusal to admit an eligible graduate to branch membership shall result in loss of recognition of a branch.
- 2) Determination of Admissibility to Membership. Any graduate who claims qualification for membership in AAUW and who has been refused admission to membership by an officer of a branch or of AAUW may present credentials to the AAUW Board of Directors for review. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.
- 3) Saving Clause. No individual member shall lose membership due to any change in the status of the educational institution upon which qualification for membership was based.
- 4) Categories of Membership.

A national member is an individual who pays annual AAUW dues and who may or may not belong to a branch, state, or multistate organization or other AAUW-affiliated entity. A national member shall be entitled to vote and to serve on AAUW committees and the AAUW Board of Directors.

(b) A branch member is a national member who is also a member of one or more AAUW branches. A branch member shall be entitled to vote, hold office, and participate in all branch activities and programs of each branch where membership is maintained.

(5) Life Membership.

(a) Paid. An individual member may become a life member upon a one-time payment of 20 years' dues, based on the amount of AAUW dues the year the member elects to become a life member. Thereafter, the life member shall be exempt from the payment of AAUW dues.

(b) Fifty-Year Honorary. An individual member who has paid AAUW dues for 50 years shall become a life member and shall thereafter be exempt from the payment of AAUW dues.

(c) Privileges. A life member of AAUW who maintains a membership in one or more branches or other AAUW-affiliated entities on an annual basis shall be entitled to all branch rights and privileges. A life member of AAUW who does not maintain branch membership shall be entitled to national member privileges only.

b. Partner Member.

College/university partner members are qualified educational institutions, including two-year or community colleges, that pay annual dues to AAUW. Each college/university member shall appoint one or two representatives who shall each have the membership benefits of a national member and any other benefits that accrue to representatives of partner members. A representative of a college/university partner member may choose to affiliate with a state or multistate organization, branch, or other AAUW-affiliated entity following the procedures set forth in the state or branch bylaws.

c. Other Partner Members.

Other partner members include educational or other institutions and organizations meeting criteria established by the Board of Directors. Such other partner members are not entitled to vote or hold office but may participate in AAUW activities and programs.

Section 4. Student Affiliates.

An undergraduate student enrolled in a qualified educational institution shall be eligible for student affiliation. Student affiliates shall be entitled to attend branch, state, and AAUW meetings and receive the publications distributed to all members of AAUW. Affiliates may not vote or hold office. Fees for student affiliates shall be established by the AAUW Board of Directors.

Section 5. Dues.

a. Amount.

- 1) The annual dues for individual members shall be established by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. Members shall be notified of the intent to consider a change in the dues, the proposed amount, and the rationale for the change at least 60 days prior to the vote.
- 2) Dues for partner members shall be set by the Board of Directors.
- 3) Dues shall include the AAUW publication distributed to all members electronically or by mail.

b. Payment. Member dues shall be payable in accordance with procedures established by policy.

c. Reciprocity. A current paid member of a branch or comparable AAUW-affiliated entity may transfer membership to another branch or comparable AAUW-affiliated entity without payment of additional dues.

Section 6. Severance of Membership.

A member may be suspended or dropped from membership for any conduct that tends to injure AAUW or to adversely affect its reputation or that is contrary to or destructive of its mission according to these Bylaws, with action taken following policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors.

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Empire State Virtual Branch Bylaws Cont'd.

ARTICLE V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominations

- a) There shall be a nominating committee for the election of directors/officers consisting of at least five (5) members, two (2) of whom shall be incoming directors/officers elected at the Board Meeting in June of each year and the remaining members of whom shall be elected at the September general meeting of members.
- b) The nominating committee, by the end of September of each year, shall select one of its own to be chair. The term of service on the nominating committee shall be for one (1) year, for a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms.
- c) The names of the nominees for elected office shall be published and sent to every member at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of members.
- d) Nominations may be made at the annual meeting with the consent of the nominee.

Section 2. Elections

- a) Elections for directors/officers shall be held at the annual meeting of members.
- b) A Board of Elections shall be established consisting of 3 volunteers from the general membership who are not running for office, and shall be chosen by the Board of Directors at the March Board meeting. Its duties shall be:
 1. to see that the final slate of directors/officers together with ballots is printed in the newsletter and e-mailed to all members;
 2. to set up a system for counting and securing the ballots;
 3. to certify the results of the election and announce the results in the next issue of the newsletter.
- c) Elections shall be by ballot unless there is only one nominee for a given office, in which case the election may be by a voice vote. Election shall be by a majority vote of those voting provided a quorum is present. A quorum shall be 10% of all Branch members.
- d) The election format will be determined by the board consistent with state laws.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Section 1. Officers and Directors

- a) The elected officers shall be a president, one or more vice presidents for programs & membership, a secretary, a treasurer and such other officers as the members may authorize from time to time. The elected directors/officers shall comprise the Board of Directors. When an office is shared by more than one person, the office has one vote.
- b) Officers and directors shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until their successors have been elected or appointed and assume office. The term of each officer shall begin on July 1.
- c) No elected director/officer shall be eligible to serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in the same office.
- d) The incoming president may call a meeting of incoming directors/officers prior to July 1.
- e) If a vacancy in any elected office should occur, excluding the president, the president, with the approval of the Board of Directors, will appoint someone to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the year. If a vacancy in the office of president should occur, the Board of Directors will appoint one of its own to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the year.
- f) The Board of Directors will share the duties of president when there is no elected president.

Section 2. Duties

- a) *Officers/Directors shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws, the Board Handbook, Branch policies, and by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.*
- b) The president shall be the official spokesperson and representative for the Branch and shall be responsible for submitting such reports and forms as required by AAUW and state.
- c) The vice presidents shall perform such duties as requested by the president.
- d) The secretary shall perform such duties as requested by the president and record and keep minutes of all business meetings, necessary correspondence, maintain copies of the bylaws and any other guiding documents.

- e) The treasurer shall be responsible for collecting, distributing, and accounting for the funds of the Branch. The treasurer shall collect dues and properly remit them to the national AAUW and state by the specified deadline. The treasurer or AAUW Funds chair shall send moneys for the AAUW Funds by the specified deadlines and shall keep separate ledgers for each type of account.

ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Composition. The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected directors/officers. Chairs or a representative from each of the Action Groups, Branch Projects and Committees, are invited to attend Board meetings but shall have no voting rights on matters requiring a vote of the Board.

Section 2. Responsibilities. The Board of Directors shall have the general power to administer the affairs of the Branch, including but not limited to establishing policies and procedures to control financial records. It shall accept responsibility delegated by the AAUW and New York State (AAUW-NYS). The Board shall keep minutes of any meetings at which it takes Board action.

Section 3. Meetings. *Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least six (6) times per year. Participation by conference call is permitted. Board meetings may be called upon three (3) days' notice at the request of the president or at the request of 30% of the Board members.*

Section 4. Quorum. *The quorum of the Board of Directors shall be 30% of the board members.*

Section 5. Voting. *Unless otherwise stated in the bylaws, motions must be passed by a majority vote of the directors present at a meeting where there is a quorum.*

ARTICLE VIII. STANDING COMMITTEES shall be the nominating and audit committees and such others as the board may appoint.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year shall correspond with that of AAUW and shall begin on July 1.

Section 2. Financial Policies. The Board shall set and maintain policies and procedures to control financial records consistent with generally accepted accounting principles and federal, state and local laws including an annual financial review.

Section 3. Budget. The annual budget for the coming year shall be adopted by the Board of Directors in February, published in the newsletters preceding the annual meeting of members and voted on by the members at the April or May annual meeting. Voting by ballot shall be accepted as described in ARTICLE V.

ARTICLE X. MEETINGS

Section 1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least five (5) general membership meetings each year.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. The general membership meeting, held in April or May, shall be designated the Annual Meeting, the exact date, time and place to be determined by the Board. The Annual Meeting shall be to conduct business including but not limited to electing officers, establishing dues, amending bylaws, and giving direction to the Board.

Section 3. Meeting Notice. Notice of meetings shall be sent to all members of the Branch at least ten (10) days prior to the meetings.

Section 4. Quorum. The quorum shall be 10 percent of the Branch members.

ARTICLE XI. PROPERTY

Section 1. Title. The title for all property, funds and assets of the Branch, whether incorporated or not, shall at all times be vested in the Branch for the joint use of members and no member or group of members shall have any severable right to all or any part of such property. The Branch shall have complete control over the acquisition, administration and disposition of its property without consent of AAUW except that such property shall not be used for any purposes contrary to those of AAUW. Section 2. Dissolution of Branch. In the event of the dissolution of the Empire State Virtual Branch or the termination of its affiliation with AAUW, all assets of the Branch shall be transferred and delivered to AAUW or to AAUW-affiliated entity designated by AAUW.

ARTICLE XII. LOSS OF RECOGNITION

The provisions and conditions under which a Branch may lose recognition are found in the AAUW Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern this Branch in all instances in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws or those of AAUW or those of AAUW-New York State.

Empire State Virtual Branch Bylaws Cont'd.

ARTICLE XIV. INDEMNIFICATION

To the extent not inconsistent with Section 720-a of the New York State Not-for-Profit Law, every director/officer shall be indemnified by the Branch against all expenses and liabilities, including counsel fees, reasonably incurred or imposed upon such members of the Board in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding to which the Board member may become involved by reason of being or having been a member of the Branch Board, or any settlement thereof, unless adjudged therein to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of duties. In the event of a settlement the indemnification herein shall apply only when the Branch Board approves such settlement and reimbursement as being in the best interest of the Branch. The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in addition to and not exclusive of all other rights to which the member of the Board is entitled.

ARTICLE XV. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Section 1. AAUW Mandated Amendments. Amendments required by AAUW to bring the organization bylaws into conformity shall not require a vote of the members, except that an incorporated state shall take the necessary steps required by the state bylaws, its articles of incorporation, and state law.

Section 2. Prior Approval. All other proposed amendments to the Branch bylaws shall be sent to the bylaws committee of the New York State branch of the AAUW for approval before the call for a Branch vote. If there is no State bylaws committee, approval of amendments to Branch bylaws will be according to the procedure established by the AAUW Governance committee.

Section 3. Branch Vote. Provisions of these bylaws not governed by AAUW Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a general membership meeting provided written notice shall have been given to every member at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

The Empire State Virtual Branch contact for administration and finance matters are Maria Ellis, MBA at mellis@fsacap.com and Dr. C.S. Rani at csrani.rani@gmail.com.

Date reviewed by Bylaws Chair, Diane Haney, Sept. 13, 2012; Dec. 11, 2012; Jan. 8, 2013; Feb. 5, 2013, March 19, 2013 & April 16, 2013

Date presented to Board for approval: June 25, 2013

Date presented to general membership for vote: June 25, 2013

Date sent to the NY State Bylaws Chair: June 26, 2013

AAUW Mandatory Bylaws changes sent to NYS Bylaws chair and AAUW: April 29, 2014

Ask the President

What is the new and revised AAUW board approved Fundraising Policy?

The key issues covered in the new fundraising policy include IRS regulations as they apply to AAUW, definitions of AAUW terms and entities, the use of the AAUW name in fundraising, honoring the intent of the donor, handling contributions, maintaining fiscal integrity, basics for 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations, and fundraising resources. Some of us will see no difference in our fundraising efforts and some of us will need to refocus our support of non-AAUW organizations that are not directly mission driven. Some changes to fundraising efforts will be immediate since they are IRS regulations. Other changes will require branches to rethink how their current efforts can better meet the AAUW mission and help fund priority issues.

AAUW has hundreds of restricted funds that fall into five programmatic areas and one unrestricted fund, AAUW Funds. Donations to AAUW Funds provide financial support to the programs with the greatest need at the time and provide the greatest opportunity to achieve our mission. More information about these funds is available on the AAUW website

<<http://www.aauw.org/resource/how-to-support-aauw-programs-funds-diagram/>>. Local scholarships are also a key component of many branch programs, and a new, separate document addressing local scholarships and awards is being finalized based on advice from legal counsel.

AAUW is a charitable 501(c)(3) organization designated by the IRS as the parent organization of many affiliated entities. As such, we must meet IRS regulations and maintain high standards of compliance and transparency. This privilege could be compromised if branches and states fail to meet IRS regulations. The IRS is increasingly watchful, and already several AAUW branches have received fines. If you have any questions about fundraising, please direct all inquiries and questions to AAUW headquarters via connect@AAUW.org or connect@AAUW.org.

2014 AAUW-NYS Summer Conference

NYS Summer Leadership Conference
July 25-27, 2014
Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY

2014 Great Decisions

Great Decision	Dates	Reviewers
2. Israel and the U.S.	2 nd Thurs, May 22	Barbara Rossman
8. U.S. Trade Policy	2 nd Thurs, May 8	Diane Daniels
Charles Room, The Harvard Club, 27 W 44th St., 5:30—7:00 p.m. For more information, email Julie K: juliek@msn.com		

Heartfelt Thanks to Friends!

Thank you for your generous and thoughtful donations to the Empire State Virtual Branch!

Maria Ellis

Melissa Guardaro

Dr. C.S. Rani

Marilyn Tesdechi

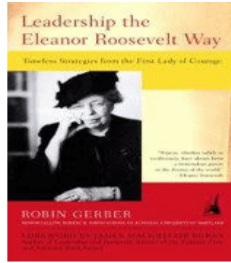


"Women, whether subtly or vociferously, have always been a tremendous power in the destiny of the world ..." ER

NY/NJ AAUW "WILD" Women Project



The NY/NJ AAUW "WILD"
Women Project
(Women In Leadership Development)



"Embracing Eleanor in the 21st Century"

1. "Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way"

- Robin Gerber's keynote resonated with the membership at the AAUW National Convention in New Orleans in June. She agreed to support us in a year long/month by month/chapter by chapter study of her book "Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way." Branch participation is encouraged via conference call by:
-having a single member/6 members sharing calls & reporting back
-Westchester Branch is mentoring college students with this book
- This initiative began in January of 2014 for NY AAUW. If book groups are interested in reading this book, there is a reading guide by Robin.

2. Celebrating the International Day of the Girl on October 11th

There is no better way to honor the legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt than promoting this celebration of girls that falls on her birthday, October 11th. This celebration is in its' second year and we are delighted to spread the word.

The Youtube video "The Girl Effect" is a good way to educate your members of the plight of young girls in developing countries.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1e8xgF0JtVg

Be sure to visit The Girl Effect website for more information.

www.girleffect.org

Build on the last two years to create a platform for this program – Girls Speak Out; 11 Days of Action; Celebrate Girls on 11th of Every Month

For many branches, this may be their first introduction to this special day. Remember to **start small/expand gradually/think in terms of year.**

3. Developing your own Branch 'UN Women' Initiative

It is our hope that branches will take these ideas and design programs/projects that speak to their membership and community. We have two AAUW NYS members working at the UN – Melissa Guardaro, the AAUW Representative and Geeta Desai, on the Membership Committee of the IFUW (International Federation of University Women).

Geeta is also the Public Policy Convener for Women Graduates – USA and has a blog that focuses on current issues facing women and girls.

Here is the website for interested members– www.wg-usa.org/advocacyblog.

Interested in becoming a WILD Woman?
Contact Joan Monk, AAUW NYS District Director –
ftmaven@gmail.com or 914 245 7704

Public Policy



WE CAN DO IT!

ADD YOUR VOICE to all the others who want the NYS Senate to pass the NYS Women's Equality Agenda (WEA). The NYS Assembly has already done so. The 10 Point WEA will break down barriers to promote fairness and equal opportunity for the women of NYS. This legislation will advance pay equity, limit discrimination, support women's health, and protect victims of domestic violence, sexual harassment and human trafficking. For more details check

<http://nywomensequality.org/10-point-plan/> and/or previous issues of ESVT <http://empire-ny.aauw.net/newsletters/>

WE CAN DO IT! Contact your NYS Senator. Go to <http://www.nysenate.gov/senators> Insert your address, submit, write you message, send email. Let your NYS Senator know that you want her/him to support the Women's Equality Act. **TAKE ACTION NOW!**

ROSIE'S LAW

Rosie's Law would allow facility dogs in New York courts to provide comfort to victims or witnesses during testimony. The Law is named after a golden retriever who was the first assistance dog allowed in a state court. Facility dogs are used to aid children during testimonies. This new legislation would expand the service to include adults, mostly women, who experienced violent crimes or sexual assault. It would be the first of its kind in the country. It would allow NYS judges, to make a determination and allow any vulnerable witness that the judge felt needed comfort to have access to a courthouse facility dog to help ease the anxiety and pain of testifying.

Ask your NYS Senator: <http://www.nysenate.gov/senators> and NYS Assembly Person: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/> to support Rosie's Law. The bill number in the Senate is 4865-A and in the Assembly A7159A-2013. **TAKE ACTION NOW!!**

Nancy Mion, Empire State Virtual Branch Public Policy Chair
Myown220@aol.com



"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."

Monthly Events

Diversity: The Heart and Conscience of AAUW

Diversity: The Heart and Conscience of AAUW

Heide Parreño

Diversity Director, NYS AAUW, Empire State Virtual Branch



In principle and practice, AAUW--NYS values and seeks an inclusive diverse membership that results in an influential organization that mirrors the community. Diversity is integral to AAUW's mission of advancing equity for all women and girls of all ages, cultures and abilities. To achieve this mission, diversity needs to be embedded as a value in the infra structure of AAUW. It should be an on--going initiative. We need to incorporate diversity and inclusiveness as part of what we do in all facets of our lives and at AAUW.

Dr. Scott E. Page, a social scientist best known for his research on diversity, states that "diversity improves performance and decision making". It might be worthwhile in our branches to do a study group of his book: The Difference: How the Power of Diversity creates better groups, firms, schools and societies.

We will have a focus group at our upcoming State convention. I am hoping to have an honest and healthy conversation with you and share insights of your lived experiences in your branch and in the community of which you are a part.

What do you think of diversity and inclusiveness as the heart and conscience of AAUW?

I want to share with you some resources suggested to me:

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36/36089.html> Every city and county in the State of New York has such a page, which is based on "Quick Page" in the U.S. census website. DVD: World Song and I AM. (Please let me know if you want a copy.) You can contact me at: orostar@aol.com



*"What matters now as always,
is not what we can't do:
it is what we can and must do." - ER*

Explore Your Opportunities: The Sky's the Limit!™



Congratulations to **Lorrin Johnson, Wilma Gitchel and Marilee Scheuneman** for another successful Explore Your Opportunities: the Sky's the Limit Conference held on April 12, 2014 at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, New York.

According to Lorrin, we have received great reviews from our 7th grade participants about all the 16 workshops given at this Conference including but not limited to 1) Flower Hour- Observe and describe flowers and discover similarities that group them and differences that make them unique. Elizabeth McCarthy, B.A., Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research Assistant, The New York Botanical Garden; 2. Brain Games-

Learn about some of the mind boggling things a brain can do from making memories to controlling emotions.

Jenny Libien, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY; 3. Build A Paper Circuit - Make your own paper flashlight by conducting electricity with graphite and learn the engineering principles behind the experiment.

Valerie Myers, B.A., B.S., and Kristin Alfieri, M.S., Entergy's Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant; 4. It's a Sugar...It's a Base...It's DNA! - Discover the structure of DNA and learn how to isolate DNA from your own cells painlessly.

Jeanette Sutherland, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research Associate, Weill Cornell Medical College, and Sandra Aedo, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research Associate, The Rockefeller University; 5. Playing Games in Alice World - Learn to create interactive games using "Alice" programming.

Mirkeya Capellan, BA, MS, DPS, Adjunct Professor, Pace University, IT Training, Resource Management & Strategic Project Specialist, Mercedes-Benz USA; 6. Build-a-Bot - Program a robot to respond to its environment and play "Keep Away". Abigail A. Flower, Ph.D., Senior Member Research Staff, Philips Research North America.

All the workshop speakers got great reviews but our key note speaker, **the Australian GPS girl, Karen Jacobsen** received the most accolades from our students. We were all very engaged and enjoyed her "Recalculate" motivational talk. I thought it would be fun to share with you that we just received a "thank you" note from the "GPS Girl" who went to Australia on business the very same day of our EYO Conference, quote "I have just returned from travels to Australia. It was such a pleasure to spend time with you and your team on April 12th. I hope the event was a huge success. Looking forward to staying connected. Thought you would enjoy seeing our son Hayden's first picture with a Koala on our recent trip to Australia. As you may know this is a real rite of passage for Aussie kids, especially in Queensland at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary which is where this was taken".



Hayden

the gps girl.
ROAD MAP FOR YOUR FUTURE



Karen Jacobsen
PO Box 2042 New York, NY 10101
+1 646 345 4642
karen@thegpsgirl.com

CALENDAR FOR MAY - JULY 2014

Day	Date	Time	Event	
Sat	04/12/14	8 am-2 p.m.	EYO Conference at the College of Mount Saint Vincent	Happy Flag Day (6/14)! ***** Members interested in scheduling an event/meeting for the branch please contact the Program VP to reserve dates and confirm before publicizing the event/meeting. ***** Maria Ellis & Dr. C.S. Rani mellis@fsacap.com *****
Fri-Sat	04/25-27/14		AAUW NYS Convention at Honor's Haven Resort	
Thurs	05/01/14		Loyalty Day—National Day of Prayer	
Thurs	05/01/14	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Mentoring Closing Ceremony at the College of Mount Saint Vincent	
Thurs	05/08/14	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Great Decisions: Topic: "U.S. Trade Policy" 2nd Thurs, May 8	
Sun	05/11/14		Mother's Day	
Sat	05/17/14		Armed Forces Day	
Thurs	05/22/14	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Great Decisions: Topic: "Israel and the U.S." 4th Thurs, May 22	
Mon	05/26/14		Memorial Day	
Tues	05/27/14	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Empire State Virtual Branch Board Meeting (To join the Teleconference Call 712 432 0926; code 223128#).	
Thurs-Sat	06/05-07/14	7 p.m.	National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), at the University of Maryland	Save the Dates: Thurs.: 05/22/14 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., The Harvard Club 2014 Great Decisions Thurs-Sat, 06/05-07/14, National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), University of Maryland, College Park, MD Fri - Sun, 07/25-27/14 AAUW NYS Summer Leadership Conference Cazenovia College Cazenovia, NY
Sun	06/15/14		Father's Day	
Tues	06/24/14	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Empire State Virtual Branch Board Meeting (To join the Teleconference Call 712 432 0926; code 223128#).	
Fri	07/04/14		Independence Day	
Fri-Sun	07/25-27/14	7 p.m.	AAUW NYS Summer Leadership Conference at Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY	

Empire State Virtual Branch Membership

Join or renew your membership with Empire State Virtual Branch!

AAUW national dues are \$49, AAUW NYS dues are \$13.00, and the Empire State Virtual Branch dues are \$5.00. The branch dues year is July 1 to June 30, and if you join now, your membership is good through June 30, 2015. See the various memberships below and to join, please visit our website at <http://empire-ny.aauw.net/membership/>

- § **Not currently a member of AAUW:** \$67 (\$49 for national dues, \$13 for NYS; \$5 for Empire)
- § **Current branch member:** \$5 for a dual membership
- § **Current member-at-large:** \$18 (\$13 for NYS; \$5 for Empire)
- § **Current student member:** \$17* a year (Campus is not a college member)
- § **Current student member on an AAUW NY member campus:** Free
- § **New Graduate:** first year free
- § **Graduate Student:** member \$18.81 a year
- § **Primary Member & Donor** for \$100* a year including a generous contribution of \$33 to be used towards NCCWSL

Membership dues can be paid by a credit card or check. This feature is available on our website. Go to: <http://empire-ny.aauw.net/PayPalMemForm.html> or simply fill out and mail the coupon below:

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name:	Please click on the link below to join us: http://www.aauw.org and follow the steps for online registration. If you prefer to write a check for your membership, please issue a check payable to AAUW and mail it to Angela M. Cooper, AAUW Membership Dept, 1111 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. If you have any questions, please call Angela at 202 785 7782 or Maria Ellis at 973 216 4181.
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
College Attended:	



AAUW Executive Director: Linda Hallman
 AAUW President: Patricia Fae Ho
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 State: www.aauw-nys.org
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 EYO: www.aauw-eyhconference.org
 Webmaster: Dr. Chigurupati Rani; csrani.rani@gmail.com
 Empire Virtual Times is published quarterly by AAUW Empire State Virtual Branch
 Editor-In-Chief: Dr. Chigurupati Rani; csrani.rani@gmail.com;
 Editorial and Writing Team: Maria Ellis; mellis@fsacp.com,
 Dr. Chigurupati Rani; csrani.rani@gmail.com, &
 Nancy Mion, myown220@aol.com
 Design: Maria Ellis & Dr. Chigurupati Rani

Members will kindly send in their articles for
 the Empire Virtual Times
 at the **beginning of each quarter**
 (January, April, July, October)
 to mellis@fsacp.com & csrani.rani@gmail.com.
 Send your ideas and letters to
 Maria Ellis and Dr. C.S. Rani.

AAUW EMPIRE STATE VIRTUAL BRANCH

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Any individual donations to the Empire State Virtual branch
 will be matched by the fund.

American Association of
 University Women
 advances equity for women
 and girls through advocacy,
 education, and research.

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and
 visible leader in equity and education
 through research, philanthropy and
 measurable change in critical areas
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AAUW values and seeks a diverse
 membership. There shall be no
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 gender, race, creed, age, sexual
 orientation, national origin,
 disability, or class.



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Because
 Equity Is Still
 an Issue



Moving the Mission Forward

The Empire State Virtual Branch is the first virtual branch in New York State.

