



ADVOCATE

October 2020

NYS District 1

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Vol. CXXIX No. 2



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NOVEMBER ADVOCATE

The deadline for each issue of the Advocate is the 10th of the previous month. Submit articles to the editor:

NEWSLETTER@AAUWBUFFALO.ORG

via email by October 10. Please be sure to put “AAUW Buffalo Advocate” subject in the line.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Laurie Eikemeyer

Welcome to a new AAUW year! As we continue with COVID precautions, I hope once again that my message finds you well. Our election of officers went very well. I thank you for your participation and especially Betty Preble, our election administrator. Now that our election is complete, we can begin to conduct business in our “new normal.” We are still unable to hold board meetings in person and are relying on Zoom meetings to conduct our business, but we must continue the best we can. We now have a branch Zoom account to use.

At this time, we need several volunteers to fill the following appointed positions:

Newsletter Publisher/Editor

AAUW Funds Chair

Public Relations (Co-)Chair and committee members

If you are interested in participating in any of these important roles, please email me at president@aauwbuffalo.org.

Suzanne Taeger has recently been very ill and has stepped down as our newsletter editor. I want to thank her for all of the hard work she put into all of the beautiful, well-designed newsletters. Please keep Suzanne in your thoughts and prayers.

I know it feels as if life is on hold during the ongoing pandemic, but eventually, we will be able to resume our branch activities. I am heartened to see that most of our membership renewed despite the lack of activities. We have had many people asking about the book sale. Please stay tuned; we will notify you when things begin to move again.

During our September meeting, the board discussed possibly creating some online activities or webinars to help us stay engaged and working on our mission.

Please keep in mind our members who may be isolated because of COVID-19 precautions, and women everywhere who may be struggling because of loss of work, childcare issues, etc. that were caused by the pandemic.

Finally, I encourage you to read Marian’s article in this newsletter called, “Vote, Vote, Vote” and encourage you to honor the suffragists who fought hard to win the right to vote for all women, by voting in the upcoming election.

**AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH
ELECTED
BOARD MEMBERS 2020-21**

PRESIDENT

Laurie Eikemeyer

VP PROGRAM

Lilyen Mascellino

**VP MEMBERSHIP
RECRUITMENT**

Melissa White

VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

Jean Hubbard

SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN

Diane O'Brien

CFO

Rosalind Kochmanski

BRANCH TREASURER

Mary Bashore

EAP TREASURER

Lynne Rapin

FUNDRAISING TREASURER

Mary Crocker

**CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR
EDUCATION TREASURER**

Kate Collins

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR

Rosaleen Nogle

Election Results!

Betty Preble, Election Administrator

Thanks to all who voted in our online election! Out of 162 eligible voters, 67 cast their ballots. The bylaws change was approved and the revised bylaws have been posted on our website. We appreciate the willingness of Marilyn Carmichael, Maryann Hope, and Judy Huber to stand as candidates for the nominating committee knowing that they would probably not be asked to serve.

Congratulations to our NEWLY ELECTED CFO Rosalind Kochmanski and Scholarship Director Rosaleen Nogle.

Kudos also to our newly re-elected officers: Membership Recruitment VP Melissa White, Secretary Diane O'Brien, EAP Treasurer Lynne Rapin and Fundraising Treasurer Mary Crocker.

Please give all these officers your support as they take on or continue their roles and join continuing President Laurie Eikemeyer, Program VP Lilyen Mascellino, Membership Retention VP Jean Hubbard, Operations Treasurer Mary Bashore, and Chamberlin/Funds for Education Treasurer Kate Collins.



SPOTLIGHT ON A MEMBER!

Thanks to Mary Ellen Shaughnessy for sending this information!

Stacey Johnson, a longtime AAUW member and a former branch president, was honored recently by UUP for her years of service to the union. (UUP=United University Professions, the union for Academic and Professional Staff of SUNY.)

Stacey Johnson is this year's recipient of the **Pearl H. Brod Outstanding Retiree Award**. Here is an excerpt from the nominating petition: "Stacey is a wonderful combination of labor activist, staff member, academic, and friend. It goes without saying that her involvement in the community is outstanding--she promotes with pride the Buffalo opera and music environment through her service to those boards."

But it's her union work that took center stage about six years ago, when she was first elected to UUP's statewide Committee on Active Retired Membership, as the regional representative from WNY... **Stacey represents the best of what UUP stands for in keeping the union movement in the forefront for our retirees**, advocating for their needs and being a model for the slogan 'Solidarity Forever.'

Congratulations, Stacey!



THE BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE

is published monthly, September to June, as a bulletin of events for members and as an update on AAUW issues and programs.

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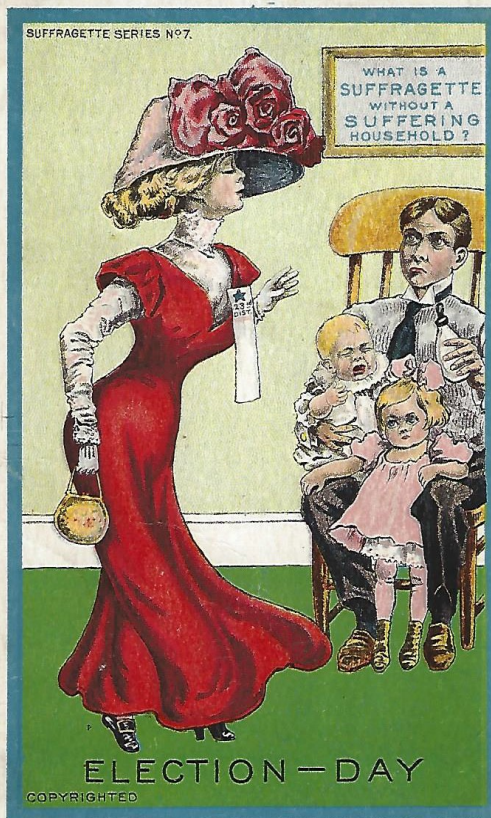
For prospective or new member questions, contact:

Membership Recruitment VP,
Melissa White,
recruitment@aaubuffalo.org

Send address changes to:

Mary Crocker
375 Parkhurst Blvd.
Buffalo, NY 14223
(database@aaubuffalo.org)

Thanks to **Diane O'Brien** for saving and sharing these vintage postcards. Not everyone was in favor of women's winning the right to vote!



PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

Nadine S. Lockwood, Ph.D.

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Interest Groups

Dinner by the Book: Wed., Oct. 21st at 6:30 pm.

Judy Malamas will lead our ZOOM discussion of "Dear Edward." Mary Ann Hope will be our discussion facilitator. Marilyn Carmichael will set up the meeting, then turn it over to the leaders for the evening.

Clueless: Wed., Oct. 28 at 12:30 pm.

Clueless will be discussing "The Hunting Party" by Lucy Foley, presented by Barbara Libby.

Happy Wanderers: Fri., Oct. 16 at 10:00 am.

Visit the Burchfield-Penney Art Center at 10 (10am-11am is for "persons at risk", including seniors.) One of several current exhibits is on the Women's Suffrage Movement. Admission: \$8 admission for seniors, \$10 adults, free for members.

We'll try to have lunch in the cafeteria or at a nearby location. Call Mary Ellen Shaughnessy (885-3292 if you're joining us so we have a count for lunch.)

Culinary Delights is currently not meeting.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Marian Deutschman

The most important message for this month is to be prepared to VOTE! Whether you vote absentee, or you vote early at one of the many sites in the county, or at your polling place on November 3, it is important that you cast a knowledgeable vote and that your vote is counted. Call the Board of Elections or use vote411.org if you have questions.

Historically, almost all presidential candidates will tell you that their election is one of the most important in history. The election of **1800** is considered by most scholars to be the most significant in our history because of its impact on electoral policies. The 12th Amendment was added to the Constitution changing the electoral process. In the presidential election of **1860**, the newly formed Republican Party adopted an anti-slavery platform that led to a narrow victory for Abraham Lincoln. The election of Lincoln took the country towards the abolition of slavery and led to the secession of eleven states. A shift in political parties occurred with the presidential election of **1932** when Franklin Roosevelt's Democratic Party came to power and united a variety of groups in a coalition and realignment of political parties that helped to shape future policies and elections. The Election of **2000** came down to the Electoral College and specifically a recount of the vote in Florida. It was the first time the Supreme Court got involved in an electoral decision. It decided that the votes should stand as counted and the electoral votes for the state were awarded to George W. Bush who won the presidency without winning the popular vote. There are many more examples of significant elections throughout our history and we may have one this year.

This year, in the midst of a pandemic, some say science is being driven by politics. The deputy commissioner for medical and scientific affairs at the FDA does not mention the influence of the elections when he claims that even though the agency is making decisions in response to the urgency of the pandemic, the decisions are "driven by scientific integrity, regulatory independence, and the FDA's historic commitment to ensuring the safety and efficacy of the products it regulates." Some voters question whether there may be a reckless move to establish herd immunity, what some call "the survival of the fittest." There may be a rush to approve a vaccine before the trials end, leaving us

wondering about its safety and effectiveness. Emergency use of plasma is questioned by scientific experts. There are questions regarding testing people without symptoms even though they may be transmitting the virus. These decisions may have serious consequences especially if politics guides the choices and hides the evidence. Some people create more problems when they deny the validity of the astounding number of cases and deaths from the coronavirus in this country. Some statistics are being withheld for political reasons.

The reopening of schools should be based on science and the best federal guidance from that evidence, keeping in mind that there are differences within and between states. There is pressure from many directions to normalize.

Young people considered this virus as a threat to the more vulnerable older citi-

zens, especially those with pre-existing conditions. Reckless behavior by college students may result in lockdowns and quarantines. Although early information concerning COVID-19 did not reveal some of the long term damage, we're now beginning to see damage to blood vessels, neurological damage, cognitive issues, along with shortness of breath, chest pain, body aches, depression, and loss of smell. Further evidence is coming from the "long-haulers" who have had COVID-19 more than once.

We are also in the midst of months of mostly peaceful Black Lives Matter protests that are interrupted by periodic vandalism, looting, injury, and killing in major cities. There may be some unnecessary acceleration of violence for political reasons rather than engaging in a collaborative long term resolution of these structural problems. Systemic inequality needs to be addressed. We can't have one justice system for blacks and one for the white population. Very few problems get better when you ignore them.

Where will you get the most credible, most reliable information to help you cast your vote? Not from Facebook or social media. Don't believe those who are leaning to the right or the left and who trust their sources exclusively. Don't believe the lies or distortions. Don't expect results on election night, but delay does not mean fraud. There is no better reason than the pandemic for absentee voting but that means a delay for an accurate count. We want the count to be done right because this could be one of those most significant elections in the history of the U.S.!



IT'S SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIME!

This poster is available as a printable PDF document on our new website! Please print out a few and post them wherever you can—hairdresser's, doctor's office, grocery, etc! Here's the link:
<https://aauwbuffalo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/AAUWPoster2021.pdf>

In 2020,
AAUW Buffalo Branch
awarded over \$50,000 in
scholarships, grants and
interest free loans.



Need a Scholarship?



**Women in Western New York
are invited to apply for:**

- *Women Entering College Scholarships*
- *Catalyst for Change Scholarships*
- *Olga Lindberg Scholarships*
- *Jacquie Walker Scholarship*
- *Clarine Radt Mini-grants (for teachers)*

Deadline January 11, 2021

**In the past 10 years, over \$600,000 in
local scholarships, loans and grants and
over \$200,000 in national fellowships have
been awarded.**

Details at
<https://aauwbuffalo.org>



DATES TO REMEMBER

Please check our website for last minute information.

Wed, Oct 7, 6:00 Board Meeting via conference call



Fri, Oct. 9 is the deadline to register to vote, update your address, or change your party affiliation.



Sat, Oct. 24—EARLY VOTING BEGINS!

Tues, Nov. 3—LAST DAY TO VOTE!!!

Wed., Nov. 4, 6:00 Board Meeting via conference call

BOOKSALE WORK ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME!

Next sale PLANNED for June 2-6, 2021

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

Mission: *To advance equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*

Vision: *Equity for all.*

Values : *Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and intersectionality.*

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

Moving? Please contact Mary Crocker 716-838-2796

Joining - we'd love to see you as a branch member.

If there are pound signs (##) by your name, you're either a local AAUW national member or someone who has expressed interest in

the roster next month and we hope you'll be in it!

If there are asterisks (***) by your name, you've been a branch member but we haven't received your 2020-21 dues. We'll be producing

Return Service Requested



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