

ADVOCATE



Together Making a Difference!
JUNE 2025



In This Issue

| | |
|---|---|
| Scholarship Celebration..... | 1 |
| President's Message..... | 2 |
| The PR Team needs YOU | 2 |
| New Members | 2 |
| Interest Groups | 3 |
| Book Sale | 3 |
| Reckless Change vs. Responsible Change in Government | 4 |
| Public Policy Discussion Reviews .. | 5 |
| Dates to Remember | 6 |



SEPTEMBER
ADVOCATE

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

(newsletter@AAUWBuffalo.org)

By August 10

CELEBRATE OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

Thursday, June 12 at 6:00 pm

Sean Patrick's Restaurant

3480 Millersport Hwy, Getzville 14068

Sign in and socialize 6:00-6:30 pm, buffet dinner at 6:30, followed by the scholarship presentations.

The dinner will include:

- Starter: cream of potato soup, salad with Italian and parmesan peppercorn dressings.
- Buffet: green beans, mashed potatoes, penne pasta with garlic, oil and broccoli, top round of beef, roast pork and chicken francaise.
- Dessert: vanilla ice cream with caramel sauce.
- Coffee and tea.

\$20 per person. No cost for scholarship winners and two guests each.

Please provide the information below and send it, along with a check for \$20/person, to AAUW Buffalo, PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225.

OR

Click [HERE](#) to register online (and/or option to use credit/debit card).

Deadline June 5.

2025 Buffalo AAUW Scholarship Celebration

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Names of Guests: _____

Dietary restrictions:

ADVOCATE

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

The opinions expressed within the newsletter are those of the individual writers and may or may not reflect those of the Branch or AAUW.

June Vol. CXXXIII, No. 10

Circulation 150

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recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org

Send address changes to:

Mary Crocker

mlcrock@msn.com

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Christine Bacon

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Email: chrysbacon@gmail.com

Joyce Jekayinoluwa

60A Embassy Square, Apt 1

Tonawanda, NY 14150

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Lilyen Mascellino

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." ~Seneca



Greetings!

As this fiscal year is coming to a close, so is my tenure as Branch President. I have served you in this capacity for the last 4 years & I am proud of what our Branch has accomplished. We achieved our goals because our Branch members banded together to get things done! Thank you for the support you have shown me in this position, the mentoring provided & the friendship!

On July 1st our leadership roles will change, but the dedication to our group will remain steadfast. I trust you will join me in welcoming our newly elected Board members & that you will continue to support each as they work for the next 2 years in our best interest. In the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, "For our own success to be real, it must contribute to the success of others." That is our greatest strength; we are Legacy Leaders.

As the incoming VP of Programs, I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our annual September "Welcome Back Dinner"! Until then, remember to renew your membership, attend our 69th Annual Book Sale and stay current with Branch news by following us on FaceBook or by visiting our website.

Here's to a wonderful summer!

THE PR TEAM NEEDS YOU!

The Public Relations Team is looking for new members. We need people with good ideas and computer skills, as well as photographers. Join us and help to publicize the excellent accomplishments of our branch.

Please contact Pat Miceli

716-626-0234 home

716-880-0042 cell

pwmiceli@gmail.com

Meet new friends! Enjoy the snacks! Meetings are once a month on Saturday at 11:00 am.

JUNE 2025 INTEREST GROUPS



DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., June 18 at 5:30 pm

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

Facilitator: **Diane O'Brien**

Discussion Leader: **Kate Collins**

RSVP: Judy Malamas at 716-632-0461

or tsagewood@aol.com

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed., June 25 at noon

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: The Life We Bury by Allen Eskins

RSVP: Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303

or bpilby1@verizon.net

HAPPY WANDERERS

We would love some suggestions.

Contact Judy Huber, 716-529-9881

or judyhuber62@yahoo.com

LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY

When: Thurs. June 26 at 2pm*. Call Marian Deutschman. at 716-634-2412 to verify.

Please send articles of interest to Marian

(mardeu15@verizon.net) and she will forward to the other interested participants.

Where: Second floor of Dash's, 1770 Hertel Ave. Feel free to bring a lunch or purchase food there.

Call Marian Deutschman (716-634-2412) if you're interested AND send her any articles you've seen that you'd like to discuss so they can be sent to the other participants.

(mardeu15@verizon.net)

NOTES: * Note change of time.

Review of discussions on page 5.

IT'S BOOK SALE TIME!!!!

[Sign up to HELP!](#)

Help us ADVERTISE—Print a [poster](#) for your neighborhood bulletin board!

[Sponsor us!](#)

Bring your friends and family to COME BUY BOOKS!!!



PRESIDENT
Lilyen Mascellino

VP PROGRAM
Dr. Marian Deutschman

VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT
Diane O'Brien

VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION
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RECKLESS CHANGE VS. RESPONSIBLE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair



As voters in the 2024 election, we faced a set of crucial questions: What kind of changes do we want from our leaders? Bold but reckless moves, or thoughtful, responsible reforms? The stakes are high, and the consequences of either path are quickly becoming visible.

Concerns about the size and efficiency of the federal government remain a central concern. Hudson Consulting is one of many firms that help businesses make changes, sometimes resulting in major transformations. Translating private-sector strategies into public governance is far more complex. They say “Walmart — the largest corporation in the world by revenue, with vast digital and logistical capabilities — has an annual operating budget of more than \$500 billion, which is still less than 10% of the United States’ federal budget.” Business efficiency doesn’t always equate to public-sector success.

On February 19, 2025, an order from the White House started a reduction in the elements of the federal bureaucracy that the President has determined are unnecessary. Advocates argue that reducing, what is often referred to as “red tape” will improve responsiveness and cut waste. Public policy experts caution that while some regulations are outdated or inefficient, others are crucial for safeguarding health, safety and civil rights. Elon Musk used rapid cost-cutting implementation of DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) leading to a loss of jobs and aid to save lives in other countries. The chaos created by his actions increased dislike for Musk, caused a decline in Tesla sales, and Tesla board members called for a change in their leadership.

Efforts to lower grocery bills through market reforms have met with mixed results. While the administration promotes supply-side solutions, recent tariffs on imported goods have contributed to increased costs in supermarkets. Shoppers are adapting their strategies but for families, price hikes have outpaced income gains. Economic policy must consider unintended ripple effects, especially for vulnerable populations.

Immigration remains one of the most contentious topics in national politics. While border security is a legitimate concern, responsible change involves more than enforcement alone. Experts from McKinsey & Company recommend a multi-pronged approach: Strengthening legal pathways for immigration, matching immigration policy with labor markets, improving asylum processing systems, and ensuring humane treatment of detainees. Such an approach balances national security with humanitarian considerations.

Implementing government changes responsibly involves a multi-faceted approach that prioritizes fairness, transparency, and engagement with stakeholders. This includes engaging communities and stakeholders early on, developing structured implementation plans, communicating effectively, and monitoring and evaluating the changes. It also means anticipating and addressing resistance, ensuring alignment with broader goals, and providing support for those affected by the changes.

According to a study by McKinsey and Co., a committed leadership team was one of the top factors that tripled the success rate of transformation projects in government. “Transformation leaders must go beyond standard public-sector management routines, committing extraordinary energy to the effort, taking personal responsibility for success or failure, leading by example to facilitate change, and challenging long-established conventions. To inspire the transformation, they must spend substantial time communicating face-to-face with the people affected, listening as much as they talk.”

How was change implemented by the winner of the 2024 presidential election? In his first 100 days, President Trump began his second term with an aggressive legislative and executive agenda. He signed 143 executive orders, the most of any president in this period, 42 proclamations, 42 memorandums, the Laken Riley Act, a continuing appropriations act, and other pieces of legislation for Congress. *(The Laken Riley Act, enacted on January 29, 2025, mandates the detention without bail of certain non-citizens arrested or charged with crimes like burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting, even if they are authorized to be in the US. It also allows states to sue the federal government for immigration-related decisions that cause harm. The law is named after a Georgia student murdered by an asylum applicant.)*

Supporters, including the Department of Homeland Security, point to gains in border enforcement and the removal of criminal undocumented immigrants. However, critics including Amnesty International warn of what they describe as a “human rights emergency” that has affected millions of people by suppressing dissent, and weakening institutional norms essential to the protection of human rights.

Implementing change in government is not simply about implementing executive orders. It’s about managing large systems, navigating entrenched norms, and engaging stakeholders. According to McKinsey research, successful government transformations are driven by committed leadership, strategic communication, and consistent follow-through. Leaders must move beyond slogans and act with clarity, engaging both public servants and the general public in a transparent process. Without genuine buy-in from those involved, even well-intended reforms can backfire.

How do we deal with the current reality?



PUBLIC POLICY April 24 DISCUSSION REVIEW

11 Participants: Several of the 8 articles we discussed provided guidelines for effective protesting and resistance to the actions of the current Republican administration. Street protests are widespread, numerous and frequent. Senator Bernie Sanders and U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, also known as AOC, draw enormous crowds. Do these crowds reflect loss of business and consumer confidence? Do these crowds deter actions of Republican leadership, especially during the first 100 days when there was a confluence of bad decisions? Policies draw major disapproval. Did the protests work to stop what some describe as irrational tariffs? It seemed to result in increased uncertainty when President Trump frequently reversed his actions. Public opinion and trust in government declined, especially in opposition to tariffs and the elimination of federal funding, jobs and programs.

Potential Actions: We believe that we need to support a more unified, coordinated protest effort including dramatic displays of opposition, legal action, boycotts and more. We need to focus on getting out the vote. Those who believe that courts can never halt the actions of this administration, prefer to rely on fair elections to do it. Educating young people on critical thinking and how our government works is needed. The League of Women Voters is activating a speaker's bureau. AAUW could ask to join that effort or take another focus for educating voters on a number of issues. We need to protest the assault on our independent judiciary. Due process distinguishes our democracy from autocratic governments. Garcia should be brought back from El Salvador as the Supreme Court decided in a 9-0 vote. We're reminded that this could happen to anyone. Legal matters must be resolved according to established rules and principles and individuals must be treated fairly. We need to communicate real stories about real people getting hurt by some of these changes such as social security. Requiring in-person claims as staffing and locations are reduced, can become a big burden. We know there is waste in government but voters were tricked into thinking changes would be made by qualified people with data to support them. We discussed contempt of court, enforcement of laws, impeachment and the need for unified efforts especially by the elite, knowledgeable groups who should resist submission, and try to outwit the attackers. One member of our group reminded us of this comment made by a famous media personality years ago: *"The four corners of deceit: government, academia, science and media. Those institutions are now corrupt and exist by virtue of deceit. That's how they promulgate themselves; it is how they prosper."* --Rush Limbaugh. As the right becomes increasingly anti-science, we should be aware of the implementation of the detailed steps in Project 2025.

PUBLIC POLICY MAY 22 DISCUSSION REVIEW

9 Participants: We reviewed six articles but nine articles were sent so we have several articles to review for next month. When we meet on **June 26**, we decided to meet at **2 p.m. at Dash's**. That is after the lunch crowd leaves, so that we can hear each other's contributions to the discussion more clearly without the competing sounds and voices. One member offered her home for a meeting location if time change doesn't work.

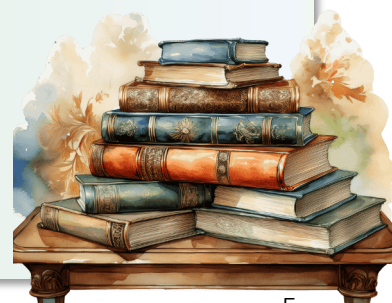
We all agreed with David Brooks that Defense Secretary Hegseth is not prepared for the challenges expected in the next five years, when we need someone who has demonstrated that he is prepared to deal with the potential of three or four regional wars simultaneously. The U.S. has a weakened industrial base and has lost some of its resiliency. We believe Hegseth lacks the energy, wisdom of experience and values to handle the informed decision-making of the job.

Jessica Riedl, senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, is a conservative economist who outlined six reasons why Trump's "plans" won't work primarily because he can't bend reality to his will. His economic policy has contradictions and shifting arguments about trade, taxes, tariffs, budget deficit etc. Some of his actions increase spending. We should judge Trump by producing jobs, raising income, limiting inflation, and strengthening the stock market. The national debt can't matter one day and not the next. We pondered what Trump supporters often say, that he is doing exactly what he promised, and using unexpected speed and energy. He delivered a populist message during the campaign. Is he carrying it out? Check your grocery bill. We are reminded that we're living in a different time with more technology and media to influence us. We can't easily compare what was done by another president at another time. One member reminded us that sometimes that "ship has already sailed." We did agree that stability of the U.S. government has been shaken.

Potential Action: We want to put all options on the table. We discussed the initiative of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. to empower voters and defend democracy. Our interests strongly support helping more people vote, protecting voting rights, providing reliable information on how democracy works, and civic education on issues such as gerrymandering. We are willing to partner with the League to meet their goals. Their strategic plan encouraged partnering with other organizations.

We discussed an article by Bernie Sanders on our broken healthcare system and his support for a Medicare-for-all system that already exists in many countries. This problem has been discussed for decades in the U.S. but a multitude of vested interests work against it. The Affordable Care Act reduced the number of people who did not have healthcare coverage but current action by Trump may raise that number. We discussed recent initiatives by Florida to lower the drug costs by purchasing them from Canada. Tabling at local spring & summer events was mentioned.

We discussed the negative and positive effects of DEI for women, racial and ethnic minorities, etc. from our own perspective and from the perspective of a young minority writer.



DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY-JUNE

- ◇ Wed-Sun, May 28 - June 1— **69th ANNUAL BOOK SALE**
425 Essjay, Williamsville
- ◇ Wednesday, June 11 - Board Meeting, Olympic Restaurant
- ◇ Thurs, June 12—Scholarship Celebration, Sean Patrick's in Getzville
See page 1
- ◇ Fri-Sat, June 13-14—AAUW-NYS Annual Meeting. The Desmond Hotel, Albany NY. See the **NEW [AAUWNYS website](#)** for details.

Have a great summer!!!!!!!!!!!!

Please note: All events are possibly subject to change or cancellation.

Guests always welcome!

Please check our website for last minute information.

AAUW

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For over 140 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

Mission: *Gender Equity & Economic Security*

Vision: *Equity for all*

Values : *Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering.*

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



Return Service Requested

American Association of
University Women
Buffalo Branch Inc
PO BOX 894
Buffalo, NY 14225-0894

