

AAUW-St. Lawrence County Branch News & Notes for May 30, 2017

<http://stlawrence.aauw-nys.org/>



AAUW-St. Lawrence County Calendar:

May 31: YWLI Membership Event - Stand Up, Speak Up, Join Up: A Call For Women from 5:30-7 pm at MacAllaster House, 54 East Main, Canton, NY. You're invited to Young Women's Leadership Institute's membership event! Join journalist and author [Marion Roach Smith](#) for a discussion of the hows and whys of board service. Interested in becoming a member with YWLI? Come join us to learn about the benefits entailed! [Register](#) to attend. AAUW-St. Lawrence County partners with the YWLI for each event.

May 31–June 3: [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#), University of Maryland, College Park.

June 14-17: [AAUW's national convention](#) in Washington, D.C.

July 21-23: AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conference at Cazenovia College

Speakers:

Cordy Galligan, AAUW VP for Marketing and Communications: Harnessing our Energy!

Dr. Karen Pastorello, Professor: Labor Feminism

Bailey Morse, College at Brockport student: CAP Grant: Be the Revolution!

Programming:

Small but Mighty: Simple projects for branch outreach

Skillbuilding for Success: concrete skills for all leaders

ALL AAUW members are invited! (Subsidized by AAUW-NYS) \$115

for the entire weekend (2 nights, 6 meals) - \$120 for paper registration

Register [NOW](#) at

www.aauw-nys.org/RegistrationForms/cazenovia_form.html



July 31: Black Women's Equal Pay Day

North Country Matters Spring 2017 Show List

Paid Family Leave Act

Blue Carreker, the Upstate Organizer for the Citizen Action of New York & Public Policy and Education Fund of New York, talks with NCM host Donna Seymour about the NYS Paid Family Leave Insurance Campaign. They discuss the law, the time table for implementation, the supporting regulations and how to learn more about its provisions. (April 21, 2017) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVzFmSoE3RY>

The Child Care Crises

Blue Carreker, the Upstate Organizer for the Citizen Action of New York & Public Policy and Education Fund of New York, talks with NCM host Donna Seymour about the crises in child care in New York State. Lack of quality, affordable childcare is a drag on our economy. They discuss the gap between the needs and the available services and what can be done to bridge those gaps. (April 21, 2017)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVzcl6XLUcY>

AAUW National Election: One Member, One Vote – Don't miss your chance to vote!

Video on Voting: <https://youtu.be/69rmNqKm75g>

Your Spring 2017 issue of **AAUW Outlook** has all the information you need to cast an informed vote. Remember that **Open Membership** is on the ballot again this year in the proposed Bylaws amendments (Proposal 2)! There are several other critical votes in this year's Bylaw proposals. Please read them carefully.

AAUW Voting Calendar:

June 14–17, 2017 AAUW National Convention, Washington, D.C.

June 15, 2017 **Online voting ends at 9 p.m. EDT**

June 16, 2017 Election results announced online and at convention

June 16, 2017 Annual meeting

<http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>

Deeper In Debt: the AAUW Report

The \$833 billion albatross around the necks of women with college degrees

The burden of student debt is having an outsize impact on women who now hold nearly two thirds of the \$1.3 trillion in outstanding education loans, according to a [report](#) released Wednesday by the American Association of University Women.

“It's important to understand all of the challenges facing women in the United States, and in terms of their economic well-being, student debt is a big one,” said Kevin Miller, senior researcher at the AAUW.

Based on data from the Education Department, Miller and his team estimate that women enrolled in college borrow about 14 percent more on average than men in a given year. Women typically owe \$1,500 more than their male counterparts upon completion of a bachelor's degree, and African American women take on more student debt on average than any other group of women, the study said.

Considering the larger loan amounts that women take on and the fact that they make up more than half of the college population, the study estimates that 64 percent of student debt, or about \$833 billion, is held by women. That number may actually be bit higher because the study only looked at graduates, not women who drop out of college or mothers who take out parent loans to help their children pay for school.

The study found that it takes the average woman nearly two years longer to repay student loans than their male counterparts. Researchers suspect that gender wage inequality plays a large role in the disparity in repayment rates. An earlier study by the association found that women with college degrees earn 26 percent less than men in comparable jobs. Lower incomes and longer repayment timetables are a drag on women's financial security, the study said.

The pace of repayment is especially slow for African American and Latino women, who also have among the highest default rates. While a third of all women who were repaying student loans reported having trouble covering living expenses within the past year, the same was true for 57 percent of African American women, the study said.

Anne Hedgepeth, senior government relations manager at AAUW, said colleges and universities need to play a bigger role in financial literacy and be advocates for greater state and federal investment to reduce the need to borrow.

The association is calling on Congress to strengthen the federal Pell Grant program by making appropriations entirely mandatory to avoid annual funding disputes. The purchasing power of the grant is at its lowest level at a time when college costs continue to climb, leaving students of modest means susceptible to borrowing a lot for school costs. The group also wants lawmakers to safeguard support services, such as on-campus child care, that help women complete their degrees.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/05/24/the-833-billion-albatross-around-the-necks-of-women-with-college-degrees/>

Video of the Research Launch: "Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans"

<https://youtu.be/nFx6EPwZpo4>

AAUW advocates [safeguarding and expanding Pell grants](#) for low-income students, as well as providing nontraditional students the resources they need – on-campus child care, for example – to successfully complete college degrees. Solutions to the student debt problem should also include supporting income-driven repayment approaches that reflect borrowers' realities.

Take ACTION to protect Reproductive Health Care in NYS!

There are roughly three weeks left in the state legislative session. AAUW-NYS is part of a coalition of groups who have been lobbying for passage of the Reproductive Health Act. The coalition wants to deliver **20,000 petition signatures to the state senate on June 7th**. The NYCLU petition is here: <https://action.aclu.org/secure/pass-reproductive-health-act-comprehensive-contraceptive-coverage-act>

Planned Parenthood also is part of the coalition and you can sign via them, as well: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeAsaJ2pGEFRnl68YtUDcKT6ggJ59ZXPu-no2-lvKofLvlhzOA/viewform> **The deadline to sign the petition is JUNE 2.**

Events in Washington, DC make taking action here in NYS to protect women's health care imperative BEFORE the end of session about June 19.

Advocate for the NY Health Act This Week

Last week's Congressional Budget Office score on the American Health Care Act predicted that 23 million more people would be uninsured because of the bill, as it slashes Medicaid funding and cuts back on subsidies that help people purchase insurance.

These threats to healthcare make it even more urgent that the New York State legislature take action to protect and

guarantee healthcare for all New Yorkers. The New York Health Act, the bill to establish a universal, public healthcare system in New York, currently has unprecedented legislative support. The bill passed the Assembly for the third time last week and is one cosponsor short of a majority in the State Senate. The only way to pass New York Health will be to organize and mobilize our communities -- we must build a movement that puts State Senators on notice that we expect them to stand up for health care for all New Yorkers.

AAUW-NYS supports passage of the NY Health Act.

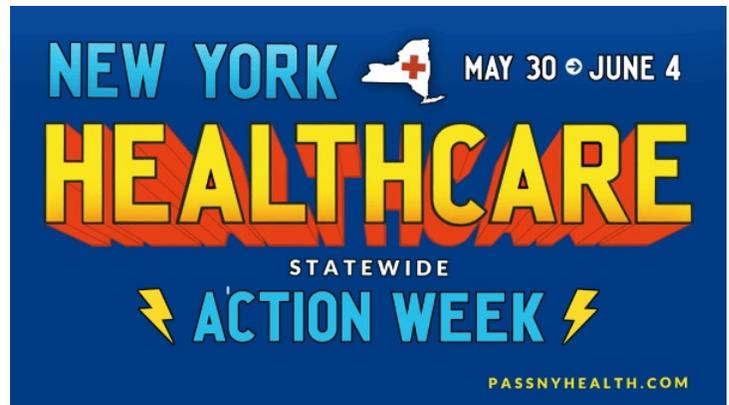
Statewide Call-In Day for New York Health on Friday, June 2 All Day

On Friday, June 2, we will flood the phone lines of Senators who have not yet signed on to cosponsor New York Health.

[Tell Your Health Care Story](#) Too many of us struggle silently with financial barriers to care while insurance company CEOs make millions. Telling stories makes political issues personal and exposes the way the current system has failed us. [Please take the New York Health Access Survey](#) and invite your friends and families to participate.

New York Health is a universal, comprehensive plan that would:

- Provide quality care to EVERY New Yorker, regardless of income, wealth, or employment
- Eliminate financial barriers to healthcare - no out-of-pocket costs, premiums, copays, deductibles, coinsurance or out-of-network charges.
- Cover ALL medically necessary care, including dental, eye, ear, mental health, addictions, and reproductive care.
- Be funded by payroll and non-payroll personal income assessments lower than most businesses spend on health insurance today (based on a study by Gerald Friedman, Chair of the UMass-Amherst Economics Department).
- Reduce the average payroll assessment to 8.1%, significantly less than existing commercial insurance.
- Reduce or remove the burden of over \$2 billion spent annually by New York businesses in reviewing health plans for price and benefit changes and administering the benefit.
- Reduce the burden of administering constantly fluctuating insurance costs for businesses. Provision for economic aid for retraining workers in the current insurance-related structure for similar jobs in the new structure is included in the legislation.



- Remove the economic stricture of “job lock,” where workers are discouraged from changing jobs or opening businesses for fear of losing health insurance.
- Create up to 200,000 new jobs thanks to decreased healthcare costs and increased labor mobility, as estimated by the Friedman study.
- Involve insurance companies through possible supplemental policies.
- Begin to address the enormous recent rate of increase in prescription drug prices that has led to many Americans not filling prescriptions or skipping doses.

<https://nyhcampaign-pnhpnymetro.nationbuilder.com>

Support the Next Step in the Fight to End the Wage Gap

Last Tuesday, May 23 marked [Mom’s Equal Pay Day](#), the symbolic day when the median pay of mothers who work full time, year-round, catches up to the pay that working fathers received the previous year. Mothers typically are paid only 71 cents for every dollar fathers are paid. That motherhood penalty can impact hiring, salaries, and promotions, making it harder for working mothers to provide for their families.

All women, mother or not, deserve equal pay for equal work. That’s why it’s crucial that the New York State Legislature take swift action to enact **A.6707/S.5233**, the next concrete step in the fight to end wage and opportunity discrimination. **You can still take action on this critical NYS legislation by urging your state legislators to pass the bill.**

[Click here to urge your New York state legislators to support this commonsense solution now!](#)

The AAUW fiscal year ends on June 30. **Dues for 2017-18 are due July 1.**

It’s GRADUATION season, and with that comes the question of gifts. How about the beginning of a life - time of friendship in AAUW? Through the national program you can (at no cost to yourself) give someone a **FREE one-year national membership**. AAUW-NYS waives one year’s dues for “GGG” recipients, as does our branch. Please note that only members can be the providers of these gifts and they must be given within two years of the recipient’s graduation. Think about it for your students, daughters, granddaughters, friends, nieces, etc. – a great deal for all!

<http://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift/>

