



THE NORTH COUNTRY CONNECTION

AAUW - NEW YORK STATE

June 2016

The St. Lawrence County Branch was founded in 1927
PO Box 909, Potsdam, NY 13676-0909

Branch Officers and Board Members 2015-16

President:	Betty Connolly	Development VP:	Sue Rice
Program VP:	Tina Flanagan	Secretary:	Nancy Rowledge
Membership VP:	Relani Prudhomme	Open Windows:	Faye White
Treasurer:	Ann Carvill	Public Policy:	Kathy Stein
Newsletter/PR:	Donna Seymour	Book Group:	
Branch webpage:	http://www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw		
District 7 Facebook:	http://www.facebook.com/AAUWDistrict7		
AAUW-NYS webpage:	http://www.aauw-nys.org		

AAUW Annual Meeting: June 8 at 5:30 pm at the TAUNTY Center, 53 Main St., Canton, NY Program: Changing Health Care in the North Country

We are in the midst of changing roles in health care and AAUW is taking part in the conversations to start the transition to quality care. We have an outstanding panel of experts in the field to help us begin the conversation:

- **Janelle Jacobson**, the coordinator for the SUNY Potsdam Masters in Community Health - Population health management and community based organization roles
- **Adriana Quiroga-Garcia**, Director of Population Health Management - Evidence based programs regarding mental health and primary care.
- **Erin M Bromley**, Director of Student Health at St. Lawrence University - inclusive conversations and how the LGBT community is approached in a health care
- **Ann Marie Snell**, Executive Director St. Lawrence Health Initiative: Targeted populations new to insurance and underinsured: approaching health care systems

Following a short business meeting, each of our speakers will give a brief overview of their particular field and then we'll have a moderated discussion and question period to follow. There is a lot to learn about 21st century health care! Come and begin the conversation with AAUW.

In the business meeting, we will meet our **2016 Scholarship winner, Kathryn Barrett** from Madrid, NY, who graduated from SUNY Canton and is going on for a 4-year degree there in the Veterinary program. Please RSVP by June 2 to Relani Prudhomme at 744-0651 or prudhomr@upstate.edu.

We will also vote on branch bylaws (see page 4) and elect officers for 2016-17:

President: Betty Connolly
Program VP: JoAnn Rogers
Treasurer: open at this time (please step forward!)

This as a **Shape the Future Membership Event**, so two new members can join for half off the national dues, plus state and local dues – just \$48 (down from \$72). Bring your checkbooks!

AAUW Book Group

@ the Potsdam Public Library 265-7230

The AAUW-sponsored Book Group meets second Wednesday of every month at Noon for Lunch and a Book (bring a bag lunch) at the Potsdam Public Library. Guests are always welcome.

June 8: **The Girl on the Train** by Paula Hawkins
Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel offers what she knows to the police, and becomes inextricably entwined in what happens next, as well as in the lives of everyone involved. Has she done more harm than good?

July 13: **Loving Frank** by Nancy Horan
Mamah Borthwick Cheney carries on a clandestine love affair with Frank Lloyd Wright.

August 10: **Chaser: Unlocking the Genius of the Dog** by Dr. John Pilley, Jr. and Hilary Hinzman
Retired psychology professor John Pilley and Chaser's inspiring journey demonstrates the power of learning through play and opens our eyes to the boundless potential in the animals we love.

September 14: **Infidel** by Ayaan Hirsi Ali
Hirsi Ali's story tells how a bright little girl evolves out of dutiful obedience to become an outspoken, pioneering freedom fighter.

October 12: **Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit** by Daniel Quinn
Ishmael, a full-grown gorilla, is a creature of immense wisdom and he has a story to tell, one that no other human being has ever heard.

November 9: **Profiles in Courage** (1955) by John F. Kennedy and **Profiles in Courage for our Time** by Caroline Kennedy

December 14: **The Nightingale** by Kristin Hanna
With courage, grace and powerful insight, the author captures the epic panorama of WWII and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war.

¡Adelante! Books of the Month

Personal growth and branch change go hand in hand. That's the idea behind the ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club, a component of AAUW's diversity outreach program. Book clubs are a fun, social way to open a dialogue on women, diversity, and change.

June 2016 (LGBT Pride Month) - **Charity and Sylvia: A Same-Sex Marriage in Early America** by Rachel Hope Cleves - Conventional wisdom holds that same-sex marriage is a purely modern innovation, a concept that was unheard of in the United States' early history, but same-sex marriage is hardly new.

July 2016: **Soldier Girls** by Helen Thorpe - Thorpe follows the lives of three women over 12 years on their paths to the military, overseas to combat, and back home.

August 2016: **Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography** by Laura Ingalls Wilder and Pamela Smith Hill (editor) - Hidden away since the 1930s, Laura Ingalls Wilder's never-before-published autobiography reveals the true stories of her pioneering life.

September 2016 (National Hispanic Heritage Month): **The Ones I Bring with Me** by Carol Spaulding-Kruse and Kelsey Lepperd - This bilingual English and Spanish book depicts young Latinas growing up in Iowa, with an emphasis on the importance of education and on overcoming barriers that keep Latinas from completing school.

October 2016 (National Disability Employment Awareness Month) - **What Is Visible: A Novel** by Kimberly Elkins - A vividly original novel based on the true story of Laura Bridgman, a woman who blazed the trail for women with disabilities.

November 2016 (Native American Heritage Month) - **The Beginning and End of Rape: Confronting Sexual Violence in Native America** by Sarah Deer - Violence against Native American women is a historical and political problem bounded by oppression and colonial violence.

From the President:

Spring is the time for new beginnings and I invite you to begin the summer by joining (or rejoining) the St. Lawrence County Branch of AAUW.

Why?

Our Branch makes a difference in many ways!



Supporting women transitioning from a two year degree to a bachelor degree with an annual scholarship.

Sponsoring high school and middle school girls in St. Lawrence County through educational enrichment grants from the Open Windows Program and **STEM** education opportunities through our partnership with SUNY Canton for Women in Engineering Day.

Supplying career clothing for the Community and College students through the annual Professional Clothing Fair.

Seeking new initiatives to support leadership through the Young Women's Leadership Institute of the North Country.

Sustaining informational dialogue through, workshops, round tables and North County Matters

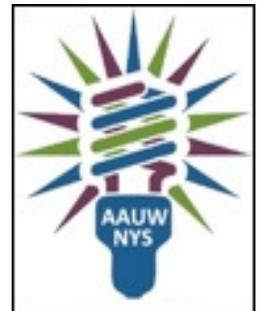
Attend our annual membership meeting on June 8, 2016 at 5:30 pm at the TAUNY Center on 53 Main Street in Canton to hear more about how we make a difference!

Betty Connolly, President
St. Lawrence County Branch

Ready, Set, GO.....to Cazenovia!

Join with AAUW members from around the state at the AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conference! It will be held July 22-24 at Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY.

Features this year include a national AAUW leader presenting Work Smart/Start Smart, a roundtable discussion on programming for success, a workshop on developing leadership skills, and the chance to share ideas with other AAUW branches. This conference is for ALL members!



For \$105 (\$110 for submitting paper registration) you'll have an air conditioned room in a dormitory suite, 6 meals, an ice cream social, a game night, lots of fun, and many good memories. We hope to see you there!

The SLC Branch will pay \$50 toward the registration of any branch member who attends the event.

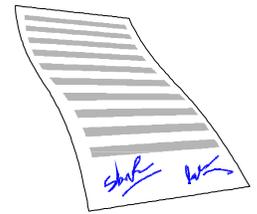
<http://www.aauw-nys.org/RegistrationForms/caz2016form.htm>.



Give A Grad A Gift of AAUW Membership - Do you have a woman (or man!) in your life who has just graduated from college (including community college), or graduate school? If so, please consider giving her (or him!) the gift of AAUW membership! It is fast and easy – just go directly to this link on AAUW's website at <https://ww2.aauw.org/grad-gift/>, and be sure to have the graduate's name, school, contact and mailing information, as well as your member ID, handy.

What a wonderful way to set your graduate on the path towards the many benefits of life-long AAUW membership!

There have been some major revisions to the model AAUW Branch Bylaws; as a result, the Branch had to revise our existing bylaws along the new model lines, adding in local information where needed. As required by those bylaws, we'll need to do a review of local changes and vote on them at our annual meeting. The Bylaws run to 11 pages (gasp!), but most of it is boilerplate and need not be reviewed. The Board voted to accept the revised bylaws, pending membership approval, for submission to the NYS Bylaws chair, Loreen Ginnitti.



The critical piece was our local wording to maintain our long-held stance against any barrier to full branch membership on the basis of any discriminatory language, including that of educational attainment. That language is reproduced below for your consideration. The full bylaws are available in PDF format on the branch website at:

<http://stlawrence.aauw-nys.org/2016ByLaws.pdf>.

BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 2. Policies and Programs. In keeping with this purpose, the Organization shall promote equity, education, and development of opportunities for women and girls that enable them to realize their full potential.

a. AAUW-St. Lawrence County affirms that "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.**"

(1) AAUW-St. Lawrence County recognizes that **class** can be defined by **education attainment**, as well as a host of other factors, including those specifically outlined above.

b. AAUW-St. Lawrence County affirms that "By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that **breaks through educational and economic barriers** so that all women and girls have a fair chance."

(1) AAUW-St. Lawrence County recognizes that **educational and economic barriers** can be defined by **education attainment**.

(2) AAUW-St. Lawrence County refuses to discriminate against people who have not (yet) achieved a 2 year or higher degree due to economic barriers; recognizing that by so affirming we are breaking through a major educational barrier to membership.

c. AAUW-St. Lawrence County affirms that "AAUW **empowers all women and girls** to reach their highest potential."

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 3. Basis of Membership.

(4) Categories of Membership.

b. The St. Lawrence County Branch accepts for membership anyone who supports the mission of AAUW: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. They shall be eligible for membership with the branch upon payment of fees established by the Association, state and branch boards of directors.

c. A branch member is a national member who is also a member of the AAUW St. Lawrence County Branch. That member shall be entitled to vote, hold office, and participate in all branch activities and programs of each branch where membership is maintained.

Your 2016-17 AAUW Dues are now Due!

Renew your Regular Branch dues at \$72 for 2016-17, or \$68 for members on retirement, fixed or reduced incomes. Make your check out to **AAUW**.

- ♦ \$49 goes to AAUW
- ♦ \$13 goes to AAUW-NYS
- ♦ \$10/\$6 St. Lawrence County



Remember that AAUW national dues are \$49, of which **\$46 are tax deductible** by the individual member; \$3 of that national dues payment not be tax deductible because it will be used to support the AAUW Action Fund's Section 501(c)(4) activities (Lobby Corps and election-related activities). We have held the line on dues for 5 years now.

Dues are due on or before **June 30, 2016**. You can pay at the Annual Meeting on June 8th.

North Country Matters & AAUW Videos

Opening the Gendered Toolbox: The Advancement and Treatment of Women in Engineering at the Undergraduate Level - This documentary film by Emily Baker, Clarkson University Class of 2016, examines the conclusions of AAUW's research report, Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing, through the lens of women engineering students at Clarkson. This documentary tells the story of seven Clarkson female engineering students in a variety of disciplines. Emily Baker did an Internship with Donna Seymour in Spring 2016. <https://youtu.be/jQH33q9Vf1U>

Expand the Gendered Toolbox: Opening STEM Fields to Girls - This presentation was given to educators and guidance counselors who brought students from 11 St. Lawrence County School to the annual Women in Engineering Day at SUNY Canton on May 11, 2016. (May 11, 2016) https://youtu.be/U23OdpqR_c

Women in Engineering Day 2016 - At the Women in Engineering Day 2016, 235 North Country girls were introduced to a wide array of engineering fields at SUNY Canton. Co-sponsored by AAUW-St. Lawrence County and the Young Women's Leadership Institute of the North Country, the day-long event for 235 students from 11 county schools was a hand-on opportunity to explore to the engineering field. (May 11, 2016) <https://youtu.be/pFszQF33PTs>

North Country Matters: Gardenshare - Gloria McAdam, the Executive Director of GardenShare, discusses issues of poverty, food deserts, local food systems, and the work of GardenShare to address them with real solutions with host Ann Carvill. (March 22, 2016) (Published April 5, 2016) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeWJ8HkdKVE>

North Country Matters: The Low Wage Workers Survey, part 2 - Jeanette Zoeckler and Relani Prudhomme, from the Occupational Health Clinical Center, discuss the findings and recommendations from the second phase of the survey which looked at the workplace conditions in the low-wage sector of the job market for people who live and work in Syracuse. (Oct. 27, 2015) (Published March 24, 2016) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGbjNnAJdnU>

2016 AAUW-NYS Convention Awards for AAUW-St. Lawrence County Branch

Programming: 2016 21st Century Platinum Award for Women in Engineering Day

Leadership: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow Award - Exceptional Eleanor Award as the Outstanding Branch in NYS

AAUW Funds:

- Top 10 Total Unrestricted AAUW Funds Contributions
- Top 10 Total Public Policy Fund Contributions
- Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Star Branch
- Evvie Currie Giving Circle (LAF) Award (3rd)



Public Policy:

- Paid Family Leave Action
- Title IX Action Award
- Voter Legislation & Education Award
- STEM Award
- Social Justice Award

Communications:

- Website Award of Merit
- Visibility Award of Merit
- Social Media Award of Merit
- Website Award of Merit

In Memoriam: St. Lawrence County Branch



Birgit “Biggie” Marianne Nordin Weaver, 90, was a long-time member of the St. Lawrence County Branch. Born in Vasa, Finland in 1924, Biggie was a citizen of the world. She married Charles T. Weaver in Wembo Nyama, Congo in 1953. They were Methodist missionaries in nursing and education who met in what was then the Belgian Congo. Later they both attended graduate school in their chosen fields. She was a nurse for SUNY Potsdam and then later worked in public health nursing for St. Lawrence County. She later obtained her Masters in Nursing. She sometimes guest lectured on multi-cultural perspectives in nursing at local colleges. She died in Rochester in 2015.

The **2016 Memorial AAUW Scholarship** was given in her memory this year.

Patricia W. Musante, 71, was a long-time member of the St. Lawrence County Branch. Born in Pittsburgh, PA she graduated from St. Francis Academy and earned her Bachelor's Degree from Mount Mercy University, both in Pittsburgh. She later earned her Masters Degree in Library Science from the University of Pittsburgh. At her death in 2016, Pat had served as director of the Potsdam Public Library from 1991 and was the Children's Library Services director before that. In 2009, she was awarded the AAUW Agent of Change by the St. Lawrence County Branch, for her commitment to the library and an unwavering dedication to women's rights and equality of all women. Pat hosted the AAUW book discussion group at the library, open to all. Her legacy is a jewel of a 21st century library that serves her community.



AAUW St. Lawrence County Program & Planning Survey

Spring 2016 presents us with the critical challenge of fundraising and building our membership. The following survey will give us an idea in what direction to move forward. (You can fill this out at our annual Branch meeting on June 8th!)



1. How do you see your involvement as a member of AAUW?
 - I would like to serve on the board
 - I would like to be a committee member: Programming, Finance, Fundraising, Leadership
 - I would like to serve AAUW on the national or state level
2. I would like to see our mission move forward with the following funding ideas:
 - I would like to write a check for the board to distribute
 - I would like to write a check to support the following:
 - I would like to be a committee member to plan an activity in the fall and/ or Spring which will be directed towards a monetary goal
3. Please designate what type of activity you would be interested in helping with:
 - Wine tour
 - Painting & brew art night
 - Hosted author event
 - Partner with a host to offer a regional symposium to address a specific issue
4. Fall 2016 offers the opportunity to co chair an event with Jefferson/Lewis County addressing the opiate addiction problems. Please indicate your willingness to participate:
 - Volunteer: organizing, moderator, digital media, etc
 - Agency co-chair: employer sponsored
 - Financial support
5. How can we improve our membership?
 - Increase digital correspondence
 - Direct new membership towards specific employers
 - Quarterly membership meetings
 - Increase current programming

COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION DAY 2016

STATE AND LOCAL PRIMARY – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- Register in person by Friday, August 19th
- Register by mail: postmarked by Friday, August 19th and received by August 24th
- Apply for absentee ballot in person by Monday, September 12th
- Apply for absentee ballot by mail: postmarked by Tuesday, September 6th
- Deliver ballot in person by Tuesday, September 13th
- Deliver ballot by mail: postmarked by Monday, September 12th and received by Tuesday, September 17th



GENERAL ELECTION – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

- Register in person by Friday, October 14th
- Register by mail: postmarked by Friday, October 14th and received by October 19th
- Apply for absentee ballot in person by Monday, November 7th
- Apply for absentee ballot by mail: postmarked by Tuesday, November 1st
- Deliver ballot in person by Tuesday, November 8th
- Deliver ballot by mail: postmarked by Monday, November 7th and received by Saturday, November 12th

The AAUW Calendar of Events

June 8: The St. Lawrence County Branch annual meeting at the TAUNY Center in Canton. 5:30 pm meet and greet with light snacks and desserts; meeting & program to follow.

June 14: Young Women's Leadership Institute's Meet & Greet @ 5:30PM at MacAllaster House, 54 East Main Street, Canton, NY 13617.

July 22-24: AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conference at Cazenovia College (\$105 for 2 nights & 6 meals). The SLC Branch will pay \$50 toward the registration of any branch member who attends the event. <http://www.aauw-nys.org/RegistrationForms/caz2016form.htm>

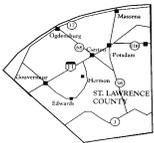
August 26: African American Women's Equal Pay Day

September 14: Native American Women's Equal Pay Day

September 27: National Voter Registration Day

October 15: Latina Equal Pay Day

The **American Association of University Women** advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. AAUW is a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls. The **AAUW Educational Foundation** provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change. The **AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund** provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.



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June 2016 Newsletter

Editor: Donna Seymour

8 Cedar Street, Potsdam, NY 13676

Because Equity is Still an Issue

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BRANCH, NEW YORK STATE

Visit our webpage at www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw