June 1, 2020

Dear AAUW New York member,

Welcome to your virtual Annual Meeting. I’m particularly pleased to see you forging ahead with AAUW’s mission in spite of the Covid global pandemic and the recent events which underscore the increasing divisiveness and hate along with the continuing existence of social injustice. This is a time when we need to raise our voices and join with other organizations for collective action working towards equal rights and justice.

Recently, AAUW, which is a member of the Leadership Council on Civil and Human Rights, signed on to their letter to the U.S. Senate and U.S. Congressional leadership urging them to take swift and decisive legislative action in response to ongoing fatal police killings and other violence against Black people across our country. Noting that Federal statutory reforms are urgently needed on a range of policing issues, including use of force, police accountability, racial profiling, militarization, data collection, and training. We at AAUW are fully aware that violations of civil and human rights are violations against women’s rights.

I want to congratulate you on this ‘double centennial’ celebration, that of AAUW-NYS and Women’s Suffrage! This is also a time when we celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act! And with a pivotal presidential election ahead, the stakes have never been higher for women.

But we need every AAUW member to pull together for lasting change through advocacy, activism and funding the future. By raising money for AAUW’s Greatest Needs Fund, you will be helping us address our greatest challenges as they arise. Whether our members must mobilize to support fair-pay legislation or respond to threats to Title IX, Greatest Needs funds enable us to act quickly and effectively.

I hope you’ll reflect with pride on your role in elevating and supporting women locally and nationally for 100 years. Let’s continue to work together to make more history in 2020!

Yours in AAUW,

[Signature]

Julia T. Brown, Esq.
AAUW Board Chair