

Mary Lou Davis, Woman of the Year 2015



What a wonderful opportunity for us all to thank a modest, dedicated woman who has done so much for AAUW and the greater Hudson Valley community. The volunteer work listed below is only a partial list of all that Mary Lou has accomplished.

A nineteen year member of the Poughkeepsie Branch, Mary Lou Davis has served on the AAUW-New York State board in recent years, as president (2012-2014), secretary/bylaws chair (2010-2011), nominating committee chair (2008-2010 and 2015-2016), assistant nominating chair (2007-2008 and 2013-2014), district director (2005-2008 and 2014-2016), coordinator for District IV (2004-2005), and state convention director (2008-2011).

In addition to serving as president of the Poughkeepsie Branch in 2002-2004, Mary Lou has also chaired the branch's membership, nominating, and Woman of the Year committees. She helped present "Let's Read Math" for local elementary teachers, participated in the Live Your Dream 7th grade girls' conference and planned a math night reunion for middle school girls.

In 1988-1994, Mary Lou served as a member of the Arlington School Board, vice-president (1993-1994). She was the Dutchess County School Board program chairman (1988-1993).

At Spackenkill she was the advisor to Mathematics Team (1979-2000); president of the Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan and Orange Math League (1984-1998); coach for the DUSO Math Team at state math competition and coach for the Upper New York Math Team at the Atlantic Region Math competition. Mary Lou was central treasurer for Spackenkill High School (1995-2000), advisor of Spackenkill school paper (1994-2000), class advisor for senior class at Spackenkill (1970-1972), vice-president of the Spackenkill District PTA (1998-1999), and in the early 90's was chairman of Spackenkill Math Committee to re-evaluate the mathematics curriculum for kindergarten to grade 12.

In 1991, Mary Lou received a Vision award from IBN-Semiconductor Research Corporation (Competitiveness Foundation Education Alliance) and in 1984 she was selected to be a part of the IBM Computer Program for math and science teachers. She is listed in Who's Who Among Teachers, Who's Who in Education, Who's Who of American Women and Who's Who in the World.

After retiring from her teaching position in 2000, Mary Lou became active with professional organizations including the Dutchess County Retired Teachers Association (treasurer 2013-present), NYSUT regional council (board member), the Spackenkill Retired Teachers (president,

2000-2004 and 2008-2012, vice president 2013-2015), and the Southeastern Division of New York State Retired Teachers Association (budget director). She was awarded a NYSUT community service award in 2012 and a PTA Honorary Life Member Award and Joseph B. Whitehead Educator of Distinction Award in 2000.

Mary Lou is currently on the board of the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, where she served as treasurer, assistant treasurer, chair of the 403 (b) Ad Hoc Committee and chair of the Kitchen Ad Hoc Committee. She will be co-chairing the Open Your Heart event this coming year and is First Vice President for 2015-2016. She is also involved in a variety of community organizations including the Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church (past trustee, treasurer and auditing chairman), Habitat for Humanity (public relations), the Junior League of Poughkeepsie, and Mid-Hudson Alumnae Panhellenic (past president 2007-2011 and current treasurer). She volunteers at both the Second Hand Rose thrift store and Vassar College's art museum.

Please join us in honoring this very special Woman of the Year, Mary Lou Davis.