

Beginning July, 2020, the following actions were taken by Public Policy:

- There have been ten articles written for *The Branch* from September, 2020, through and including June, 2021.
- The Chair established a committee to review items that were questionable as to relevancy of the mission of AAUW. This committee assisted the Chair in making decisions as to whether a message should be sent out to the general membership regarding an issue that was questionable as to its relevancy to our mission. The committee did not meet on a regular basis.
- Numerous messages were sent to the general membership through eblasts coordinated by the Secretary regarding actionable issues. The Chair used the AAUW national and New York State websites for such issues, as well as the group PowHer NY (supported by AAUW NY).
- Members were encouraged to sign onto the “The Two Minute Activist” and the Chair used this site for information on actionable issues.
- Communications were also sent to the Facebook coordinator on issues that would publicize actions/issues that AAUW Poughkeepsie supported.
- Beginning in July, 2020, members were kept informed of voting regulations/ changes with regard to the 2020 election.
- Members were informed of the toll the Coronavirus Pandemic had taken on women in particular using articles in *The Branch* and through other means of communication.
- The Chair joined the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee and became a part of the small group that organized a book discussion of Heather McGhee’s book *The Sum of Us*.
- The issue of the loss of child care on women (especially women of color) during the pandemic and the often inadequate salaries and benefits afforded child care workers was an issue that Public Policy took on as another issue for the DEI committee. A liaison with a local group working to improve child care was explored.
- The Chair attended webinars sponsored by AAUW NY to keep informed of public policy issues and through communications encouraged other members to do so as well.