Each year our branch honors both members and those in the community who have helped to forward our mission. Recommendations were sought from board members and an article requesting nominations was placed in The Branch. A committee met to recommend honorees and nominees were presented to the board for approval. The awards are an effective way to validate their accomplishments.

Activities this year included:

- **Serving on the Woman of the Year Committee:** Chaired by Gail Sisti and Margie Ouart, the committee selected Dr. Pamela Edington, president of Dutchess Community College, for her work in community organizing and advocating for public education in our area.

- **Selecting members for Named fellowships:** Those chosen have dedicated a great deal of time and effort for various branch activities. Contact was made with each candidate as well as the national AAUW office and an article was placed in The Branch. This year’s honorees are Pat DeLeo, Sabashnee Govender, Eileen Hayden, Sandy Lash, Judy Linville, and Joanne Scolaro.

- **Selecting our Emerging Leader:** The committee selected Monique Jones. Shortly after joining the branch, she became involved in the Live Your Dream Girls’ Conference and the LAF fundraiser, Ribfest. She is on the planning committee for the Girls’ Conference, worked at the conference in November, and is currently serving as Co-Program Vice President. She will be honored for her accomplishments at the state convention.

- **Coordinating with the Mid-Hudson Regional Science Fair:** Two members, Kay Saderholm and Claudette Hennessy, were asked to represent AAUW as judges. They awarded $50 Barnes and Noble gift certificates to one 7th grade girl and one 8th grade girl.

- **Selecting the Cornerstone Award recipient:** Mary Coiteux was selected by the committee. She has consistently helped wherever she is needed and has been involved as an interest group coordinator, member of the communications committee, Facebook coordinator, and Leading to Reading volunteer. The winner will be announced at the Annual Dinner and an article will be placed in the September Branch. The gift was engraved and a handout was developed for the meeting.

- **Served on the Irene Keyes Memorial Fund Committee:** The committee was chaired by Marcine Humphrey to select a college student to attend NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) held at the University of Maryland in May. The 2018 recipient was Katie Murray.