

AAUW-PA FYI April 2014

New Officers Elected: At the 85th Annual Meeting of AAUW-Pennsylvania, Dot McLane was elected President and Michele Buford was elected Program VP. Their terms start July 1, 2014.

Registration is open for July 12 Retreat: All members are invited to attend this retreat; two members per branch can attend without expense. Additional members are welcome for the cost of lunch. The retreat will focus on fundraising and advocacy. Registration is now open at www.surveymonkey.com/s/julyregistration2014 - please pass this along to your branch members. Please register so that we will have sufficient materials.

All Member Vote: The Nominating and Elections Committee reported that 92 votes were cast online and 111 votes by mail. Together with the members voting at the meeting, 12% of the members participated. We thank the branches for their help and the members for participating in our elections.

AAUW-PA Public Policy Priorities: were approved by the membership as attached.

Education: At the Annual Meeting, the membership voted that a study group be formed to decide how best to create a formal AAUW-PA white paper expressing our support for a quality system of K-12 public education, and discussing funding and the efficacy of various delivery systems (brick and mortar, cyber, charter, etc.). If you are interested in participating in the study group, please contact Cheryl Towers (cheryl@towersmaguire.com) and Martha Czop (czopm@mccc.edu)

Advocacy for national issues: AAUW-PA may apply for a public policy grant from national to address two issues. The primary issue choices are: equal pay, safer campus climates, high school athletics, and STEM. The secondary issue choices are: Common Core Standards, Health Care Reform Implementation, Human Trafficking, and Paid Sick Days. If you want input, please contact Dot McLane at DotMcLane@comcast.net.

Districts elected members and alternates for the Nominating and Elections Committee:

East

Rep Kate Sweeney, Makefield Branch
1st Alternate – Randi Blauth, Bethlehem Branch
2nd Alternate – Pamela Good, Doylestown Branch

Central

Rep Anne McFeeley, York Branch
1st Alternate – Candice Davison, State College Branch
2nd Alternate – Wilma Kennedy, Harrisburg, Branch

West

Rep Barbara Zaborowski, Johnstown Branch
1st Alternate – Amy Beiler, Butler Branch
2nd Alternate – Jean Macaluso, Beaver Valley Branch

We thank these members for agreeing to serve.

New AAUW-PA Policy Manual and Board Handbook: The state board approved a new format for the state policy manual and board handbook. These will be posted on our website, aauw-pa@aauw.net shortly.

Branch Officer Forms: Once branch officer elections are completed, the names of the new officers should be entered in the national MSD (Member Services Database) by the current Branch President, and also sent to the AAUW-PA Administrative Director, Pat Byerly (aauwpaad@gmail.com). The 2014-2015 Branch Officer Forms will be sent shortly via email.

Bylaws compliance: As of the AAUW-PA annual meeting on April 12, 24 branches had bylaws that complied with national bylaws language, and 16 branches were not in compliance. **If you need an electronic copy of your branch's bylaws, or have questions on how to comply, please contact Fran Pierce (aauwpabylaws@gmail.com) as soon as possible.** On June 30, she will be passing the documents along to the new State Bylaws Chair, Barbara Price.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE, 2014

The Nominations and Elections Committee is pleased to report that in year two of the AAUW-PA All Member Vote, the election process, including the introduction of online voting, went smoothly. The Committee received a total of **92 online** and **111 paper** ballots. The Committee processed and tallied the ballots according to established procedures. The final tallies reported at the Annual Business Meeting are as follows: **194** votes for Michele Buford for Vice President, Program and **201** votes for Dot McLane for President. There were **2** write-in votes for candidates for President and **4** for Program Vice President. Not all ballots contained votes for both candidates. **1** ballot was disqualified because the envelope did not provide the information necessary for member and branch verification. The election of officers was completed during the Business Meeting by voice vote of those present who had not voted by mail or online.

Respectfully submitted, Susan P. Mc Namara, Chair
Fran Pierce, By-Laws Chair
Jean Macaluso, Western District
Leslie Wachob, Eastern District

Member and Board Adopted AAUW-PA Positions 2012-2014

Human Trafficking (2012) AAUW-PA supports legislative actions to rescue victims of human trafficking in Pennsylvania, and actions to prosecute human traffickers.

Marcellus Shale (2012, rev. 2013)

AAUW-PA opposes the development of shale resources in PA, unless the environment, public health and safety, and the welfare of the communities involved are protected. Any such permitted development should prioritize the value of water resources above gas resources. Permits should require essential impact studies by an objective panel. We support strengthened regulations, safe disposal of wastewater and funding for the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection to monitor and enforce standards. The oil and gas industry should be held to the same clean air and water standards and disclosures as other industries.

Recent legislation undermines the power of local municipalities to manage where and when drilling will occur and necessitates closer evaluation and study by citizens and government. All liabilities for any environmental damage during or after shale development should be the responsibility of the gas companies, their subcontractors, and developers in perpetuity, in order to protect Pennsylvanians, their health and environment, and prevent unnecessary expense to the state. AAUW-PA supports a moratorium on leasing and drilling for natural gas in PA's state forests and parks...that will guarantee protection of these state lands.

Gun Safety (resolution passed April 13, 2013)

AAUW-PA charges PA elected and appointed officials, local, state, and federal, to work together for the benefit of the community in the common goal of promoting safety and reducing gun violence and gun deaths. We propose that laws, regulations, and related enforcement be prudently strengthened to promote (the) safety of all individuals. We advocate nationwide studies on the root causes and consequences of gun violence so that the nation can change the prevalence and culture of such harmful behaviors.

The Pennsylvania Safe Schools Act (PASS Act)

In October 2012, the AAUW-PA Board voted to become a member of the Pennsylvania Safe Schools Partnership and to support passage of HB 156, a bill designed to decrease bullying in public schools.

Proposal to Create a White Paper on Public Education in the State (resolution passed April 12, 2014)

•Whereas the public policy priorities of AAUW-PA support a quality system of public education,

- Be it resolved that AAUW-PA form and support for the 2014-15 fiscal year a study group of members on how to best accomplish the creation of a formal AAUW-PA white paper that expresses the state's position on the following:
 - Quality K-12 public education
 - Funding of K-12 education in the Commonwealth
 - The efficacy of the various delivery systems (brick and mortar, cyber, charter, etc.) of public education in the Commonwealth.
- The report should include the committee's recommendations on how to best accomplish the white paper and contain its recommendations for supporting the necessary research and funding to create this white paper.
- Be it also resolved that this study-group report must be delivered to the AAUW-PA board of directors at their January 2015 meeting for consideration at the annual business meeting in April 2015.

Resources:

- For the names of legislators go to www.pa.gov This site also lists the legislative calendar, gives information on internships/fellowships, and describes how laws are passed in Pennsylvania.
- At the Association level, the Lobby Corps apprises Representatives and Senators of AAUW's position on upcoming legislation that pertains to women and girls. At the state level, members and the public policy chairs may lobby the Pennsylvania Legislature in a similar way.
- The AAUW Action Fund VoteHER Tool Kit, contains the Congressional Voting Record, voter guides for the presidential and key Senate races, and a report evaluating the Obama Administration's first term: <http://www.aauwaction.org/voteher-toolkit/>
- For complete information about AAUW's Public Policy Principles for Action, visit the AAUW Web site at <http://www.aauw.org/takeaction/index.cfm>

AAUW-Pennsylvania (AAUW-PA) Public Policy Priorities 2014-2016

AAUW-PA's public policy goals are to educate citizens about the impact of public policies on women and girls and to advocate for policies that will advance equity for women and girls. In Pennsylvania, AAUW actively endorses the national Public Policy Program. AAUW-Pennsylvania supports good governance, an informed citizenry, and community dialogue on critical issues. Biennial priorities are intended to complement national priorities and to be a focus for active educational and advocacy efforts by members in the state.

To enable members and all citizens to participate fully in a representative democracy and self-governance, AAUW-PA will:

- Increase awareness of issues so that members may be fully informed and empowered voters
- Oppose measures likely to suppress voting rights
- Support efforts to increase civil discourse and compromise between those with opposing views and to oppose negative campaigning
- Familiarize members with a variety of methods to advocate for public policies
- Promote the voting habit and use of social media to develop a voting community among millennial women

AAUW-PA will support a quality system of public education. We oppose the diversion of public funds to non-public elementary and secondary education.

AAUW-PA will advocate for measures that improve the economic self-sufficiency of all women. We support:

- Pay equity and fairness in compensation
- Equitable access and advancement in employment
- Vigorous enforcement of employment anti-discrimination statutes
- Creating family-friendly workplace environments including flexible workplace policies, paid leave for personal and family illness, and quality child-care facilities available to all parents regardless of their circumstances

- Strengthening secondary and post-secondary programs that provide women with education, vocational training, and support for success in the workforce, including non-traditional occupations
- Improving retirement security

AAUW-PA will advocate for measures to improve the operations and transparency of government, understanding that an efficient and effective government can improve the well-being of women.

AAUW-PA members will continue to become informed citizens regarding Marcellus Shale, and advocate for policies that are environmentally and fiscally sound.