

AAUW-PA State Convention News:

Join us at the Annual State Meeting April 15-17, 2016

Join us for our 2016 AAUW-PA State Convention and 87th Annual Meeting this April in Tannersville. Our theme, Women's Leadership in Action, promises to be both informative and inspiring. Our theme will be examined and explored through many different venues including: literature focus groups, a campus action project, a Town Hall meeting, marketing strategies, review of barriers and bias research data, a theater presentation, review of Title IX, status of Get Out The Vote, a report on our Public Policy Impact Grant, a legal advocacy fund (LAF) speaker, and an update on AAUW National. There will also be opportunity for Branch networking along with an award presentation.

Our plenary speaker, Cordy Galligan, is vice president of Marketing and Business Development at the National level. She will bring a fresh approach to marketing Branch membership and activities, keeping vitality alive and increasing our visibility within the greater community. Our second plenary presenter, Catherine Hill, Ph.D., vice president for Research at AAUW, will share her findings from the newest AAUW research report *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership* which explores this question and provides recommendations for individuals and those in the education, corporate, and political sectors to contribute to an environment in which gender is no longer a barrier to leadership.

As always we will offer a riveting Business Meeting, awards, networking, food, and fun. Meeting information, Registration and Hotel Reservation Information will be available shortly on the state website and in the February *Keystoner*.

Leadership Clothesline Action Photos Needed

Our "Leadership Clothesline" at the April convention will be comprised of enlarged photos that depict our convention theme of *Women's Leadership in Action*. Branches are asked to send in photos of leadership in action over the course of their history—as far back as we can go. Examples include marching in a parade, staffing a voter registration table, giving a speech, or lobbying at the capitol. The images will be displayed chronologically and hung on the clothesline for all to enjoy. This promises to be fun, and inspirational! Please send your digital photos with a brief caption (with branch name, activity, and year photo was taken) to Connie Schroeder, aauwpakeystoner@gmail.com by **March 10**. If you have some good older photos that need to be scanned, please call Connie at (814) 360-4810 to determine next steps for sharing them.

LAF Basket Fundraiser

We are raising funds for AAUW National's Legal Advocacy Fund with a Basket Raffle! Branch participation is entirely optional. Baskets may be filled with items unique to the area of the state where the branch is located, or may be created around a theme, such as a kitchen basket. We ask that the value be in the \$30-50 range. The baskets will be sold through a silent auction. If your branch is interested in contributing a basket, please notify Linda Robbins, AAUW-PA Conference Coordinator, aauwpaconfcoord@gmail.com by **March 1**.

Branch Tables at Convention

If your branch would like to have table space at the Convention for displaying branch accomplishments or similar, please contact Linda Robbins at aauwpaconfcoord@gmail.com by **March 1**. Branch sales of items is not being offered.

AAUW-PA Bylaw Proposals at Convention

A few state bylaw proposals are being offered to reflect what we currently practice on the topic of Nominations and Elections. The affected section is Article V. Nominations and Elections and include (deletions strikethrough, additions bold underline):

- a. There shall be a Nominating and Elections Committee composed of ~~an appointed representative from the State Bylaws Committee and a minimum of one appointed representative~~ **a Chair** from the State board **appointed by the president with board approval at the first meeting of the fiscal year.**

- d. **If no candidate is identified for an office in time to notify the membership one month prior to the State annual business meeting, the nominating committee may continue to seek candidates until the first day of the annual meeting. If a candidate is identified, the nominating committee will meet to approve the candidate and add the name to the slate for election by the membership at the annual meeting. Should no candidate be identified prior to the annual meeting, the Executive Committee will appoint someone at the first meeting of the newly elected board.**

The full rationale, current and proposed bylaw section can be reviewed on the state website shortly.

AAUW-PA 2016-2018 Public Policy Proposals

At Convention we will be voting upon our new public policy priorities. The complete public policy priorities with proposed revisions will be available on the state website and will appear in the Convention Yearbook. Below is a summary of the changes to the 2014-2016 priorities being proposed (deletions in strikethrough, additions in bold underline).

We **will** support ~~a strong~~ **fair and adequately funded** system of public education.

We support the fair education funding formula recommended by the Campaign for Fair Education Funding.

Raising the minimum wage and tipped wage to an amount that would provide a meaningful boost to family incomes in Pennsylvania and help grow the state's economy.

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

Women In Leadership Development (WILD) Book Group Discussion

There will be a table reserved at Saturday's dinner at the AAUW-PA State Convention for those wishing to discuss the WILD book selection *Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way* by Robin Gerber. AAUW-PA's participation in the WILD project was announced in the December *Keystoner*. For more information contact Martha Czop, AAUW-PA WILD Coordinator at aauwpaeast@gmail.com.

Candidates for State Elections

Candidates for State elections this year are Dot McLane for President and Sandy Homel for Program Vice President. Even though the candidates are running unopposed, it is important to receive the endorsement of our members.

Dot McLane is being nominated for a second term as president. Her AAUW experience includes her current position on the AAUW national board of directions, including being a member of the AAUW Finance Committee, and in the past as chair, STEM Task Force; chair, Branch Program Resources; member, Public Policy Committee; liaison, Girls Collaborative Project (STEM); and chair, Branch Program Resources. A member of AAUW-Lansdale since 1999, Dot has served as Finance Officer, Co-President and chair/member of assorted committees. Dot regularly attends national, state conventions/meetings as well as leader and district meetings. She holds a Ph.D. (1987) and M.S. (1982) in biology from Drexel and a B.A., Biology from Rutgers University.

Sandy Homel is currently AAUW-Pa. Program Vice-President, and has been an AAUW member since the mid-1970s in three different branches. She was Chair of an Educational Issues Conference and received an AAUW Educational Named Gift Award. She has served on fundraising, policy and issues committees and chaired the Bucks County Women's History Award committee. She is currently Doylestown Branch Program Vice President. Sandy has certification in math, English and secondary education and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. She has been an Assistant Superintendent and Director of Secondary Education. She is an Adjunct Professor at Temple University.

State Officer Elections Voting Procedures

For members NOT attending the Annual State Meeting at Convention, online voting is now open for state President and Program Vice President. **Online voting** is available by visiting the election page <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AAUWelection2016> or from information provided in the February *Keystoner*. **Online votes must be cast by midnight on April 3.**

While electronic voting is encouraged, there may be some branch members who require a paper ballot. **If you need paper ballots** for your branch, email Pat Byerly at aauwpaad@gmail.com and let her know if you can print them for that member or if you need the paper ballots mailed to you. The **deadline for requesting paper ballots is February 15**. Paper ballots **must be received by the Elections and Nominations Chair Rosemary Baker no later than April 8** OR if one of your branch members is coming to the Annual State Meeting, they can **bring paper ballot votes with them** if they first notify Rosemary Baker aauwpaauwfunds@gmail.com doing so prior to April 8.

For members who plan to attend the Annual State Meeting, they should **NOT vote online or via paper ballot**, they will **vote via voice vote** during the Business Meeting.

State Awards – Last Call

The deadline for sending in Branch Outstanding Woman Awards, Member Making a Difference Award, Gateway to Equity Award Nomination, and Branch Highlights is **February 15**. The forms for Outstanding Woman and Member Making a Difference awards are attached or can be downloaded from the state website <http://aauw-pa.aauw.net/awards/>. Information on the Gateway to Equity Award nomination and Branch Highlights submissions are on the state website.

AAUW Funds Named Gift Honorees

Please be sure to forward the names of branch members to state AAUW Funds Chair Rosemary Baker aauwpaAAUWfunds@gmail.com who have been honored as Named Gift Honorees from your branch for contributions of \$500 or more to the national AAUW Funds. The names of these individuals will be published in the Annual Meeting Yearbook and if attending the Annual Meeting will be recognized with a nametag ribbon indicating they are a Named Gift Honoree and announced during the AAUW Funds

awards. This year the state **will not** be providing certificates for the Named Gift Honorees. If you would like to request a certificate be prepared by the state for presenting to your branch Named Gift Honorees at one of your branch meetings, please contact the state Administrative Director Pat Byerly aauwpaad@gmail.com and she will be happy to prepare and mail your certificate to you.

Special Honorees at Convention

If your branch wishes to nominate a member for Special Honoree recognition in the Convention Yearbook, contact Dot McLane, President aauwpapresident@gmail.com, with the member's name and description of the reason for the Special Honor.

Other State News:

Grants to Attend NCCWSL

If you know college students who would like to hone their leadership skills and meet like-minded women and men, please tell them that AAUW-PA has FOUR grants for women and men studying in PA colleges and universities or from PA studying out of state to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

NCCWSL will be held June 2-4, 2016, at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Applications can be downloaded from the website (<http://aauw-pa.aauw.net/colleges-universities/>) and are due March 12 to Susan McNamara whose contact info is on the application.

State grants cover the early registration fee, which includes tuition, lodging for two nights, and most meals. Attendees pay for their own transportation to and from College Park and may choose to pay to attend pre-conference activities. If you have questions, please contact Deb Roney at aauwpacu@gmail.com. Help us get the word out!

AAUW-PA Equal Pay Day Rally in Harrisburg – Save the Date

AAUW-PA will host an Equal Pay Day Rally in Harrisburg on Tuesday April 12, 2016. AAUW members from across Pennsylvania, joined by their coalition partners, will rally in Harrisburg before meeting with their legislators on April 12, Equal Pay Day. The rally begins at 10 am in the rotunda of the Capitol. Tentative plans for speakers include a PA representative or senator who supports an equal pay bill, a college professor whose area of expertise is pay equity for women, a representative from AAUW national and the personal narrative of a woman whose life has been impacted by the pay gap. A room at the Harrisburg Hilton has been reserved from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm for briefing before and debriefing after the rally and legislative visits.

Save the Date: July Summer Retreat – Saturday July 16, 2016

The annual Summer Retreat at Country Cupboard Lewisburg will be Saturday July 16, 2016 from 10 AM to 3 PM. AAUW-PA pays the meeting cost and lunch for two members from each branch, additional members from a branch are welcome for the cost of the lunch which is \$20. This year all AAUW-PA electronic student affiliate members, student affiliate members, and student organization members are welcome at no cost. The registration form will be in the *Keystoner*.