

## **July Summer Retreat – Saturday July 11, 2015**

The annual Summer Retreat at Country Cupboard Lewisburg will be Saturday July 11, 2015 from 10 AM to 3 PM. This year's program will include presentations from Ron Cowell, President of the Education and Policy Leadership Center in Pennsylvania, on our continuing state public policy initiative in public education as well as an update from the national AAUW convention. Mr. Cowell will talk about some of the issues with public education in PA including funding, teacher recruitment, and charter/cyber-charter schools. He will also provide direction on how we as branches and individuals can advocate for change including the important role that school boards play in a community and how we can impact their work.

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 and student affiliate members are welcome at no cost. The registration form will be in the summer *Keystoner* or you can register online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2015julyregistration>.

## **AAUW-PA 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – State College 2015**

The AAUW-PA annual meeting, held in State College April 10-11th, brought out 79 branch members from around the state as well as ten college students and seven speakers. Attendees enjoyed the presentations and sessions. Additional networking was requested for future meetings and a better way to present the various Awards. Special thanks to Talat Azhar, outgoing Program Vice President; Linda Robbins, Conference Coordinator; and Sherry Crassweller, conference registrar. Their hard work behind the scenes made the meeting possible. For a meeting recap, visit <http://aauw-pa.aauw.net/meetings/conventions/>; the Yearbook is available online at <http://aauw-pa.aauw.net/meetings/yearbooks/>.

## **New Officers Elected**

Election of new officers for the state board took place during the business portion of the annual meeting. They are Sandy Homel (Doylestown), Program Vice President for a one year term; Cathy Wieland (Lebanon Valley), Membership Vice President; Susan Donahue (Lansdale), Finance Officer; and Susan Wheatley (Indiana), Secretary. Susan Wheatley's nomination for secretary could not be finalized prior to the publication of the February *Keystoner* and opening of online voting. Before the annual meeting she was vetted by the Nominations and Elections Committee who endorsed her nomination. Their terms start July 1, 2015.

The Nominating and Elections Committee reported that 41 votes were cast online, 45 votes by paper ballot, and 73 voting members at the meeting. We thank the members for participating in our elections.

## **Nominating and Election Committee Members 2015-2016**

Districts elected members and alternates for the Nominating and Elections Committee: East District – Fran Kennedy (Easton), Lee Wolfe (Lansdale), Arlene Umstead (Pottstown Area); Central District – Holle Canatella (Lock Haven), Sue Zitnick (York), Pat Kephart (State College); and West District – Barbara Zaborowski (Johnstown), Lois Smith (Erie), Jackie Heaney (Beaver Valley). We thank these members for agreeing to serve.

## **Education Resolution on Cyber Charter Schools Passed**

The York Branch proposed a resolution at the state Annual Business meeting:

*Whereas, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania approved cyber charter schools in 1997, and their low performance scores rank 48.7% on the State's 100 points scale compared to public schools' scores of 78.8%.*

*And whereas, The funding for cyber charter schools far exceeds instructional costs; therefore,*

*Be it resolved that AAUW-PA encourage its branches to educate their members and the public about the academic, social, and economic impact evolving from the continuance and increase of cyber charter schools as this vitally affects the future level of education for present and future generations of students in Pennsylvania.*

The resolution was passed unanimously.

## **NCCWSL Scholarship Winners Announced**

This year, AAUW-PA offered five scholarships to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), which will take place May 28-30 at the University of Maryland in College Park. Members of the AAUW-PA Scholarship Selection Committee are pleased to announce the following 2015 winners: Amanda Howard, Lebanon Valley College, sophomore in Biology; Stephanie DelVento, Delaware Valley College, junior in English, Media, and Communication; Julia McMurry, Juniata College, first-year student in International Studies, who has won the Ward-Roney grant; Amy Overpeck, Lebanon Valley College, sophomore in Psychobiology; and Ewelina Taran, University of Scranton, current senior in Counseling and Human Services (Human Development and Peace and Justice Concentrations).

Many thanks to the selection committee, which was comprised of Cathy Wieland, Chair; Michele Buford; Susan McNamara; and Deb Roney. If your branch or an individual member is sponsoring students to attend NCCWSL this year or would like to know more about NCCWSL opportunities, please contact Deb Roney, College/University Liaison, at [aauwpacu@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpacu@gmail.com).

## **AAUW National Election – AAUW-PA Candidate Endorsements**

AAUW-PA endorsed candidates for the contested positions of Directors-at-Large on the national Board of Directors as follows: Dot McLane, Eileen Hartmann, and Maria Ellis. Susan Nenstiel of the Allentown Branch also personally endorsed Eileen Menton.

Several bylaw proposals and amended public policy priorities are on the ballot.

Information about candidates for election to the national board of directors, bylaw proposals and public policy priorities are posted on the national website as well as in the AAUW *Outlook* magazine which you should have received in the mail. Member voting information is included in the AAUW *Outlook* magazine, and, if on record, members were sent an email with a direct link to the online voting ballot. Please exercise your important right of voting in the AAUW national election.