

State District Meetings 2015

District Meetings will be held in the three districts again this year on either October 3 (East) or November 7 (Central and West). The topic will be on the Gender Wage Gap (Gender Equity) and more information on coalition building. Registration forms will be available on the state website shortly.

EAST DISTRICT (Contact District Coordinator Martha Czop, aauwpaeast@gmail.com, 215-945-1309):

Location: Cedar Crest College (hosted by the Allentown Branch)

Date/Time: Saturday October 3, 2015 from 10 AM to 2 PM

CENTRAL DISTRICT (Contact District Coordinator Sue Zitnick, aauwpacentral@gmail.com):

Location: ShadowStone Community Center, 106 West Spruce Street, Palmyra, PA

Date/Time: Saturday November 7, 2015 from 10 AM to 3 PM

WESTERN DISTRICT (Contact District Co-Coordinator Cheryl Towers, aauwpawest@gmail.com):

Location: Butler County Community College, Cranberry Campus

Date/Time: Saturday November 7, 2015 from 10 AM to 2 PM

Speaker: Susan Frietsche, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney, Women's Law Project of PA

AAUW-PA Receives National AAUW Public Policy Impact Grant

We are pleased to announce that AAUW-Pennsylvania has again been awarded a national public policy impact grant of \$1,000. The issue priorities for this award, as selected by AAUW, are Pay Equity and Get Out the Vote (GOTV). In the grant application, Public Policy Co-chairs Toni Hoffman and Susan McNamara outlined a broad variety of Gender Equity issues such as paid family leave, support for quality child care, living wage, the cliff effect, pay check fairness as well as pay equity which need to be addressed through education and legislative advocacy. Under GOTV, they have included AAUW-PA action for amendments to Pennsylvania's voter registration regulations to provide maximum accessibility and timeliness for absentee and in-person registrations.

To get an early start, branch presidents and public policy officers received in May copies of Coalition Building Worksheets. Additional resources such as fact sheets and talking points, tools and tips, along with Best Practices suggestions and a copy of the Impact Grant application submitted to AAUW will be available on the AAUW-PA website. The monthly Public Policy Highlights to be available to all members will also contain useful information.

In place of the Mini-grant awards given in the past two years, this 2015-2016 award will be used to recognize and support branch incubation of an innovative project(s), a stretch beyond comfort zone activity, the testing out of a "What if we..." idea or a plunge into "we've never done this before, let's go for it" project. While we expect most branches to devote attention to Gender Equity and GOTV as priorities, some branches may elect to work on Title IX or Education as issues best matched for their membership. Whatever the issues, though, the project must include a significant coalition or partner or ally component. Be on the lookout for more specific information about applying for award support.

Summer Retreat 2015

Ron Cowell, President of the Education Policy and Leadership Center (EPLC), presented an Education Issues Update and Public Policy Advocacy to 48 members who attended our annual Summer Retreat. Ron has served as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for 24 years, for 12 years as a member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education and also 20 years as a Board Member of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). Following is a summary of parts of his presentation on funding, charter schools and teacher recruitment. The slide presentation is available on the state website <http://aauw-pa.aauw.net/meetings/retreat/>.

Pennsylvania currently spends \$13,864 per students but the revenue is heavily dependent on the local tax base (56.3%). While the State provides 36.1%, this is a downward spiral from 51% in 1974, a ranking of 46th place among the 50 states. The burden on local property taxes creates an inequity for students across Pennsylvania although our Standards-Based System promotes equal expectations for all students. Data for the 2010-11 school years indicates that spending per pupil ranged from \$8,584 to \$22,140 which means that in a class of 25 students, a gap of \$338,900 exists. In poor districts, students generally need more learning supports and services but the resources are lacking. Everyone with an interest in public education must advocate for equity during the annual State budget process.

Charter Schools, designed to provide choice and save money, date back to 1998 with Cyber Charter Schools following in 2001. The expectation that the enrollment would come from public schools was offset by students enrolling from private and parochial schools along with students who were home schooling. The anticipated budget savings was not realized. Accountability became an issue because adequate staff to monitor progress was not provided. Charter Schools were intended as labs that would improve the overall system; this did not happen.

Recruitment, preparation and evaluation of teachers are issues of concern. There is declining interest in teaching as a profession and teacher certification programs have dropped by 50% in the State. A new evaluation system mandated by the Legislature is based on student performance. Teachers are held accountable for their student test scores. An unintended consequence of the mandated grades three through eleven annual testing is a narrowing of the curriculum.

Public advocacy procedures and best practices were discussed by Ron and the AAUW-PA Education Committee Chairs Cheryl Towers and Martha Czop. Following their presentation the state Public Policy Co-Chairs Toni Hoffman and Susan McNamara discussed the recently awarded national AAUW Impact Grant to Pennsylvania on the topics of the Gender Wage Gap, Voting Rights, and Get Out the Vote. They provided information and resources for all members to get involved in public policy this year and sent everyone home with a swag bag full of resources for coalition building, advocacy, and other initiatives.

Branch Conversations

Branch Presidents/Administrators will once again be engaged in Conversations with state board members. We will be sending out a survey and list of questions for you and your board/branch to consider in August. The window of calls will be between October 1 and 31st. Please try to return the survey information as requested and discuss the questions with your board and/or branch and be receptive to the state board member who contacts you about setting a time to chat. As always, this is also an opportunity for you to express any concerns or questions you may have.

AAUW National Convention 2015 Update

June 18-21 in San Diego was an amazing experience. Once again there were plenary session, workshops, roundtables, and Daily Dialogs to inform our members, offer them resources, and foster networking. Several topics were covered in plenary sessions including Title IX, Women and Girls in STEM, What it Takes to Make a Woman Leader, Member-Leader Programs; over 30 workshops on Marketing, Membership Recruitment & Retention, Financial Best Practices, Diversity & Inclusion, Fundraising, Tech Savvy/Tech Trek, Public Policy & Advocacy, AAUW Research, and Mission-Based Program ideas. The Saturday banquet honored branches, states, and individual members' giving to AAUW Funds, the AAUW Achievement Awardee Maria Klawe and AAUW Alumnae Recognition Awardee Faith Ringgold; the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Awardee Juanita Johnson-Bailey was honored at the Closing Ceremonies.

Election results included the passage of four bylaw proposals: filling board vacancies, changing leadership titles (Chair and Vice Chair instead of President and Vice President), Vice President term, and Committee Member terms; and the failure of one bylaw proposal: eliminating the degree requirement for membership. Several changes in public policy program priorities language were all passed. The board of directors elected included Board Chair Patricia Fae Ho, Vice Chair Alicia Hetman, and Directors Susan Barley, Malinda Gaul, Eileen Hartmann (Secretary), Malinda Gaul, Ellie Hill, Traci Jensen, Melissa Johnsen, Dot McLane, Rebecca Norlander Glenda Price, and Pam Theil; Appointed Directors included Janet Bunger (Finance Vice Chair), Joanna Amberger, and Anthony Hill.

Save the date for 2017 in Washington DC, June 14-17.

For all the information on the Convention including workshop handouts and powerpoints visit the national website. Updates page <http://convention.aauw.org/updates/> and National Convention Workshop Materials <http://convention.aauw.org/2015/06/17/presentations-and-materials/>.

AAUW-PA Call for Nominations

AAUW-PA is seeking nominations for the following offices to fill 2016-2018 terms on the State Board. President: The official spokesperson and representative for the state, responsible for directing, coordinating, and overseeing the work of the state, facilitating the work of the branches, working with the national board and staff, and communicating national initiatives to branches.

Program Vice-President: Responsible for planning, coordinating, implementing and reporting mission-based programming activities, and building connections between the components of AAUW programming.

The state board currently meets four times annually: in July, October, January and at the State Convention or Annual Meeting. Board expenses for attendance at meetings are paid by AAUW-PA. If you are interested in serving on the state board in either of these capacities, please complete the Candidate Application which is posted on the AAUW-PA website and return it, along with a photo to Rosemary Baker at aauwpanominations@gmail.com (e-mail preferred) or 2625 Anthony Court, Easton, PA 18045 by October 1, 2015. To recommend a candidate, get a copy of the form or obtain more information contact Rosemary by e-mail or at (h) 610-258-1995 or (c) 610-217-4230.

Charting the Course for AAUW's Future Fundraiser

A new fundraising campaign, Charting the Course, is underway at national to raise \$1M in two years for unrestricted funds. You might ask, "Why unrestricted funds?" AAUW members have done an outstanding job of supporting restricted funds such as Fellowships & Grants, now it is important to focus on funding AAUW's mission-based community programming that can only be supported by unrestricted funds. These programs are what our branches offer in our local communities including some of the best programming AAUW offers to its members and college students – National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), Member-Leader Programs, Elect Her, \$tart \$mart, Tech Trek, Tech Savvy, Campus Outreach Grants, Campus Action Grants, and so many more, not to mention any new programming AAUW would want to offer in the future in its work to empower women and girls. Any tax-deductible donation amount is welcome and it can be paid in one payment or multiple payments over the two years of the campaign (January 2015 to December 2016). If you do make a donation of \$5,000 or more, you will receive a Charting the Course pin. Please consider supporting this campaign that will offer our national organization the ability to continue to create and offer outstanding programming for our branches and states. For more information visit the national website <http://www.aauw.org/chartingthecourse/>.

Opportunities for College/University Students

AAUW-PA is offering TWO ways for interested and committed student leaders concerned about the AAUW mission to get involved and build their resumes. The **Student Advisory Council (SAC)**, mentored by a group of branch members, advises the state board about student concerns and perspectives, works locally to promote AAUW, and develops and presents a session for the state annual meeting in April. AAUW-PA is offering two **Emerging Leader Internships** this year. Although unpaid, the internships offer the chance to do real work that makes a difference and to learn from mentors who know the organization and work in that area of responsibility. Internship length varies.

To learn more or to apply, go to <http://aauw-pa.aauw.net/colleges-universities/>. Applications are due by October 1.

Student Affiliates

Students who are affiliated with AAUW nationally either as an e-Student Affiliate (eSAF) (free because their institution is a College/University partner) or as a Student Affiliate (paid because their institution is not a College/University partner) can easily affiliate with AAUW-PA alone or with AAUW-PA and with a branch in their local area.

Affiliation with AAUW-PA is free for both eSAFs and SAFs, with or without branch affiliation.

To affiliate with the state, email the state Membership Vice President (MVP) at aauwmvp@gmail.com and copy the state College/University Liaison at aauwcu@gmail.com. Include her/his request, AAUW number, and contact information.

To affiliate with a branch, the student should contact the branch MVP with her/his request, AAUW number, and contact information. The branch MVP and the branch Finance Officer will file the request with national to include the student in the branch as an eSAF or SAF by including the student on the membership dues listing.

Re-Notification of Paper Subscriber Version of *Keystoner* Required

For 2015-2016 we again will use the system instituted last year - each branch president will receive one electronic copy to distribute to branch e-subscribers and one paper copy of the *Keystoner*. If you have more than one president, only one of you will get the paper copy. Branch Presidents/Administrators are asked to please review, update, and resubmit a list of any branch members who need to receive a paper copy of the *Keystoner* to Pat Byerly, aauwpaad@gmail.com no later than October 1st. **Paper newsletters will not be sent to members of branches who have not supplied the list by this date.** Thank you.