

Join us at the Annual State Meeting

Plan to gather at the Ramada State College on April 10-11 for the 86th Annual AAUW-PA State Meeting. Our theme is Civil Rights + Voter Rights + Women's Rights. The keynote speaker is Susan Russell, Associate Professor at Penn State and 2014-2015 Penn State Laureate. Russell has taken her "Dignity Tour" to Penn State campuses, high schools, and other locations to explore how language can bridge communication gaps between diverse cultures and disciplines.

An AAUW National Update will be given by Eileen Hartmann, National Board Director-at-Large from New York. Workshops on Voter's Rights and Human Trafficking are planned as well as student participation including Northampton Community College students who were awarded a 2013-2014 Campus Action Project grant for their project "Supporting Student Parents", and a panel of our brand new state Student Advisory Council members and Emerging Leader Interns. The current international Humphrey Fellows on Human Rights and Women's Rights will talk about their experiences, this panel from last year's fellows at State Convention was captivating so don't miss this session.

As always we will offer a riveting Business Meeting, awards, networking, a trip to the famous Penn State Berkey Ice Creamery, more food, and fun. Meeting information, Registration and Hotel Reservation Information is available on the state website and in the February Keystoner.

Candidates for State Elections

Candidates for State elections this year are Cathy Wieland for Membership Vice President, Susan Donahue for Finance Officer, and Sandy Homel for Program Vice President (one year). Attached you will find information about these candidates. Please encourage your branch members to vote. Even though the candidates are running unopposed, it is important to receive the endorsement of our members.

State Officer Elections Voting Procedures

For members NOT attending the Annual State Meeting, voting is now open for state Membership Vice President, Finance Officer, Secretary, and a one year term of Program Vice President to fill out the term of our current appointed PVP. **Online voting** is available by visiting the election page <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AAUWelection2015> 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 Barbara Price no later than April 3** 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 Barbara Price aauwpabylaws@gmail.com they are doing so prior to April 3.

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, Branch Spotlight Awards, Gateway to Equity Awards, and Branch Highlights is **February 15**. The forms for these awards are attached or can be downloaded from 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 aauwpaafunds@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.

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 FIVE 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 May 28-30, 2015, 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 10 to Cathy Wieland, 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 Lobby Day in Harrisburg

SAVE THE DATE: AAUW-PA will lobby in Harrisburg for three days during the **week of April 20, 2015**. Each district will be asked to participate on one out of the three days. Effective Advocacy Training workshops and webinars will be held in each district in advance of Lobby Week. When the details are finalized, you'll be the first to know.

AAUW National Board of Director Elections

Information about candidates for election to the national board of directors will be posted on the national website by early February at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>. The information will include biographical statements, campaign videos and links. This information will also be included in the next member Outlook magazine. Information on how to vote along with the member's unique PIN number for voting online will be in the Outlook.

Starting in 2011 we moved from a delegate voting format to the current every member vote format. In 2011 and 2013 the number of members voting was extremely small. Just as in national elections for our government, it is crucial that all our members vote in the national AAUW election. The position of President and Vice President are uncontested but there are several highly qualified candidates for Director-at-Large and member votes will determine who is successful in attaining these positions. Please encourage your branch members to review the candidate's qualifications and vote. You might consider bringing a laptop to a branch meeting for use in voting online, you just need to ensure members

arrive at the meeting with their member number and voting PIN number. Online voting occurs from April 8 to June 19. If a member wishes to vote by paper ballot, they must request this ballot from national and return it to national by the dates indicated on the national website and in the Outlook publication.

Keystoner Delivery Suggestion

For those members of your branch who get the state Keystoner newsletter electronically the procedure involves having the state Administrative Director send the electronic link for the newsletter posted on the state website to the designated point person at each branch who then forwards this link to the appropriate branch members. Some branch members may be less inclined to click on the link and read the Keystoner than if the newsletter were attached as an attachment to the email. It is not possible for the state to send the Keystoner as an attachment directly to the branches due to the sheer number of emails and restrictions on such emails. However, you might suggest to the point person at your branch that she/he download the Keystoner from the link provided to them and then they could send out the Keystoner as an attachment to their branch members. It might increase the number of members who read the Keystoner. This publication is usually chock full of important and timely information so any assistance you can be in ensuring it reaches the maximum number of members is appreciated.