

May 2017 AAUW-PA FYI

AAUW National Election

Who will lead our organization? What will our public policy platform be for the next two years? It's your AAUW, so your voice counts. The national election voter guide is now available, it has been included in the Spring 2017 Outlook and is on the national website. There are three main areas of voting: Bylaws/Resolutions, Public Policy Priorities and Board of Directors.

Bylaws/Resolutions: There are 8 proposals to bylaw changes being decided. Proposals 1 and 2 both involve changes to membership composition. Proposal 1 proposes a new category of "advocate" which would not require an educational credential, however, these members would not be allowed to vote, hold office, or serve on committees but may be required to pay the same dues as full members. Proposal 2 proposes eliminating the educational requirement for membership. All persons who support the AAUW mission would be eligible to become full functioning members of AAUW. You can consider each of these proposals independently, meaning if Proposal 1 passes and Proposal 2 fails, Proposal 1 would be implemented; if Proposal 1 fails and Proposal 2 passes, Proposal 2 would be implemented; if Proposals 1 and 2 both pass, Proposal 2 would be implemented; and if both fail, neither would be implemented. Even though you can consider these independently, please read the rationale for each of these proposals carefully, decide for yourself which you think is appropriate or if you support both, and vote what you feel is best for AAUW.

The other proposals deal with clarifying processes for appeals to membership denial (Proposal 3), changing the Nominations committee appointment date to improve the nominations process (Proposal 4), making voting methods generic for future flexibility (Proposal 5), allowing national board members to serve as chairs of standing committees (Proposal 6), making Public Policy Priorities distinct from "programming" in order to maintain and ensure Priorities can be voted upon by the membership unlike the other programming in AAUW which is under the control of the Board of Directors (Proposal 7), and changing the quorum number for voting (Proposal 8). The national Board of Directors supports all the proposed bylaws.

There are two resolutions for your consideration on the topics of the Equal Rights Amendment and Human Trafficking.

Public Policy Priorities: The Public Policy Principles for Action and Action Priorities are voted upon by the membership every two years. Review the additions/changes outlined in the voter guide carefully as these principles and priorities set the agenda around which the national office works to plan and implement their public policy work which ultimately defines our organization.

Board of Directors: Statements from members running for the BOD are included in the voter guide and on the national website, often with links to additional information. If videos were created, these are posted on the national website. There are three candidates for Board Chair, one for Vice Chair, and 13 for Director. You are able to vote for 1 Chair, the Vice Chair, and up to 10 Directors – note you can vote for zero, one, or up to 10 Directors, the more you vote for the less power your vote has for each. It is always difficult to vote if you are not familiar with the individuals and having a short statement may not be sufficient for you to make a decision. So, I encourage you that if a candidate has a video or additional material links, to take the time to review those materials as well and exercise your vote.

Dot McLane, AAUW Board Candidate for Director-at-Large

I am running for re-election to the National Board of Directors. My passion for AAUW resides in the mission and in the importance of all levels of AAUW – branch, state and national. My primary role on the national board is to represent the interests of all members of AAUW and to build AAUW's efforts in advocacy and research as the preeminent organization for women's equity while increasing its visibility and collaborations with other organizations. If you feel it appropriate, please share this information with your branch members. My website for more information about me is <http://mclaneforaauw.weebly.com>.

Introducing AAUW's New CEO, Kimberly Churches

AAUW is excited to announce that Kimberly Churches will be our chief executive officer starting June 1, 2017. Kimberly comes to AAUW from the Brookings Institution, where she strategically guided the public policy organization, providing vision and problem-solving skills, expansive partnerships and external relations, and fundraising as the managing director.

As a member of the CEO Search Committee I had the privilege to interview and recommend Kim's hiring to the AAUW Board of Directors. Kim is a smart, dynamic, committed individual who feels passionately about the AAUW mission. She is in it for the long haul. AAUW is in good hands to ensure our future. For those of you attending the AAUW National Convention, you will get the opportunity to meet her in person.

July Summer Retreat – Saturday July 22, 2017 (New Venue)

The summer retreat this year will be held at Genetti Hotel in Williamsport on Saturday July 22 from 10 AM to 3 PM. This year's program will focus on programming and how that impacts membership recruitment and retention, an area that all branches could use help with. The goal will be to offer different options for branches of all sizes and resources, both in their branch and community. We are asking your help in preparing ideas for mission-based programming and/or membership recruitment. Several branches have increased their membership this year and we would like to know what steps you took to do that so we can share it with all branches. On the state website there is an input form on the HOME page that you can download and send to me, any input would be appreciated. We will also offer an overview of what happened at the AAUW National Convention in June.

As usual 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. All AAUW-PA electronic student affiliate members, student affiliate members, and members of AAUW student organizations 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/2017julyregistration>.

AAUW-PA 88th Annual Meeting – York 2017

The AAUW-PA annual meeting, held at Heritage Hills Golf Resort, York, PA from April 21 – 23, was attended by 84 members, speakers and student affiliates. Twenty-seven of the State's 40 Branches were represented. Activities on Friday evening included a "get acquainted" table game at dinner followed by our opening Keynote speaker, Dr. Susan Boland from Lock Haven University, who addressed Implicit Bias, Prejudice and Stereotypes.

Saturday's schedule was very full. Randi Blackman Teplitz, Chair of the Pennsylvania Commission for Women, explained the role of the Commission and the positive impact it has across the state. Dr. Mary Armstrong, professor at Lafayette College, gave a compelling address on Women in STEM. There is

much work to be done! President Dot McLane conducted a Business Meeting followed by AAUW-PA Board leaders meeting with their respective Branch counterparts.

Luncheon speaker, Marianne Bellesorte, our Gateway to Equity Awardee, highlighted the mission of Pathways PA, a non-profit devoted to ending the cycle of poverty, homelessness and abuse. Concurrent sessions included Randi Blauth, National AAUW Diversity Committee, who addressed diversity within the Branch and our Public Policy Chairs, Barbara Price and Ann Pehle along with Elizabeth Holden from National, who presented, "It's All About the Bill." The College Student Advisory Council (SAC) under the direction of Dr. Holle Canatella, shared their thoughts on campus issues including diversity, inclusion and intersectional feminism. The District meetings (East, Central, West) were followed by the Awards Presentation program that recognized outstanding efforts from Branches. Dinner speaker Kristen Galles, a civil rights attorney and Title IX expert who serves on the advisory committee of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, reviewed the statistics 45 years after Title IX legislation became law. Her data provided reason to "get mad."

On Sunday morning Dr. Jennifer Parker, Associate Professor at Penn State University, Lehigh Valley, recognized for promoting multiculturalism and sensitivity to students, shared her approaches to addressing diversity. Elizabeth Holden, National Advocacy Manager, provided an AAUW National Update and advised how to advance our public policy at all levels. She also installed newly elected officers. Activities designed to benefit the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund included a silent auction where attendees bid on baskets donated by individuals and branches and mailboxes strategically placed for membership donations.

Copies of speaker's presentations will soon be posted on the state website. Special thanks to the Program Committee including Sandy M. Homel (Program VP), Rosemary Baker, Patricia Byerly, Susan Donahue, Dot McLane, Linda Robbins, Barbara Zaborowski (Conference Coordinator), and Connie Schroder.

New Officers Elected

Election of new officers for the state board took place during the business portion of the annual meeting. They are Linkey Green (Carlisle), Membership Vice President, Mary Jo Buckwalter (Doylestown), Finance Officer, and Joanne Borgesi (Pittsburgh), Secretary for the 2017-2019 board.

The Nominating and Elections Committee reported that 40 votes were cast online, 8 votes by paper ballot, and 68 voting members at the meeting. We thank the members for participating in our elections.

AAUW-PA State Programs Announced

The state board is offering a new initiative to raise the visibility of AAUW in branch's communities to hopefully lead to increased membership. Branches would collaborate with state board members to plan and implement one or two programs we think will be of broad appeal. The two programs are "Draw the Lines PA" and "Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans", the new AAUW research report being released on May 24. Draw the Lines PA deals with the issue of gerrymandering in Pennsylvania and Deeper in Debt examines the extra burden women face over men in paying back student debt. To read more about the initiative and the programs, and to indicate your branch's interest in potentially offering one or both programs, visit the state website <http://aauw-pa.aauw.net/state-programs/> or contact Dot McLane, aauwpapresident@gmail.com.

Call for Nominations 2018-2020 and Nominating and Election Committee Members 2017-2018

AAUW-PA is seeking nominations for the following offices to fill 2018-2020 terms on the State Board.
President: Responsible for directing, coordinating, and overseeing the work of the State; and Program Vice President: Responsible for planning the annual meeting program and for coordinating, implementing and reporting mission-based, programming activities in the state affiliates. The state board currently meets three times annually: in July, October and April. 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, or would like to nominate someone else for one of these positions, complete the Candidate Application which is posted on the AAUW-PA website at <http://aauw-pa.aauw.net/about/nominations/> and return it, along with a good quality head and shoulders photo of the nominee, to Nominations Chair Dot McLane at aauwpapresident@gmail.com, or mail it to her at 103 Green Spring Circle, Lansdale, PA 19446. Applications are requested NO LATER THAN October 1, 2017. Questions? Contact Dot via email or phone – (215)570-2393.

Members of the Nominating and Elections Committee for 2017-2018 were identified prior to the state Convention, they are: East District – Sue Shenberger (Doylestown), Central District – Julia Glover (State College), and West District – Peggy Schmiedecke (North Hills Pittsburgh). We thank these members for agreeing to serve.

NCCWSL Grant Winners Announced

AAUW-PA is pleased to announce the winners of their grants to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). This annual conference, which will take place May 31- June 3, 2017, at the University of Maryland in College Park, focuses on building leadership skills and career development for college women. The state awarded seven scholarships this year. The following students were chosen from among a pool of 22 applicants:

- **Rachel Foor**, an undergraduate studying Journalism at Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- **Shaina Hilsey**, an undergraduate studying Sports Management at California University of Pennsylvania
- **Olivia Kelly**, an undergraduate studying Sociology and Urban Studies at the University of Pittsburgh
- **Jillian Murphy**, an undergraduate studying International Studies at Juniata College
- **Hediya Ozkan**, a graduate student studying Literature at Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- **Rina Patel**, an undergraduate studying Growth and Structure of Cities at Bryn Mawr College
- **Alison Simmons**, a graduate student studying Epidemiology at Brown University

Thank you to the selection committee for all of their work: Dot McLane, Chair; Sandy Homel, Brigid Heydt, and Linda Tozier. If an individual member, your branch, or college/ university is sponsoring students to attend NCCWSL this year or if you would like to know more about NCCWSL opportunities, please contact Holle Canatella, C/U Liaison, at aauwpacu@gmail.com.

Public Policy Resources on State Website

If you have not visited the state website lately to see the Public Policy resources, I urge you to do so. Co-Chairs Barbara Price and Ann Pehle have done an outstanding job of packing the webpages with materials you can use in your community including Advocacy-in-a-Box (see below), archive of their bi-

monthly highlights, materials from their State Convention workshop on “It’s All About the Bill”, information on the new State Lobby Corps initiative (see separate article), and more.

For the Advocacy-in-a-Box tools you will find on a single webpage, focused on a single issue, background, resources, and AAUW-PA’s position, and (most importantly) suggestions for individual and branch advocacy. Equal Pay and Redistricting Reform are completed. Title IX and Cyber/Charter schools will be completed in May and June. Visit <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/policy/> and use the drop-down menu.

AAUW-PA State Lobby Corps

AAUW-PA Public Policy Co-Chairs, Barbara Price and Ann Pehle, are forming a state Lobby Corps. The goal is to increase and strengthen AAUW’s voice in Pennsylvania beyond emails and phone calls. By lobbying legislators, we can build relationships and hopefully influence. People often think legislators know everything about every issue, but they don’t, you may be a far more informed expert than they and that is where you can make a difference.

If your branch wants to learn more about what is involved in becoming lobby corps members, contact Barbara Price at aauwppp1@gmail.com. No experience needed, you will be provided all the information you need and tips on how to be successful.

Branch Website Help

A few members in the state are offering to help establish and administer a branch website for any branch that does not currently have one, or administer any branch that has one that they struggle to keep up to date. Barb Zaborowski, the state Conference Coordinator, and Susan Wheatly, immediate past state Secretary and Indiana County branch member, have volunteered to start this effort. In the next few months they will be surveying which branches do not have a website or have an outdated one and they will contact the branch to offer their services. If you want more information or to ask them to help your branch, contact Barb at aauwpaconfcoord@gmail.com.

AAUW-PA Branch Handbook Resource

The Branch Handbook has been updated from last year and is posted on the state website under the “Branch Handbook” tab. This handbook is a concise manual containing some of the basic information branches may find helpful. Included are topics such as Financial Matters for Nonprofit Organizations, AAUW Affiliate Agreements, Branch Bylaws, AAUW Member Services Database, Member Payment Program, Communications and Publicity Tools, Branch Archives, Meeting Minutes, AAUW National Resources, and AAUW Member Benefits/Discounts.

The handbook is not meant to be an all-inclusive manual about AAUW, but instead to provide the rudimentary information about the routine required and optional tasks an AAUW branch performs with links to explore further information if needed. You will find it posted on the state website <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/aauw-pa-branch-handbook/> for your use.

AAUW Wine Goblets a Great Gift at \$5.00 Each

These lovely 10 oz. goblets make wonderful gifts and awards! Order yours today from Linda Robbins. Checks payable to AAUW-PA c/o Linda Robbins, 65 Colonial Road, Allentown, PA 18109-9411. Questions? Contact Linda at lrob164832@aol.com. Supplies are limited; order today!