

May 2018 AAUW-PA FYI

AAUW-PA 89th Annual Meeting – Seven Springs 2018

The AAUW-PA annual meeting, held at Seven Springs Resort in Champion, PA on April 13–15, was attended by 111 members, speakers and student affiliates. Twenty-three of Pennsylvania's 36 branches were represented. Our Friday evening keynote speaker, Kimberley Churches, AAUW CEO, focused on, "Changing the Conversation and Moving Forward," as she presented the recently revised Strategic Plan and requested input from ALL members.

Saturday's schedule was very robust. Six Branches presented Concurrent Sessions on various current topics. President Dot McLane conducted a Business Meeting followed by the Honorable Marjorie J. Fox, Greene County District Attorney for the past 17 years, who shared her experiences as she addressed "Women in Local Politics."

Our luncheon speakers included Dr. Marta McClintock and her student team from California University of Pennsylvania who shared their campus action project, "Closing the Gender Wage Gap." A college Student Advisory Council (SAC) panel of four students shared their thoughts on "Diversity, Inclusion and Intersectional Feminism on Campus," an on-going discussion from the previous convention. An optional meeting to address National AAUW topics including the dues increase and the Bylaws amendments was offered to members prior to dinner while college students engaged in a private session to examine "Career Development."

Indiana Branch members, Dr. Susan Wheatley and Patti Holmes, entertained members with blues and easy listening music prior to the awards ceremony. Senior staff attorney Susan Frietsche from the Women's Law Project updated attendees on "Women's Issues and Outcomes."

On Sunday morning Ann Pehle, Public Policy co-chair and incoming State President, spoke on the topic, "Gerrymandering: Taking Away Our Voice." Dot McLane, outgoing State President installed the newly elected State officers. Ann Pehle, Carlisle Branch, will assume the office of the Presidency and Lee Wolfe from the Lansdale Branch will serve as Program Vice-President.

District meeting were held and Branch officers met with their counterparts prior to adjourning. Activities designed to benefit AAUW Funds included silent auction bidding on 11 baskets donated by individuals and branches along with mailboxes strategically placed for member donations. Basket bids totaled \$715 and mailbox donations were \$1054 .

Special thanks go to Program Committee members Sandy M. Homel (Program VP), Rosemary Baker, Patricia Byerly, Dot McLane, Linda Robbins, Connie Schroeder, Linda Tozier, and Barbara Zaborowski (Conference Coordinator).

NOTE: PowerPoint presentations from the meeting are posted on the state website and the Yearbook will be posted shortly.

New Officers Elected

Election of new officers for the state board took place during the business portion of the annual meeting. They are Ann Pehle (Carlisle), President and Lee Wolfe (Lansdale), Program Vice President.

The Nominating and Elections Committee reported that 36 votes were cast online, 8 votes by paper ballot, and 73 voting members at the meeting. We thank the members for participating in our elections.

AAUW National Bylaw Amendment Proposals – Voting

The AAUW National Board of Directors has voted to put three proposals for bylaws amendments before the membership for a vote this spring. The board strongly supports the proposed amendments that we believe will help keep AAUW vital as an organization and enable us to increase our impact in advancing equity for women and girls.

The proposed amendments address creating three-year staggered board terms, opening board service to those outside of the AAUW membership, and eliminating the degree requirement for membership. Please share the resources of an explanatory video message from AAUW CEO Kim Churches and Board Chair Julia Brown at <https://youtu.be/PCjs97rIRVY> and rationale document on the state website <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/> with your members so they can become fully informed before voting.

The first two proposals would bring AAUW's board governance structure more in line with nationally accepted nonprofit best practices and the needs of the organization. The third proposal — to eliminate the degree requirement for membership — has come before the membership for vote a number of times. The board feels strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now perceived by many as counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

Online voting opened on April 25 and ends on June 9. Request for a paper ballot began on April 16, the deadline for paper ballot request is May 7 and it needs to be postmarked by May 21. Please consider the bylaw amendment proposals carefully and don't forget to vote.

AAUW-PA Goes to One State Meeting Per Year – Alternating Convention and July Summer Retreat

The AAUW-PA board of directors has decided to go to a one state meeting per year format because we think this may offer more members a chance to attend a state meeting if they only have one per year from both a time and cost perspective. The state has been operating under a model in which there is an Annual Business meeting held each April at either a Convention or a shortened 1-1/2-day Annual Meeting, followed by an annual July Summer Retreat meeting. In the new model Conventions would occur in April in even-numbered years and the Summer Retreat would occur in July in odd-numbered years. The state Annual Business meeting in even-numbered years would occur during the April Convention and in odd-numbered years would most likely occur as part of a scheduled board meeting at which all members in good standing would be notified and invited to participate. Proposed changes to bylaws, proposed resolutions, and adoption of the state Public Policy Priorities business would only occur biannually at the April Convention Annual Business meeting in even-numbered years.

To accommodate this new model, it became necessary to develop a means of electing state officers in odd-numbered years when there will not be an April meeting. At this year's Annual Business Meeting several bylaw amendment proposals were voted upon and passed so that the state now has a method of voting in state officers outside of an in-person April meeting. Please see the amended AAUW-PA bylaws on the state website for details. We hope that this new model will encourage more members to attend state meetings as they are always full of good information and networking opportunities.

The next state meeting will be the Summer July Retreat in 2019.

Post Your Branch Events on the State Website

There is a new area on the state website for branches to post their events <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/branch-events/>. If you have a program or similar event you'd like to highlight, send the information to the state Administrative Director, aauwpaad@gmail.com, at least one month before the date of the event to ensure it gets posted.

AAUW-PA State Program – Draw the Lines PA

For 2018-2019, the state board will continue to offer Draw the Lines to branches interested in presenting an open-to-the-public program to raise the visibility of AAUW in your branch's communities to hopefully lead to increased membership. Draw the Lines PA deals with the issue of gerrymandering in Pennsylvania. This presentation (<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/files/2018/04/Gerrymandering-Taking-Away-Our-Voice-1.pdf>) from state convention provides an overview of redistricting reform and introduced Draw the Lines PA. More details and the program guide, which will include step-by-step instructions on how to put on a community event, will be completed this summer. To clarify, this is not an idea for a branch program. If you want to discuss gerrymandering at a branch program, work with your local Fair Districts PA organization to identify a speaker. To indicate your branch's interest in Draw the Lines PA, contact aauwpapresident@gmail.com.

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 30- June 2, 2018, at the University of Maryland in College Park, focuses on building leadership skills and career development for college women. The state awarded eight scholarships this year, all undergraduates (no graduate students applied) to the following women:

- **Alyssa Flannery**, studying Political Science at Moravian College
- **Emma Hutchman**, studying History and English at Moravian College
- **Gillian Williams**, studying Public Policy at the University of Delaware
- **Argentina Bonilla**, studying Sociology & Women's Studies at St. Francis University
- **Shay Boisvert**, studying English Literature & Philosophy at St. Francis University
- **Abby Blank**, studying Nursing at Bucks County Community College
- **Amy Chen**, studying Political Science at Juniata College
- **Isabel Madrigal**, studying Computer Science & Communication at Lehigh University

Thank you to the selection committee for all of their work: Dot McLane, Chair; Ann Pehle, Linda Robbins, and Pat Byerly. 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.

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.