

FOR YOUR INFORMATION NEWSLETTER FOR BRANCH PRESIDENTS

April 2020



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And much more!

Not the Year We Expected!

In the last FYI published in early February, I asked --Are you ready for a busy 2020? That seems so long ago and innocent.

Instead, we are all dealing with cancelling branch gatherings, fundraising events, branch anniversary celebrations, public events, board meetings, etc. We are scrambling to figure out how to meet virtually, hold officer elections, conduct branch business, adjust budgets and routine activities as a consequence of cancelling everything.

And, we are worried for our own health and that of our loved ones. Many branches have members in the highly impacted areas of the state. I have heard of a few members with COVID (presumed) across the state. Please stay healthy.

Personally, I am stuck on Safety on [Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs](#).

Which makes it hard to attend to AAUW responsibilities. Before the

pandemic escalated, I began implementing the planned relocation of my 89-year old mother from an independent apartment in a retirement community in Arkansas to a Personal Care apartment in Pennsylvania. An already complicated relocation was made more so. After being "stuck" in my house for three weeks, she is safely in her new apartment just 20 minutes from my house. This is why I have been absent.

The AAUW Pennsylvania Board met virtually on Saturday, April 18. As is our routine, I publish an FYI following each Board meeting.

To check in on one another and share ideas, concerns, questions—I scheduled a President's Conference Call. See page 3 and watch for an email with details.

Ann Pehle
President



2020 AAUW Pennsylvania State Convention

This weekend, we would have been gathered in Harrisburg. Originally scheduled for April 24-26, in mid-March, the convention was postponed to July 13-15. At the time of that decision, there was little known about the coronavirus and duration of the pandemic, so it seemed July was realistic.

Current knowledge indicates that a gathering of 113 (number of registrants for April) cannot safely occur in July. At the April 18 AAUW Pennsylvania Board meeting, we voted to cancel the 2020 AAUW Pennsylvania State Convention. At least the face-to-face part. We are writing a comprehensive message to address all the moving parts -- refund process; alternate plans for delivering the content. Watch for an email to all members from aauwpainfo@gmail.com in the next week or two. See page 3 for more President level information.

AAUW National

Even working from home, the AAUW national staff is working to fulfill the AAUW mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

New Website

The long awaited update to www.aauw.org happened on April 6th. Click [here](#) and scroll down for the April 10 New Website Launch webinar.

The Member Services Database (MSD) in the Membership section will get an upgrade later this year. Branch and state websites haven't changed. However, if you linked to content on the old AAUW site, those links are probably broken. You will have to go through and delete link or replace with updated. Did I just hear an UGH!?!? Yes, consequence of progress.

AAUW & COVID-19: Standing Strong through Crisis

Message from Julia Brown, AAUW Board Chair and examples of how branches and states are managing.

Explore the impact of COVID-19 on family, feminism, and voter access

Email announcing these three webinars was sent to all members on April 21. Registration required. All webinars at 5:00 pm EDT. All will be recorded for later viewing. This is how AAUW is relevant – especially in these unusual times.

April 22 2020 Election Voter Access & Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic

April 23 COVID-19 and Work-Family Justice in the United States

April 30 Mrs. America: Women's Rights, Family Values and Politics with Marjorie Spruill

National Committees

Presently, six AAUW members in Pennsylvania serve on a national committee. See [page 2](#). Please encourage branch members to apply. Go [here](#) for committee information and the application.

2020 Convening

As you know, AAUW discontinued national conventions. Instead, there will be a series of online webinars and events. Click [here](#) and scroll down to see:

April 14, 2020

Updates and Interview with Diane Rhem

January 28, 2020

2020 Vision: The Gender Agenda

December 5, 2019

Together in 2019, Together in 2020

How to Frame the “celebration” of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment

In our local celebration events, it is important we follow AAUW's lead on how to recognize this anniversary. These are the first thoughts about recognizing the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment as shared in the December 5th and January 28th [webinars](#).

- AAUW recognizes the struggle to pass the 19th Amendment in 1920, and that it wasn't until 45 years later, when the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed that women of color were granted the right to vote.
- Today, there are still challenges with voter access and voting suppression which is why AAUW will focus on ensuring every vote is recognized in 2020.
- States and branches should acknowledge the importance of the 100th anniversary while also educating members and the public on why the anniversary does not encompass all women's right to vote.
- We have to keep up the fight -- as the country still struggles with voter access and voter suppression.

AAUW PENNSYLVANIA



2020 State Convention Cancelled

Now What

You are learning about this new development first. We are writing a comprehensive message to address all the moving parts -- refund process; alternate plans for delivering the content. Watch for an email to all members from aauwpainfo@gmail.com in the next week or two.

Here is an update on what we know right now. Watch your email for updates.

- Lee Wolfe, Program VP is contacting speakers and presenters to explore alternate methods for delivering content. She worked hard this past 18 months securing an awesome agenda and we hope much can be presented in webinar and/or video format.
- Yearbook – produced each state convention will be published digitally and emailed to all AAUW members in Pennsylvania.
- Branch Expo – thank you to participating branch affiliates. Contact Ann Pehle, aauwpa.president@gmail.com if you wish to share your display in an alternate format.
- Silent Basket Auction – thank you to participating branch affiliates. Please use locally.
- Member Awards – names will appear in the Yearbook. Certificates are being signed and will be mailed to branch affiliate Presidents. Please convey our sincerest congratulations.
- June Keystoner – published on time with regular content, not summary of convention, as in year's past.
- Affiliate Annual Meeting – See next column.

Annual Business Meeting

The 91st Annual Business Meeting will be held virtually on a date TBD at the end of June. Watch emails for formal announcement and registration information.

We will be voting on a Bylaw change and the 2020-2022 AAUW Pennsylvania Public Policy Priorities. See page 6 of [March Keystoner](#).

Summer Retreat

2021

Date and Place TBD

Saturday, July 27, 2019

[View presentation and materials here.](#)

AAUW Work Smart workshops in Pennsylvania!

Nine workshops were held – last one March 9 in Pittsburgh – the pilot phase of our project with the Pennsylvania Commission for Women is completed. We trained 204 women and sent the link to Work Smart Online to the 159 who registered, but didn't attend.

Want to bring Work Smart to your community? Contact Ann Pehle, aauwpa.president@gmail.com to discuss the options and get hints on how to proceed. The Pennsylvania Commission for Women is interested in holding workshops in other regions – if the virus cooperates.

What can be done in this time of no large gatherings is promote the Work Smart online FREE course. salary.aauw.org.

President Conference Call

Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00pm.

Email sent one week prior will have dial-information.

THE AAUW PROGRAM

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021

This column will be a regular feature in FYI. Many branches are actively working toward fulfilling criterion as is AAUW Pennsylvania. Here we will share information and updates and celebrate successes.

The Five Star National Recognition Program rewards affiliates (states, branches, other organizations) for aligning their work with the AAUW strategic plan and other initiatives that foster the organization's mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls. Click [here](#) for the slides from an introductory webinar and program overview. Expand Criteria & Resources to learn about the branch criteria.

The AAUW Pennsylvania Board is working on achieving the state criteria. We also are identifying how we can support your efforts to achieve each star. As you are discussing in your branch, what questions do you have? How will your branch participate? What is an obstacle to success? Please contact me at aauwpa.president@gmail.com with thoughts, questions, and concerns about the program.

Pennsylvania STARS Congratulations for Achieving



Advancement

AAUW Indiana County
AAUW Lansdale
AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh

Communication & External Relations

AAUW Easton
AAUW Harrisburg
AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh
AAUW State College

Public Policy & Research

AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh



2020-2021 Nominations and Election Committee Final Report

The election of the following officers for a two-year term (2020 to 2022) concluded on March 31, 2020.

Ann Pehle - President

Lee Wolfe - Program Vice President

Members from 27 branches voted. Total members voting was 202.

Thank you to the committee members.

Lynn Carroll (Lansdale) Eastern District

Cathy Wieland (Lebanon Valley) Central District

Susan Wheatley (Indiana County) Western District

Linda Tozier (North Hills Pittsburgh)

Nominations and Elections Committee Chair

Public Policy UPDATE

Barbara Price and Jacqui Rogers
Public Policy Chairs

Stay current with AAUW Pennsylvania Public Policy activities with Highlights – sent to you and your Branch Public Policy Chair bimonthly. A special issue was published [April 2020](#).

We are working on election materials for the 2020 general election.

College/University

Peggy Schmiedecke

AAUWPACU@gmail.com

College/University Liaison

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

As a result of the ongoing concerns regarding COVID-19 and the impact from travel restrictions and need for physical distancing, NCCWSL 2020 that was scheduled to take place May 27-30, 2020, at the University of Maryland, College Park has been postponed. This heartbreaking decision is responsive to the advice of health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO) who have declared a global pandemic. AAUW's first priority is the health and welfare of our dedicated staff, NCCWSL participants and the campus community.

AAUW National provided two options for the NCCWSL 2020 Registration Fee to be refunded or to apply funds to transfer to NCCWSL 2021, which will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park, on May 26-29, 2021. We had 8 funded grants provided by; Pittsburgh Branch 1, Carlisle Branch 1, Bethlehem Branch 2, and AAUW-PA 4. Each funding branch along with the PA Board agreed to transfer the grant funds to 2021. Additionally the student recipients have been notified that their grant will be transferred and available to them provided that they are enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student in 2021. The students while disappointed understood and are grateful that they can have their grants transferred to NCCWSL 2021. I will be sending them a registration form to update and confirm their availability in the January/February 2021 timeframe.

If your Branch registered a student, the person who completed the registration from the branch would have been notified of these changes and given direction on how and who to move forward with requesting a refund or how to process a transfer to NCCWSL 2021. If you have questions please direct them to nccwsl@aauw.org.

From the Desk of

Linda Tozier, Membership VP

Membership Reminders

AAUW membership renewal season has begun. If your branch affiliate participates in the Membership Payment Program (MPP), notices were sent to each of your members on April 20th. The subject line reads: AAUW Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2021 followed by the member's number. For MPP participants, the member still can renew in two ways: 1. By clicking on the link and renewing by credit card or 2. By mailing a check (made payable to the branch affiliate) to the Finance Officer. The member pays all three AAUW dues – national (\$59), state (\$10) and local affiliate dues at once.

April and May always have been the best times to ask your members to renew. Many of you offer renewal incentives for members renewing by a certain date, such as a drawing for a free membership. Because we are meeting virtually, your renewal efforts will be handled via email, newsletter, telephone calls and sometimes snail mail. Keeping members informed gives value to their AAUW membership. No it does not replace actual meetings, dinners or events, but communication lets your members know that you care about them.

A word about the MSD (Membership Services Database). On March 19, 2020 you received the AAUW February Branch Membership Count for Fiscal Year 2020 (which ends on June 30, 2020). Discrepancies in the count were to be reported to connect@aauw.org by April 3. If you still have an unreported discrepancy, I suggest that either your Membership VP or Finance Officer contact Connect asap. If you need any help in resolving your member count, please email me at aauwmembership@gmail.com. AAUW launched its new website on April 6th. The easiest way to access the MSD is to click on the membership tab at the top of the home page. Once in the membership section, there is a place to click on the MSD. After signing in to the MSD, you can access your branch affiliate information.

Keystoner

We will continue to mail paper copies of the Keystoner to members without email. You can help reduce printing and mailing costs by updating the list of members needing a paper copy. Contact Pat Byerly (aauwpaad@gmail.com) with changes.

The AAUW Pennsylvania Board decided to discontinue mailing a paper copy to Branch Presidents.

aauwpainfo@gmail.com

Emails sent directly to members of branches and AAUW national members in Pennsylvania launched in May and was used to distribute the June Keystoner, 2019 Yearbook, and invitations to the Summer Retreat. Direct communication to members is intended to supplement your standard branch communication. We won't flood the airwaves.

The most reoccurring concern we heard is that not all members were receiving the emails. This is because their email address in the MSD is not accurate. Our distribution list comes from the MSD. Sometimes members change email addresses directly with branch membership or finance and forget to change their record with AAUW. Please make sure the email addresses for your members are accurate in the MSD.

Another culprit might be the SPAM filter on .edu email addresses. Please advise members with .edu addresses to add aauwpainfo@gmail.com to the approved sender list.

AAUW Pennsylvania Board

President	Ann Pehle (Carlisle) aauwpa.president@gmail.com
Program VP	Lee Wolfe (Lansdale) aauwpapvp@gmail.com
Membership VP	Linda Tozier (North Hills Pittsburgh) aauwpamembership@gmail.com
Secretary	Ajla Glavasevic Laussegger aauwpasecretary@gmail.com
Finance Officer	Mary Jo Buckwalter (Doylestown) aauwpafinance@gmail.com
AAUW Funds Chair	Deb Roney (Huntington) aauwpaauwfunds@gmail.com
Administrative Director	Pat Byerly (Pittsburgh) aauwpaad@gmail.com
College/University Liaison	Peggy Schmiedecke (North Hills Pittsburgh) aauwpacu@gmail.com
District Coordinator (East)	Open aauwpaeast@gmail.com
District Coordinator (Central)	Sue Johnston (State College) aauwpacentral@gmail.com
District Coordinator (West)	Open aauwpawest@gmail.com
KEYSTONER Editor	Peggy Jennings (Carlisle) aauwpakeystoner@gmail.com
Public Policy Chair	Barbara Price (Lower Bucks) aauwpapp1@gmail.com
Public Policy Chair	Jacqui Rogers (Doylestown) aauwpapp2@gmail.com
Convention Coordinator	Barb Zaborowski (Johnstown) aauwpaconfcoord@gmail.com
Convention Registrar	Susan Nenstiel aauwpaconfcoord@gmail.com
Diversity and Inclusion Chair	Jordan Glover (State College) aauwpadiversity@gmail.com
Archives Chair (off Board)	Linda Robbins (Allentown) aauwpaarchives@gmail.com
Bylaws Chair (off Board)	Susan Nenstiel (Allentown) aauwpabylaws@gmail.com

Have a question?

Branch Handbook has the answer.
<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/aauw-pa-branch-handbook/>

Governance Resources

There are four documents that AAUW Pennsylvania and its branches are bound and guided by. Make sure you are familiar with them.
[\(https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/governance/\)](https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/governance/)

- AAUW Board of Directors Policy Book**
- AAUW Pennsylvania Bylaws**
- AAUW-PA Board Handbook**
- AAUW-PA Policy Manual**

SIGNIFICANT BRANCH ANNIVERSARIES July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 Congratulations!

AAUW Pennsylvania Board members are available to attend your celebration event.

Pittsburgh	1895	125 years
Beaver Valley	April 16, 1930	90 years
Allentown	1939	80 years
Fox Chapel Area	1959	60 years
West Chester/Chester County	December 1959	60 years

AAUW Pennsylvania Board Meetings

October 26, 2019	Harrisburg
January 13 & January 20, 2020	Zoom
April 18 2020	Zoom
July 24-25, 2020	TBD
October 17, 2020	Harrisburg



FYI is written (unless otherwise noted) and edited by Ann Pehle, President. Published after every AAUW Pennsylvania Board meeting.
aauwpa.president@gmail.com
 401-644-6488