

Keeping in Touch While Staying Home

Sending along a few more updates. This is usually the time of year when branches are looking forward to end of the year banquets. Unfortunately, those events will probably not happen in the near future. However, one major event is coming. That is the

Pennsylvania primary on June 2.

While some parts of the state may be open by then, other areas like the southeast may still be shut down. No matter where you live, you may still have concerns about going to the polls. We also will be using new voting machines, which may slow down voting since people are not familiar with them. However, there is a solution.

Vote by mail.

With the changes to the Pennsylvania voting law last fall, you no longer need an excuse. Apply now at [VotesPA.com/MailBallot](https://www.votespa.com/mailballot). Be sure to select the Mail in Ballot and not the Absentee Ballot. You can also check your registration status while you are on the site.

Since the date of the primary has been moved all other deadlines have also been moved. New dates are:

May 18: Last day to update your voter registration

May 26: Last day to apply for a mail-in-ballot

June 2, 8pm: Deadline to return your voted mail-in-ballot

If you enter your email address when you apply, you will receive updates on your ballot status.

MOST OF ALL PLEASE VOTE!

from the comfort of your home or at the polls. Please let your branch members know about the new dates. Remember, when women vote they change the conversation.

Preparing for the Election

AAUW is already at work on materials you can use to educate your members and the community about the election issues. The 2020 Voter Issue Guide is now available. It provides nonpartisan information about the policy concerns that are critical to women and their families.

Use it to prompt conversations with neighbors, family, friends, and fellow voters about what's at stake in this election. Take it to virtual town halls and candidate forums to follow along with the debate. Consult it to develop questions to ask your candidates and your elected officials to get them on the record on the issues that matter most. Get the guide at

<https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-issue-guide/>.

Another resource that is available are two templates for comparing candidates based on AAUW issues. One can be used to compare those running for federal office, the other can be used for state offices. Both can be found at

<https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-guides/>

Webinar on Paid Family Leave

When: May 20

Time: 7 – 8:15 PM

Location: Your Couch

This issue is part of the AAUW Gender Agenda for 2020.

Implement Paid Leave and Paid Sick Days.

Unlike the majority of developed countries worldwide, the U.S. does not guarantee paid time off for illness, family care or parental leave.

- **Federal:** pass the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act and the Healthy Families Act.
- **Pennsylvania:** pass the Family Care Act paid leave insurance program, HB1739 and SB580 which have bi-partisan support in both the house and senate.

The nation's lack of paid sick and family leave is endangering both the physical and economic wellbeing of countless American families.

The Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition (BCWAC) is hosting this webinar on paid leave. Included in the excellent lineup of panelists is the Family Care Act campaign's Marianne Bellesorte from Pathways PA, an AAUW-PA Gateway to Equity Award winner. The event will also feature messages from Family Care Act sponsors, Rep. Wendi Thomas, (R-178). and Sen. Maria Collett (D-12). This legislation is truly bi-partisan. If nothing else, COVID-19 has shed light on the systemic economic issues facing families. A flyer with more details is attached.

This is a great opportunity to learn about this issue and what we can do about it in Pennsylvania.

This will be a Zoom webinar where you will be able to ask questions. The event is free, but you must register in order to participate.

Register for the event at

<https://bcwac.org/events/upcoming-events/>.

You will receive an email with the link so you can participate.

Just want to listen? You can do that on Zoom or the webinar will also be live streamed on the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition's Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/BucksCountyWomensAdvocacyCoalition/>

Keep in Touch

Please send us your report on branch public policy activities **by June 5** using the form sent along with this issue of Highlights. Thank you to those of you who have already sent your report. Don't forget to list the legislators that represent your branch. If you aren't sure who they are, go to the state web site <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/> and enter your address. It will tell you who represents you in the House of Representatives in Washington, and who your state senator(s) and state representative (s) are in the Pennsylvania General Assembly in Harrisburg. We do not need the names of our federal senators since they are the same for all of us, Senators Casey and Toomey.

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As always, we are here to answer your questions and are only an email away. Hopefully this finds you all well and staying safe.