

FOR YOUR INFORMATION NEWSLETTER FOR BRANCH PRESIDENTS

February 2021



LOOK INSIDE

- AAUW past and future
- AAUW dues increase and education requirement
- FIVE Star awardees
- Branch President Zoom
- AAUW Pennsylvania election
- Student Impact Mini-Grant and NCCWSL

And much more!

Busy Times Ahead

February through June is usually a the busiest time for both your branch and AAUW Pennsylvania. I am sure, many of your branch cherished traditions will look different. Several branches aren't allowing the move to a virtual existence deter them from continuing those traditions. Some branches have moved beyond surviving to thriving through the power of Zoom and exploring new ways of "being a branch". I can't predict when we will be able to gather in person again. So much depends on state restrictions for indoor gatherings and the speed of vaccinations (remembering many members aren't eligible until Phase 2). In the meantime, thank you for continuing your AAUW mission focused work in your community.

Here is a timeline of AAUW and AAUW Pennsylvania events that require your attention. Information about each is in this FYI.

- Submit member awards by **February 15**
- President Conference Call on **February 24**
- AAUW Pennsylvania officer election voting **now** to **March 31**
- NCCWSL registration **March 1 to May 21**
- Member renewal for FY22 **March 15 through June 30**
- AAUW Pennsylvania Annual Meeting on **April 10**
- AAUW election voting **April 7 – May 17**
- Five Star Recognition program ends **June 30**
- AAUW dues increase for FY22 begins **July 1**
- Summer Retreat **July 23-24**

Congratulations to North Hills Pittsburgh for earning Five Stars in the AAUW Five Star Recognition program. They join AAUW State College to earn this level of recognition. And, I suspect there will be more. Since our November President Zoom call, more branches decided to participate. I knew you were doing what was needed to earn a star and am thrilled you agreed with me. 😊 I recently learned that Pennsylvania has the greatest level of participation in the program. For that I am very proud. Every star earned is to be celebrated because it demonstrates your commitment to the AAUW mission. Thank you to you, your board, and members for doing the work of AAUW across Pennsylvania.

Enjoy your cherished traditions of this time of year, even if a new format. Please stay healthy. We all look forward to a time when it is safe to gather.

*Ann Pehle
President*

AAUW National

Looking back at 2020

This answers the question – what does the AAUW national office do? They certainly didn't let COVID stop them from working on behalf of all women and girls.

AAUW accomplishments in 2020 include:

- boosted the online professional development offerings
- launched a partnership with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- financed landmark court cases
- sent 62,400 letters to Congress urging action on equity priorities.

Read the full report—programs, public policy advocacy, fellowships and grants, research--[here](#) and be very proud of all that was accomplished nationally in this most difficult year.



Looking forward in 2021

One responsibility of the AAUW national staff is to advocate AAUW's mission at the federal level. Here are three examples of their consistent and excellent work on behalf of all women and girls.

- During the period between the November election and inauguration of our 46th President, AAUW worked closely with the [Biden transition team](#) to delineate our priorities for the incoming administration. We offered our thoughts on [executive actions to take immediately](#) to support gender equity.
- AAUW's [letter to the 117th Congress](#) outlines our federal legislative priorities for this session. Use this as an advocacy tool when speaking with your elected officials about their need to take up and move quickly to support the economic security and education of women and girls.
- Read [AAUW's Statement on the Creation of Gender Policy Council](#) to learn about the Biden Administration's commitment to "restoring America as a champion for women and girls."

Changes in FY22

You are well aware of the following changes—or you ought to be because you receive emails directly from AAUW and the subjects were covered in the November 2020 FYI and December 2020 Keystoner. One role of AAUW Pennsylvania is to assist you in dealing with AAUW national topics at the branch level. **To that end, I formed two project committees to coordinate materials, resources, and communication with the goal of helping you successfully manage these changes in your branch. Member Dues Increase is chaired by Peggy Jennings (aauwpakeystoner@gmail.com). Open membership is chaired by Jordan Glover (aauwpadiversity@gmail.com). Watch for emails and feel free to contact them directly.** For more information on both topics, watch this candid and transparent September 22, 2020 [town hall discussion](#) with Julia Brown, AAUW Board Chair and Melinda Gaul, AAUW Board Vice Chair.

Member Dues Increase

AAUW national member dues will increase in each of the next three fiscal years (July 1 – June 30)

- FY22 -- \$62
- FY23 -- \$67
- FY24 -- \$72

AAUW Pennsylvania member dues remain \$10 for FY22, with no discussion yet about future years.

Open Membership

AAUW Board of Directors is recommending a bylaw change to remove the education requirement for membership. Members were asked for feedback. The January 19th [virtual townhall](#) addressed the topic.

The Board of Directors will vote on the final wording on February 19th. Watch for emails directly from AAUW. Member voting is April 7 to May 17. Results will be announced on May 19th.

Our focus will be to provide information and encourage every member to vote.

AAUW PENNSYLVANIA

Member Award submission due February 15th!

Honoring members and organizations (Gateway to Equity) who support the mission of AAUW is a time-honored tradition for AAUW Pennsylvania branches. We have streamlined the submission process for submitting the 2021 member awards. The Yearbook, containing the AAUW Pennsylvania awards, will be published in June and distributed electronically to all branch members.

Outstanding Woman, Member Making a Difference, and Gateway to Equity

If you choose to honor someone with an award, submit the information using an online form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AAUWPAAwards>. When you have selected the recipients, complete the online form. We ask that you wait until all your awardees are identified before submitting. Using the online tool, you will enter your awardees' names, information about their accomplishments, and submit photographs. Pat Byerly is coordinating this effort and questions should go to her at AAUWPAAAD@gmail.com.

Named Gift Honoree

The submission process is explained on page 6.

President Conference Call

The President Conference Calls were launched in 2018 to promote two-way communication.

Wednesday, February 24 7:00pm—8:30pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qcOuvpzkvE9aez3PLAg6tR3Q561naBpUc>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The meeting will be recorded. Send agenda suggestions to me at aauwpapresident@gmail.com.

AAUW Pennsylvania ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 10 at 10:00am

Watch for more information regarding the agenda and Zoom meeting registration.

2021 Summer Retreat

July 23 @ 6:00pm to July 24 @ 3:00 pm
Central Hotel and Conference Center, Harrisburg
Or virtual

Decision will be made at AAUW Pennsylvania April Board meeting.

COVID Opportunity

While the technology existed before COVID, our creativity of collaborating and sharing branch programming wasn't tuned in. Until COVID. Below are the collaborations and programs shared with other branches in the Central District. Please tell me of others.

State College – November 17

Karen Showalter from MomsRising led an informative workshop on paid family leave.

Reading -- January 21

Member Adelle Schade spoke about how and why she started the Science Research Institute at Albright College.

Harrisburg – January 26

Dr. Lisa Tetrault, Associate Professor of History at Carnegie Mellon University, author *The Myth of Seneca Falls: Memory of the Women's Suffrage Movement*.

Carlisle and Harrisburg -- February 4

Public Policy Chairs collaborated to present a February 4 webinar – Dysfunction by Design.

Huntingdon – February 18 and March 10

A branch of 10 members, contacted two 2020-2021 AAUW Fellowship and Grant recipients and scheduled Zoom meetings.

February 18 – Mireille Rebeiz, Assistant Professor of French & Francophone and Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies at Dickinson College.

March 10 -- Jennifer Carter, Assistant Professor of Physics at Susquehanna University.

THE AAUW PROGRAM

**CONGRATULATIONS to the ELEVEN Pennsylvania branches
that achieved the criteria required to be awarded stars
between July 1, 2019 and February 1, 2021.**

Five Stars

North Hills Pittsburgh

Program
Advancement
Communications & External Relations
Public Policy & Research
Governance & Sustainability

State College

Program
Advancement
Communication & External Relations
Public Policy & Research
Governance & Sustainability

Four Stars

Easton

Communication & External Relations
Public Policy & Research
Governance and Sustainability
Programs

Indiana County

Program
Advancement
Communications & External Relations
Public Policy & Research

Three Stars

Carlisle

Program
Advancement
Communication & External Relations

Lansdale

Program
Advancement
Communications & External Relations

Two Stars

West Chester/Chester County

Advancement
Communications & External Relations

One Star

Bethlehem

Advancement

Fox Chapel

Communication & External Relations

Harrisburg

Communication & External Relations

Pittsburgh

Advancement

Fun fact, Pennsylvania has the most branches participating in the program. AWESOME!! Your dedication to the AAUW mission and the vision and persistence required to achieve national recognition is admirable.

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.. Learn more about the program [here](#).



AAUW Funds

Deb Roney, AAUW Funds Chair

AAUW Funds Named Gift Honorees – Submission deadline February 15th

Details about Named Gift Honorees follow below, but please note that this process does NOT go through the Survey Monkey link that other branch awards are going through this year.

Instead, as usual, after the fourth quarter reports of donations are released by National, each branch AAUW Funds chair or president will receive an email from the state AAUW Funds chair notifying them of their donation totals for the year and the number of named gift honorees which they are eligible to designate.

The process is as follows: Each calendar year when a branch (both the branch itself and/or contributions from individual members combined) makes one or more donations totaling \$500 to any or all of the AAUW Funds, the branch is eligible to designate an individual in honor of whom those donations have been made. A Named Gift Honoree may be chosen for each collective total of \$500 donated in that year. For example, if your branch has contributed \$1,160 to national AAUW Funds, you may honor two individuals.

If you have not already done so, please forward to state AAUW Funds Chair Deb Roney (aauwpaaaauwfunds@gmail.com) **no later than February 15** the names of branch members whom you have chosen to be honored as Named Gift Honorees.

The branch will receive a certificate to honor each designated person to distribute to them, and the names of these individuals will be included in the annual Yearbook, the *Keystoner*, and the state website.

Also honored in this way will be the winners of the other Funds awards: total branch giving, highest per capita giving, and top giving by fund. These are all determined by the state AAUW Funds chair based on the fourth-quarter giving report and on the February 1 official membership count.

If you have any questions related to AAUW Funds, please contact Deb Roney, aauwpaaaauwfunds@gmail.com.

Nominations and Election Committee

AAUW Pennsylvania Candidates and Election

The 2021-2023 slate was introduced in the [December Keystoner](#), page 4.

Membership VP

Randi Blauth, AAUW Easton

Finance Officer

Dr. Ann Echols, AAUW State College

Secretary

Ajla Lausegger, AAUW and AAUW Pennsylvania member

Thank you to Deb Roney, Nominations and Election Committee Chair, and the Nomination Committee.

Martha Czop (AAUW Lower Bucks), Eastern District
Nancy Sigrist (AAUW Carlisle), Central District
Susan Wheatley (AAUW Indiana County), Western District

Alternate: Holle Canatella (AAUW Lock Haven), Central District

Presidents, now it is up to you. IT IS TIME TO VOTE.

Please ensure your members have the information AND encourage them to vote by March 31, 2021.

- All candidate and election information is here: <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/aauw-pa-2021-2023-officer-election/>
- Find printable election information and instructions here: <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/files/2021/01/AAUW-PA-2021-Website-Voting-Instructions-1.pdf>

Please note:

- Votes must be cast by 11:59 pm on March 31, 2021.
- **NO** in-person (or synchronous on Zoom) voting during the annual meeting.
- Voting options are:
 - Online
 - Paper
 - Voting through branch (if choosing this option, see pages 9 and 10 for the instructions and form)

Public Policy UPDATE

Barbara Price and Jacqui Rogers
Public Policy Chairs

Public Policy Work Continues

AAUW-PA joined with 60 other Pennsylvania organizations to send an open letter to the state's congressional delegation, urging passage of bipartisan pandemic relief. The letter went to the state's eighteen members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senators Casey and Toomey. The letter urged extension of pandemic protections due to expire after the holidays and encouraged legislators to authorize adequate unemployment insurance benefits; increase SNAP benefits by 15%; provide emergency rental assistance; offer childcare assistance; establish emergency grants to help low-income households that were left out of previous packages or need additional help; and deliver additional aid to state and local governments.

AAUW-PA public policy chairs updated the chart of legislators representing branches across the state at both the federal and state level with reelected and newly elected members which allows for targeting specific legislators for outreach on AAUW issues and legislation. In addition, Jacqui Rogers testified before the Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Policy Committee on the need for an increase in the minimum wage in Pennsylvania. An opinion piece based on her testimony was published in 14 newspapers across the state. Check out the article at <https://www.theintell.com/story/opinion/2021/01/28/op-ed-pennsylvania-must-increase-minimum-wage-now/4259618001/>

The public policy chairs also provided the pay equity numbers, published in September 2020, to the sponsors of Pennsylvania pay equity legislation in the previous session to either thank them for sending a memorandum to request sponsors for the same legislation again this session or to encourage them to do so.

PASSHE

AAUW Pennsylvania Perspective

Since July 2020, the only news about PASSHE (Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education) has been about the plans to combine/integrate Clarion University, California University and Edinboro University as well as Slippery Rock University, Lock Haven University with Mansfield University.

At the request of an AAUW member affiliated with one of these Universities, AAUW Pennsylvania studied the issue and sent Chancellor Greenstein a letter expressing our perspective and concerns. Read our letter and Chancellor Greenstein's response [here](#). In addition, you will also find the link to the recording of the interview of Greenstein conducted by Spotlight PA and subsequent article.

While writing this newsletter, an [update](#) was published on February 5 2021 by Pittsburgh-Post Gazette following the recent board of governors meeting. This article summarizes the integration vision and initial plans.

We know this has been and will continue to be a very difficult time for faculty and staff of these Universities. While the recent board of governors meeting outlined a vision, the devil is in the details which might still create uncertainty.

Does your branch conduct a Girls' Recognition Program and/or award scholarships to high school seniors?

Please make sure you are following the guidelines in [Girls' Recognition and High School Scholarship Program](#).

College/University

Peggy Schmiedecke

AAUWPACU@gmail.com

College/University Liaison

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

May 25 and May 26, 2021

(Note date change) – fully Virtual

In 2020 NCCWSL was postponed to May 2021. AAUW-PA had submitted funds to qualify for the early bird rate. All contributors agreed to take the option to leave the funds with National and to transfer the 6 prepaid registrations to the 2021 conference. This had a value of \$2,910. The early bird rate for the two day virtual conference has a \$30 discount off the regular rate of \$125. The good news is we now have 30 paid early bird reservations. At this time we do not need the branches to send additional funds. However if you would like to we ask for the contribution to be \$125. Please email Peggy Schmiedecke aauwpacu@gmail.com for further information.

The recipients of the 2020 Grant for NCCWSL had their grant transferred to the 2021 event under the condition that they were enrolled in an undergrad or graduate program. They have been informed of the changes for NCCWSL 2021 and how to proceed. The PA Board NCCWSL Grant Committee will be processing 2021 grant applications to award up to 30 student grants.

Branches may also choose to sponsor students to attend NCCWSL. Early bird registration \$95 is open and it closes on 2/28/21. Regular registration opens on 3/1/21 and closes on 5/21/21 at the rate of \$125 per registration. For [Virtual Conference FAQ](#).

AAUW-PA applications for grants to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) are now being accepted with an application deadline of February 13, 2021 by midnight EST. Please encourage students to apply with the competitive PA [grant application](#).

Student Impact Mini-Grant

The Impact Mini-Grant application deadline has been extended to February 19, 2021.

It will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. The grant application selected will be eligible to receive a grant of up to \$200. Go to [IMPACT MINI-GRANT](#) for information, ideas, resources and the application. Also an AAUW-PA Impact Mini-Grant Activity Report-Back Form (will be provided to awardees to return within 30 days of event/program which must take place by or before June 15, 2021).

One responsibility of a branch President/Executive/Administrator, is to stay current with AAUW news and information. Reading the following newsletters will keep you updated. Resources and tools for branches can be found [here](#).

 **Membership Matters**
for MVPs, presidents, and finance officers

Emailed to Presidents, Membership VPs, Finance Officers. Content online at:
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders>

MISSION & ACTION
AAUW's newsletter

Emailed to all AAUW members

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/>)

AAUW Board of Directors Policy Book

AAUW Pennsylvania Bylaws

AAUW-PA Board Handbook

AAUW-PA Policy Manual

SIGNIFICANT BRANCH ANNIVERSARIES

July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Congratulations!

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

Harrisburg	1921	100 years
NEMCO	November 13, 1945	75 years
North Hills Pittsburgh	November 19, 1970	50 years
Washington	December 14, 1925	95 years
Pocono Area	April 2, 1926	95 years
Bradford	April 16, 1921	100 years
State College	April 22, 1916	105 years
Indiana County	May 5, 1936	85 years
Easton	June 22, 1926	95 years

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) aauwpaaauwfunds@gmail.com
Administrative Director	Pat Byerly (Pittsburgh) aauwpaad@gmail.com
Bylaws Chair	Susan Nenstiel (Allentown) aauwpabylaws@gmail.com
College/University Liaison	Peggy Schmiedecke (North Hills Pittsburgh) aauwpacu@gmail.com
District Coordinator (East)	Eva Kaufmann (West Chester/Chester County) aauwpaeast@gmail.com
District Coordinator (Central)	Sue Johnston (State College) aauwpacentral@gmail.com
District Coordinator (West)	Paula Tomko (Johnstown) aauwpawest@gmail.com
Diversity and Inclusion Chair	Jordan Glover (State College) aauwpadiversity@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	To be filled in 2021
Archives Chair (off Board)	Linda Robbins (Allentown) aauwpaarchives@gmail.com

AAUW Pennsylvania Board Meetings

July 19 & July 25, 2020	Zoom
October 17, 2020	Harrisburg or Zoom
January 18 & January 25, 2021	Zoom
April TBD, 2021	Zoom
July TBD, 2021	TBD



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

AAUW-PA Election of State Officers for 2021-2023 Term

In an effort to promote greater participation of members voting for state officers, AAUW-PA is introducing **Branch Voting**. Branches have the option of holding a vote for these officers at their branch. This can be done at a branch meeting, by paper, voice, show of hands, or other methods listed on next page.

To conduct a vote at your branch:

1. Schedule a convenient time/method for your branch to hold the vote.
2. Designate a branch member to be the person responsible for certifying all voters are eligible voters (e.g. those AAUW branch members who have paid the appropriate dues for the fiscal year in which the election occurs).
3. Ask any branch members who may have voted by online vote or paper ballot **NOT to vote again** during this branch vote.
4. Hold the vote by whatever method(s) chosen (see next page).
5. Record the vote on the form "Branch Voting Report and Certification Form" (See next page).

NOTE: Branch Voting Report and Certification Form is a fillable form. You only need to click in the area marked "Click or tap here to enter text" and type. Please be sure to enter the information requested in all fields marked with an asterisk (*)

- a. **Branch Name**
- b. **Vote Count for each Officer**
- c. **Method(s) of Voting (describe if you used a method not listed)**
- d. **Designated Branch Member Name who certified the vote**
- e. **Designated Branch Member Position who certified the vote**
- f. **Date of the certification**

6. Return the **Branch Voting Report and Certification Form** with the recorded vote to the State Nominations and Elections Chair, Deb Roney, **by 11:59 pm, March 31, 2021**, via **one** of these methods.
 - a. Email (preferred) to: aauwpanominations@gmail.com
 - b. USPS (must be **postmarked no later than March 31, 2021**):
11078 Carriage Hill Rd.
Huntingdon, PA 16652
 - c. Phone results: 814-667-4479

Branch Voting Report and Certification Form

***Ensure all fields marked with an * are filled in**

***Branch Name** Click or tap here to enter text.

Enter below the number of votes for each candidate from Branch's voting-eligible members in good standing (i.e. those AAUW branch members who have paid the appropriate dues for the fiscal year in which the election occurs).

***Vote Count**

Randi Blauth, Membership Vice President

Votes Click or tap here to enter text.

Ajla Lausegger, Secretary

Votes Click or tap here to enter text.

Dr. Ann Echols, Finance Officer

Votes Click or tap here to enter text.

***Method(s) of Voting (check all that apply):**

Paper

Email

Voice

USPS Mail

Show of Hands

Other (describe below)

Describe Click or tap here to enter text.

Vote Certification by Designated Branch Member

***Designated Branch Member Name** Click or tap here to enter text.

***Designated Branch Member Position (President, Branch Member, etc.)**

Click or tap here to enter text.

Certification:

I, the designated branch member listed above, certify that all votes counted were from AAUW members in good standing.

***Date:** Click or tap to enter a date.

Submit this form (original/copy) or its results to the AAUW-PA Nominations and Elections Chair, Deb Roney, by either email (preferred), aauwpanominations@gmail.com; USPS Mail to 11078 Carriage Hill Rd., Huntingdon, PA 16652; or phone 814-667-4479.

MUST be received no later than 11:59 pm (ET) March 31 (if USPS, postmarked)