



The Keystoner

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research

From Our President

Where has the first half of 2021 gone? We are already at the close of AAUW FY21, ending June 30th. The ending of one fiscal year and beginning of another is a time of celebration and transitions. Branches hold annual meetings, announce member awards to recognize those who contributed to branch success, hold officer elections, thank departing elected officers while transitioning responsibilities to the successor, and start planning for the new fiscal year.

This is also the time for every member to renew their AAUW membership. I hope you will renew your membership because you continue to support the AAUW mission and believe that the work of your branch and AAUW Pennsylvania exemplifies that mission. While this fiscal year has been marred by COVID uncertainty, anxiety, and burdens, branches met the challenges face on and many thrived. Indeed some lessons learned during this pandemic year will be sustained and adopted as new best practices. And through it all, the AAUW mission and our work to advocate on behalf of women and girls remained constant.

Personally, I am disappointed the ballot initiative to remove the college-degree membership requirement did not receive 66.6% approval to pass. 64.09% of Pennsylvania members voted to approve. In my opinion, this change is not a tactic to increase membership, but something more important. At present, our actions do not match our words as we work on gender equity issues to benefit all women. We will continue the discussion to gain understanding and provide clarity.

At the time of publication, eleven branches are participating in the AAUW Five Star Recognition Program. Meeting the criterion to achieve a star requires dedication to the AAUW mission and demonstration that a branch has embedded those principles into their regular work. We will have a proper celebration after the June 30th program conclusion. In the meantime, please see page 4 to see the achievement to date.

Summer Retreat 2021

Let's Come Together to Support the Mission

Saturday, July 24, 2021 9:00 am—2:45 pm
Via Zoom

REGISTER HERE

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AAUWSummerRetreat2021>

(Registration Closes July 17)

Registration is \$10, with an additional opportunity to donate \$5 to support the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund

Keynote Speakers

Chrissy Houlahan

US Representative from Pennsylvania's 6th Congressional District

Initiatives to Improve STEM and STEAM Education for Students in PA



Leah P. Hollis, Ed.D.

Associate Professor.

Morgan State University

Wilmington, DE

Workplace and On-Campus Bullying

The final casualty (let's hope) of COVID is changing the AAUW Pennsylvania Summer Retreat from in-person to virtual. See above and future emails for the agenda and registration information.

I hope to see you on Saturday, July 24th via Zoom.

Ann Pehle

AAUW Pennsylvania

President

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.



Virtual Basket Fundraiser at Virtual Summer Retreat

Because the basket raffle has been so successful the past few years, we are repeating it this year with a new, virtual twist but with the same goal: to raise money for the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. We invite your branch to contribute a virtual basket, but participation is entirely optional.

Branches have been creative in filling their physical baskets for in-person conventions, but we know you will be just as creative in coming up with a basket of goodies that can be shared electronically or by the branch shipping or arranging with the seller(s) to ship the basket to the winner.

Consider having a theme, such as kitchen, readers, relaxation, cheese, women's art, fruit, chocolate delight, etc. Consider gift certificates or items unique to the area where the branch is located but that can be shipped by the seller if you do not want to ship them yourselves. Perhaps you have a favorite woman-owned business whose work you want to share this way.

Bidding on baskets will be done through an online, silent-auction link located on the AAUW-PA website with the other summer retreat information. Bidding on baskets will open one week before the summer retreat. Bid early; bid often. All proceeds go to the Greatest Needs Fund.

The winner of each basket, the person with the highest bid, will be announced on Saturday afternoon, July 24, during the closing of the retreat. You do not need to be present to win. Payment must be made by PayPal within 48 hours of the close of the summer retreat or the basket will be awarded to the next highest bidder. Then the branch will be notified of the winner so they can ship the basket to them.

We request the value of the basket be in the \$50-100 range. Starting bids will be at \$30, with raises in increments of at least \$2; bids must be in whole dollars only.

If your branch wants to take part in donating a basket, decide what you will offer and then complete the brief form found here by June 30 so your basket can be listed: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AAUWPASilentAuction2021>

You will be asked for the basket contents, the value of the basket, a photo of the contents, and a link to the website where the basket can be found (if you are purchasing a commercial basket to donate).

Thank you in advance for your participation. We are eager to see how much fun we can have while raising money for the Greatest Needs Fund.

Deb Roney (Huntingdon)
AAUW Funds Chair



Rewards of Working in Coalition

A few years ago, AAUW-PA joined the Family Care Act Coalition (FCAC) formed to support and promote legislation to establish a paid leave program in Pennsylvania. This was the result of work done by Marianne Bellesorte, our 2017 State Gateway to Equity Award winner, to study the issue of paid leave. The recent AAUW research report, [Factory Flaw](#), offered information on why women leave manufacturing. A major reason was sexual harassment, but researchers also found another reason had to do with parental policies and paid leave. Barbara Price, AAUW-PA Public Policy Chair shared this information and the report with the FCAC. The coalition convener sent a huge thank-you and kudos for sending the AAUW women-in-manufacturing report, which led to a series of very positive developments.

The report was the impetus for FCAC to reconnect with Catalyst Connection, one of Pennsylvania's Industrial Resource Centers supporting small-to-medium manufacturers in southwestern Pennsylvania. That led to their CEO Petra Mitchell becoming a panelist on the FCA roundtable focusing on how paid leave would be a supportive policy for women and the manufacturing sector as a whole and highlighting the report. In addition, the FCAC arranged a press event on Saturday, May 1st featuring Rep. Wendi Thomas, Rep. Dan Miller, and other cosponsors, Rep. Carrie Lewis Delrosso and Sen. Lindsey Williams, at a local manufacturer, JV Manufacturing in Pittsburgh, with a theme of paid leave supporting the manufacturing sector and small businesses. It was great to be able to contribute to a broader understanding of the need for paid leave. We can accomplish so much when we work together.

Barbara Price (Lower Bucks)
Public Policy Co-Chair

AAUW-PA Announces New Storefront

Have you wanted to replace your AAUW or AAUW-PA gear with something new or with something with the new logo colors? Have you been looking for nice speaker gifts for branch programs for when we are back in person? Do you just want to share your AAUW pride in public or in your home?

Wait no longer. AAUW-PA has collaborated with Lands' End to offer a storefront linked to the AAUW-PA website. You can shop many of Lands' End products for men, women, home, office, and more and get the logo added for a small fee. Then they will ship it to you.

AAUW-PA is not making any money on this for ourselves or for any AAUW Funds. This is purely a service to our members.

In addition, Lands' End is giving each of us a discount on our first order—adding the logo for free and providing free shipping. To get this special deal, use this code: **MTFLFS2**.

Here's the link:

<https://business.landsend.com/store/aauw/>

Enjoy, and please share this information with your branch members.



Linda Haigh Tozier AAUW-Pennsylvania Special Honoree April 10, 2021

It is not often that AAUW Pennsylvania bestows the Special Honoree award. This year we are very pleased to name Linda Tozier as an AAUW Pennsylvania Special Honoree. The surprise presentation took place at the annual meeting.

Go [HERE](#) to read the tribute, and enjoy photos.

As she concludes her last elected position on the Board, we thought it only fitting to honor her work with this Special Honoree Award.

It is hard to express our appreciation to Linda for her many, many years of service on the AAUW-Pennsylvania Board. Her historical knowledge provided context to our discussions. Her passion for AAUW reminded us to remain committed. Her humor and sense of joy brightened the room.

Significant Branch Anniversaries

July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

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

THE AAUW 5 STAR PROGRAM

The [Five Star Recognition Program](#) celebrates the efforts of AAUW states, branches and other affiliated AAUW organizations as they continue to advance gender equity on the community, state, and national levels. Affiliates can earn national recognition through five major focus areas:

- ★ Advancement by supporting the Greatest Needs Fund or one of the strategic plan's focus areas;
- ★ Communications & External Relations by using web and social media that feature Work Smart Online;
- ★ Programs that align with the strategic plan;
- ★ Public Policy & Research by moving AAUW's Public Policy agenda forward; and
- ★ Governance & Sustainability by ensuring effective leadership succession and strategic plan alignment. AAUW Pennsylvania is participating. Is your branch?

Learn more about the program [here](#). Fun fact: Pennsylvania has the most branches participating in the program. AWESOME!

Ann Pehle (Carlisle)
President

Pennsylvania Stars

Congratulations to the 11 Pennsylvania branches that achieved the criteria to be awarded stars. We celebrate every star earned.



★★★★★	5 Stars
Program: Advancement; Communications & External Relations; Public Policy & Research; Governance & Sustainability	
Bethlehem	
Easton	
Lansdale	
North Hills Pittsburgh	
State College	
★★★★★	4 Stars
Indiana County	Program: Advancement; Communications & External Relations; Public Policy & Research
★★★★	3 Stars
Carlisle	Program: Advancement; Communications & External Relations
West Chester/Chester County	Advancement; Communications & External Relations; Governance & Sustainability
★★★	2 Stars
★	1 Star
Fox Chapel Area	Communications & External Relations
Harrisburg	Communications & External Relations
Pittsburgh	Advancement



From the Branches

Murrysville Area AAUW partnered with the counselors at Heritage Elementary School in the Franklin Regional School District with a project designed to foster reading in the home by providing books for children who have no home library. Diane Kaufmann, retired teacher and AAUW branch secretary, received a most enthusiastic response when she presented this project to the counselors. They recognize the enrichment their own children experience from having a home library, and wanted the same for their students. Although meetings have been suspended due to the COVID-19, books were collected at a "drop off" event near the local library.



DIANE KAUFMANN, BOARD SECRETARY AND JANET SUTTON, BOARD PRESIDENT

In the spirit of thanksgiving, the **Murrysville Area** branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) held a food drive at their November meeting as part of the organization's ongoing commitment to the community. Donations to the food drive, both non-perishables and cash, were generous and were delivered to the Westmoreland County Food Bank in Delmont.



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR LAURA LIVINGSTON, PROGRAM CHAIR DIANE CONWAY, PRESIDENT JANET SUTTON, AND MEMBER CYNTHIA ADAMS.

In 2019, **AAUW Carlisle** launched Trailblazers--an award program focused on girls excelling in Career and Technical Education. Carlisle Area High School is one of six

in the Commonwealth to have CTE on campus. And, we know that girls pursuing a CTE path are often the first, one, or only so we wanted to celebrate their accomplishments. The 2021 recipients are the first from Automotive Technology. The Zoom celebration was attended by administration, faculty, parents, and members, and received front page coverage in [The Sentinel](#).



A pure joy gained from volunteering, growing flowers, and a developing interest in painting have helped **AAUW State College** member Ann Echols find balance in life.

All three activities converged this spring when she was notified that her painting, titled Indian Paintbrush, was selected by AAUW National for its annual art contest. She was among six artists across the country whose work (out of 400 entries) has been recognized in the 12th Annual National AAUW Art Contest. It was featured in a collection of note cards that the organization mailed to members this spring.



Indian Paintbrush measures 3' x 4' and is painted in the impasto style using thick acrylic paint to add dimension and emphasis. Ann has found real benefits from painting as a mental health activity. Art as a therapeutic activity to help all populations deal with stress is a wonderful release. Art is an expression, not an unreachable activity that only a few can do. Ann's love of flowers is found in her large and extremely diverse flower beds, and she shares that love with others through her activities as a Master Gardener. Indian Paintbrush is a natural extension of her garden.

AAUW's **Indiana County** Branch, in partnership with the Indiana Free Library, is the recipient of a 2021-22 AAUW Community Action Grant of \$10,000 to launch Code Brave: A Coding Club for Girls. The project idea originated with AAUW-IC's Diversity coordinator Lillian Clemons who will also serve as Coding Instructor, and Patricia Holmes, AAUW-IC's Program Vice President. Susan Wheatley is Principal investigator for the branch's grant writing team, assisted by Margaret Stempien. IFL Executive Director Kate Geiger and Lauri Fletcher, program assistant, will accept the award on behalf of the library along with AAUW's Lillian Clemens, coding instructor.

The club will begin as a two-week camp in July, continuing with month-long classes in the fall and next spring. Multi-levels clubs will be planned in a two-week summer camp in June 2022. The funds will provide new laptops for IFL, broadband and software for girls to create computer animations and gaming. The program aims to encourage more girls to pursue STEAM careers in science and arts technology.

Read more about it [here](#)!



COMMUNITY GRANT PARTNERS MARGARET STEMPIEN, LILLIAN CLEMONS, PATRICIA HOLMES, LAURI FLETCHER, SUSAN WHEATLEY, AND KATE GEIGER



NCCWSL PA Grant Recipients Announced

AAUW-PA is pleased to announce the grant recipients for 2021 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) presented virtually May 26 and 27. It focuses on building leadership skills and career development for college women. The state awarded 23 grants this year to 17 undergraduate and 6 graduate students. We are also sending AAUW-PA Board members Deb Roney, Peggy Jennings and Barbara Zaborowski, who have careers in higher education.

Thank you to NCCWSL Grant Committee members Barbara Zaborowski and Deb Roney for assisting Chair Peggy Schmiedecke, and a special thank you to Mary Jo Buckwalter, Finance Officer, for all her efforts registering each student and processing payments. 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 Peggy Schmiedecke, C/U Liaison, at aauwpacu@gmail.com.

News from our Collegiate Affiliates

Student Mini-Impact Grant Fund

Congratulations to our two recipients:

Molly Harris, (she/her/hers), a Philosophical History major at Juniata College ('21), and AAUW Treasurer, requested funds on behalf of the Juniata College Student Organization to purchase public screening rights for the film *Iron Jawed Angels*, in honor of Women's History Month (\$350).



Efstratia "Tia" Pauley, a Biology and pre med major at the University of Pittsburgh ('24), will be volunteering at the summer 2021 Science Research Institute (SRI) STEM program at Albright College and requested funds to translate summer program and marketing materials into Spanish for English as a Second Language (ESL) learners (\$500).



Undergraduate Students

Name	College	Major
Tanvi Pande	Columbia University	Electrical Engineering
Aye Kalle	Community College of Philadelphia	Architecture & Interior Design
Halima Ling	Dickinson College	International Relations & Chinese
Lyvia Toth	Juniata College	International Politics with Analytics
Elizabeth "Libby" Schreffler	Juniata College	Entrepreneurship
Fatou Barrow	Juniata College	International Business
Jeanette Harijanto	Juniata College	Chemistry
Igra Rana	Juniata College	Biology
Zhorea McAnuff	Juniata College	Biology
Julia McIntosh	Juniata College	Russian & International Studies
Rebecca Koulibali	La Roche University	Information Technology
Nicole Deneen	Penn Highlands Community College	Business Management
Berkley Sutton	Penn Highlands Community College	Entrepreneurship
Brejuana White	Penn State University	Biological Science and Health Professions Opt.
Megan Hixenbaugh	Penn State University	Nursing
Austin Legnine	Robert Morris University	Nursing
Abelson Jordan	Gwynedd Mercy University	Biology

Graduate Students

Name	College	Major
Hannah Nolte	Penn State University	Industrial Engineering
Min Liew	Penn State University	Civil Engineering
Rajal Nivargi	Penn State University	Computer Science & Engineering
Gozde Tosun	Penn State University	Curriculum & Instruction
Sarah Jackson	Penn State University	Applied Linguistics
Chinonye Nwadinobi	La Roche University	Nursing

April 28 Denim Day: Wear Jeans with a Purpose

Pennsylvania student affiliate members, College/University Representatives and Branches had a call to action by Peggy Schmiedecke, AAUW-PA C/U Liaison to support Denim Day, part of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's (NSVRC) 20th Annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM).



Since 1999, Peace over Violence has held its Denim Day campaign on a Wednesday in April during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, intentionally

asking people to take a stand against rape culture and support survivors by wearing jeans on purpose with a purpose. We showed our support by making social media posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. If you want to learn more about NSVRC, go to www.NSVRC.org.

AAUW Indiana County held a Denim Day photo shoot in collaboration with the Alice Paul House staff and American Royal Beauties, and Miss Pennsylvania Teen.



Peggy Schmiedecke, North Hills Pittsburgh
AAUW-PA C/U Liaison

AAUW-PA BOARD MEMBERS

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Website Submissions

Please send news for the AAUW-PA website to
aauwpaad@gmail.com

Address Changes

E-News Subscribers:

Send e-mail address changes and additions to
the branch person who manages the e-mail
list.

Paper Subscribers:

Branches, please send an updated address list
for paper subscribers when they occur to:
aauwpaad@gmail.com

We're always looking for news from AAUW
branches! The best submissions will be between
100-250 words and include a photo (well-focused
and at high resolution, please!)

Deadlines for submissions are:

November 1 (for the December issue)

February 1 (for the March issue)

May 1 (for the June issue)

August 1 (for the September issue)

Send to the Keystoner editor at

aauwpakeystoner@gmail.com

Please put "For the Keystoner" in the Subject line!

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