

Past Award Recipients

AAUW-PA 2017-2018 Awards and Recognitions

Outstanding Woman 2017-2018

Outstanding Woman is awarded to a member of a branch for meritorious service to the branch and to the community. The 2017-2018 Outstanding Woman award recipients are:

- Virginia Delph, Allentown
- Debi Breit Adams and Betsey Uslenghi, Beaver Valley
- Debbie Spinney, Bethlehem
- Rebecca Ryan, Bradford
- Kathleen Gorak, Carlisle
- Susan Shenberger and Marie von Elten, Doylestown
- Nancy Berry, Easton
- Maryann Steward, Fox Chapel Area
- Mary Kratzer, Harrisburg
- Audia Boyles, Indiana County
- Doris Leidy, Johnstown
- Pam Schleif, Lansdale
- Holle Canatella, Lock Haven
- Mary Auker, Makefield Area
- Patricia McIlhenny, NEMCO
- Katherine Keith and Maripat Kwaczala, North Hills Pittsburgh
- Patricia Callahan, Reading
- Dr. Carol Hodes, State College
- Erlis Wickersham, Valley Forge
- Barbara Lathroum, West Chester-Chester County
- Lois Conaway, York

Member Making a Difference Award 2017-2018

The Member Making a Difference Award is given to someone who made a big difference in something important to the branch within the last year. The 2017-2018 Member Making a Difference award recipients are:

- Judith Trach, Allentown
- Sharon Nerone, Beaver Valley
- Rita Bergstrom, Bethlehem
- Carolyn Freberg, Sue Royer, Nancy Sigrist, Carlisle
- Colleen Dunn, Doylestown
- Lynn Miller, Fox Chapel Area
- Public Policy Committee, Harrisburg

- Rebecca Weldon, Huntingdon
- Lori Woods, Indiana County
- Cynthia Watters, Johnstown
- Fran D'Angelo, Lansdale
- Julie Story, Lock Haven
- Patti Reali-Santoro, Makefield Area
- Ellen McDevitt, North Hills Pittsburgh
- Nancy Poole, Reading
- Michele Crowl, State College
- Marian Rockefeller, Valley Forge
- Phyllis Dunn, West Chester-Chester County
- Arlene Martin, York

AAUW-PA Special Honorees 2017-2018

Billie Willits (State College) – Billie was an outstanding president for our branch. She has deep knowledge on issues such as equal pay and women's health. She has led several branch workshops on salary negotiation and is currently overseeing a branch committee on women's and family health issues. She continues to serve our branch and its members with heart. She has been a mentor to many young women professionals and has balanced teaching college courses and serving as a human resources executive with volunteerism with AAUW State College and Skills of Central PA. Her ability to excel in all of these facets with great leadership and caring make her worthy of our recognition.

Barbara Gold (York) – Barbara Gold joined York Branch in 1974, and she has been a whirlwind of activity ever since. Barbara served as branch president (1989 to 1991) and as treasurer (1980-1984), but one of her specialties is fundraising. Throughout the 1970's and 1980's, she was involved in numerous projects such as wine and cheese parties, kitchen tours and talent auctions. Barbara served as Educational Foundation chair for many years.

Barbara's proudest achievement was encouraging the branch to establish the York (PA) Branch American Fellowship in 1993. For the next nine years, Barbara inspired York Branch to raise \$100,000 to complete funding the endowment (#0737) until it was fully funded in 2002. Barbara now leads our branch Get Out the Vote drives and is serving as Education Chair. Under her leadership the branch is studying the issue of cyber charter schools. Barbara is a tireless worker for AAUW and the York Branch. We deeply appreciate her enthusiasm, her leadership and her "can do" spirit.

Beatrice Donini and Manerva Lescher (Makefield Area) – **Beatrice** was born and raised in Trenton, NJ and was educated at Trenton State University, earning her BA in Early Childhood Education and her MA in Library Science. She joined AAUW in 1940. Bea recalls teaching kindergartens, 30 five-year-olds, in a classroom with no parent assisting. She remembers, too, when a phone call connected librarian and answers to any inquiry. Business now fascinates Bea. She knows she could have done that, too.

About AGE: "It's only a number." She's lived one year at a time and realizes she may begin using smaller units of measure.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Bea travelled to great places, saved in pictures and anecdotes. Finally, there is time and memory for recollecting those years of travel. She's having a wonderful time reliving it all. Congratulations, Bea, on your one-hundredth birthday!

Manerva was born and raised in Kentucky and graduated from Vanderbilt University with a BA (1939) and an MA (1940) in Foreign Languages, "...a long time ago, when colleges did not train for a job but rather to be educated." She joined AAUW in 1953.

Manerva married, lived in New York during the War in a 'safe house for occupied women' (aka working), and translated for the State Department before settling in Bucks County to teach middle school children. Today at age 100, Manerva tires of the computer. It complicates beyond need and interest, and is always interrupting to sell something. She says "absolutely note" to getting a new one. Congratulations, Manerva, on your one-hundredth birthday!

Gateway to Equity 2017-2018

This branch award recognizes someone in the community who has advanced gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.. The award is traditionally given on March 8, International Women's Day. The recipients and the branches honoring them for 2017-2018 are:

- VAST – Valley Against Sex Trafficking, Allentown
- Girls Hope of Pittsburgh, Beaver Valley
- Shari Bellish, Executive Director Carlisle C.A.R.E.S., Carlisle
- Worthwhile Wear, Doylestown
- Sojourner House, Fox Chapel Area
- Bobbi Segin, Mechanicsburg Cheer Tyme Inspiration Program (special needs cheer squad), Harrisburg
- YWCA Greater Johnstown, Johnstown
- Sherene Hess, County Commission, Indiana County
- Career Wardrobe, Lansdale
- PROBE (Potential Reentry Opportunities in Business and Education), Lebanon Valley
- Kim Emery, Chair Book Fair, Lock Haven
- Amanda Laichak, Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania, North Hills Pittsburgh
- Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, State College
- West Chester University Resource Panty, West Chester-Chester County
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Legacy Circle Members in Pennsylvania

- Arlene Butts-Umstead, Pottstown Area
- Joan Comer, Lansdale
- Ruth Damsker, Lansdale

- Majorie Weick Dunaway, State College
- Dorothy F. Goodman, Anthracite
- Elizabeth D. Klopp, Lansdale
- Dorothy McLane, Lansdale
- Marjorie M. Mowery, Carlisle
- Susan K. Nenstiel, Allentown
- Frances C. Nyce, National Member
- Ann Pehle, Carlisle
- Jo Ann Piotrowski, York
- Mary H. Purcell, Eastern Delaware County
- Linda L. Robbins, Allentown
- Sue A. Zitnick, York