

FOR YOUR INFORMATION NEWSLETTER FOR BRANCH PRESIDENTS

April 2022



FYI is published following each AAUW Pennsylvania Board meeting (July, October, January, April) to provide branch leadership with the updates and nuts and bolts details for actions and such. It is delivered to the branch President and posted on the state website.

Please share with your board members.

LOOK INSIDE

- AAUW resources
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Busy Time of Year

Where has this AAUW year gone? It seems as though the fiscal year just began and now we are cruising to the June 30th year-end. As you review this past year, it is my wish that you focus on the challenges you conquered and the impact you made in your community.

This is the season of board transitions. If you are transitioning out of the President/Executive role in your branch, thank you for serving your branch and leading through unusual and difficult times. Please forward this FYI to your successor.

My AAUW Pennsylvania term ends June 30th. I am pleased you elected Cindy Hall to be the next AAUW Pennsylvania President. Cindy Hall, President-Elect, will be making appointments for many of the Chair positions on the AAUW Pennsylvania Board. Working at the state level is challenging and rewarding and different than being on a branch board. The work at the state level is different than a branch. At a branch, the cadence is managing monthly activities, events, issues. At the state level, the work is more strategic, creating systems and processes to assist branches, implementing statewide programs, quarterly board meetings, working closely with other board members via email or phone calls to move projects forward. You may have some members who decline serving at the branch, however would be interested in volunteering their talents to AAUW Pennsylvania. Cindy would be delighted to hear from you about branch members you would recommend for a state leadership position and/or you know have an interest in serving. She will speak directly to those you recommend or have an interest in serving. Please share names with Cindy Hall (cindyhall07@gmail.com, (814) 571-6472).

This is award recognition season. Honoring members who contribute to the success of their branches with Outstanding Woman, Member Making a Difference, and Named Gift Honoree is a cherished tradition. Recognizing an organization or individual with the Gateway to Equity award builds strong ties with your community. Many branches award education scholarships or conduct other ceremonies to highlight the achievements of young women. Enjoy these end-of-fiscal-year cherished traditions. Build on the successes of this year as you plan for FY23.

It is also membership renewal season. I hope branch members know and understand the importance of AAUW's gender equity work at the federal, state, and local level, and renew their membership. As I wrote this FYI, I was struck by how much motivates me to be an AAUW member. Look for the *italic* sentences for my reasons. Find all 5. What are your reasons?

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns or ideas. (aauwpapresident@gmail.com or call/text 401-644-6488). I look forward to seeing you at the AAUW Pennsylvania convention in Harrisburg!

**Ann Pehle
President**

AAUW National

The transition from MSD (Membership Services Database) to Community HUB hasn't been as smooth as anyone would like it to be. Katrina Sun Breese, Senior Director of Institutional Advancement, and her implementation team are just as frustrated as we are. Branch presidents, finance officers and membership vice presidents received an email from her on April 29th with information, links and resources. Make sure you read this and be sure to share with your members. Randi Blauth, AAUW Pennsylvania Membership VP and Ann Echols, AAUW Pennsylvania Finance Officer are staying on top of the implementation and will work with you and your team.

To stay current on AAUW processes and news that impact your ability to lead your branch. This email newsletter is sent



once a month from Katrina Sun Breese to every branch President, Membership VP, and Finance Officer. Go [here](#) to read the current issue. Bookmark this link and check back monthly for the latest information.



The monthly Washington Update and Mission & Action are emailed to all AAUW members. Reading these will keep you updated on the AAUW's public policy advocacy. You will appreciate all that is done in



service to the mission. *(This is one of the many reasons I am a member of AAUW.)*

If you missed the webinar **Women and Work: Increasing Leadership and Economic Equity** on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 it is worth watching the [recording](#). This webinar sets the foundation for our discussion at the AAUW Pennsylvania convention (see page [X](#)).

Women can't wait for trickle-down change to bring equity to the workplace. The pandemic has served as a catalyst to shift how women and employers are approaching the changing workplace and building better options for all. What should it look like? What key strategies can't be left out? AAUW Chief Executive Officer Gloria L. Blackwell, hosted an expert panel discussion on strategies to address gender and work, the double burden and expectations of women's paid and unpaid work, and solutions to women's economic participation that support equity and success in the workforce. The panel featured three outstanding AAUW fellowships alumnae: *(AAUW fellowships is another reason I am a member of AAUW.)*



Dr. Caitlyn Collins,
assistant professor of
sociology,
Washington
University in
St. Louis



Dawn N. Kimble,
learning and
development
professional



**Kristen
Kavanaugh,**
senior director of
inclusion, talent
& learning, Tesla

Have you voted in the AAUW National Elections? Please encourage every member to vote by May 16th. Members who haven't voted received another personalized email with their member PIN and voter ID. All the information is [here](#).

There is no excuse for not voting, except lethargy. I bet members will be voting in the May 17th Pennsylvania primary!



AAUW PENNSYLVANIA



Disruption as Opportunity. . .It's a Women's World

**AAUW Pennsylvania
State Convention**

June 3 – 5, 2022

**The Central Hotel & Conference Center
Harrisburg**

Hope you are already registered for the 2022 AAUW Pennsylvania State Convention. If not, do it quickly, because registration closes on May 13th. Promote this to all your members. We want to exceed previous attendee numbers! It is a great venue and an outstanding program. All the details are at <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/2022-state-convention/>. COVID protocols, agenda, speaker information, convention, and hotel registration. I am ready to see everyone (it has been a long time since our last convention in 2018!) and getting reenergized and focused on the work ahead. *(Connecting with AAUW members from across Pennsylvania is another reason I am an AAUW member.)*

AAUW Pennsylvania Virtual Programs

Virtual Events

For the fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, the AAUW Pennsylvania board decided to leverage the power of Zoom and present virtual events. Below is a summary.

Did you miss, or want to revisit, the virtual programs delivered by members of the AAUW Pennsylvania Board? Go to <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/aauw-aauw-pa-webinars/> for a summary and recording link.

AAUW Pennsylvania -- Annual Meeting

The 93rd Annual Meeting of AAUW Pennsylvania was held on Saturday, April 23rd via Zoom. The documents supporting the meeting can be found at: <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/state-convention-and-annual-meeting/>. The following business was addressed.

- Approved minutes of the 92nd Annual Meeting.
- Approved election of Cindy Hall, President and Lori Woods, Program Vice President for the term July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024.
- Approved bylaw proposed amendments.
- Approved proposed 2022-2024 AAUW Pennsylvania Public Policy Priorities.



already achieved a star and don't even know it.

Has your branch been awarded a Star in this year's program? Please brag to me about your achievements. Remember to enter accomplishments by June 30th [here](#). I suspect you have

AAUW Funds

Deb Roney (Huntingdon)
AAUW Funds Chair

Before June 30th

DONATE

Before concluding your program year, please consider making a branch donation and encouraging individual donations from your members to the Greatest Needs Fund to add power to the AAUW mission.

CONVENTION FUNDRAISER

If your branch will be donating a basket to the silent auction at convention and if your branch president will be coming to convention, she should indicate that donation when registering for convention.

We have canceled the online silent auction because of greater interest in the in-person option. If you had something planned for the online auction, most such items can easily be converted to an in-person donation, so do submit that way.



We are looking forward to seeing your creativity and celebrating your generosity. If you have questions, please contact Deb Roney at aauwpaaauwfunds@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Questions or Comments?

Deb Roney, AAUW Funds Chair
aauwpaaauwfunds@gmail.com

College/University

Peggy Schmiedecke (North Hills Pittsburgh)
College/University Liaison

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

Fully Virtual - May 24 – May 26, 2022

We are pleased to announce the PA grant recipients for 2022 NCCWSL. This annual conference focuses on building leadership skills and career development for college women. AAUW Pennsylvania awarded two undergraduate grants.

Sofia Perrone, Dickinson College
Anthropology and German, Class of 2025

Haleigh Keyser, University Pittsburgh at Johnstown
Nursing, Class of 2022

We appreciate donations to fund grants from the Carlisle Branch and the York Branch. Funds remaining from these donations will be carried forward to assist funding grants for 2023. 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.

Student Impact Mini-Grant

AAUW Pennsylvania awarded grants to the following projects.

Julia Wedeking (she/her/hers), Juniata College '24, Social Work POE Major, AAUW Vice President and Fatou Barrow, International Business Major at Juniata College ('22). Grant to assist in funding the annual Sister to Sister Summit - \$400.

Megan Curtis (she/her/hers), Moravian University Class 24', Economics Major, Theory Track, AAUW | Treasurer, MAC Representative. Grant to purchase and provide free period product in women's and gender-neutral bathrooms across campus. Period Project Grant - \$225.

(Two more reasons why I am an AAUW member.)

Public Policy UPDATE

Barbara Price (Lower Bucks) and Jacqui Rogers (Doylestown)
Public Policy Chairs

There is always a lot going on in the Public Policy world – because advocating for women and girls is one of AAUW's *raison d'être*. Your primary source for information must be the Highlights newsletter sent to Branch Public Policy Chairs and Branch Presidents. It definitely can be shared with members and is posted on the AAUW Pennsylvania website.

The current issue is [March 2022](#). Catch up on issues for 2022 in the [January 2022 Highlights](#), and the special edition [February 2022 Highlights](#). We can't duplicate everything in the FYI—so please keep updated with Highlights. (AAUW advocacy in Pennsylvania is another reason why I am an AAUW member.)

The age old question—“Isn't advocating on issues political and therefore partisan?”—is addressed in **Exploring Tough Policy Issues Through An AAUW Lens: Political and Non Partisan**. Watch the [webinar](#) to learn of AAUW's proud non-partisan, yet very political, history. How members develop our current AAUW priorities and how to advocate those positions going forward are shared.

Another Milestone in the School Funding Lawsuit

The historic trial challenging the constitutionality of Pennsylvania's current school funding practices entered



the “proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law” phase of the trial on May 2nd. In a submission filed by the school districts, parents and statewide

organizations who brought the case challenging Pennsylvania's school funding system detailed the evidence they presented during the four-month trial, and what conclusions they believe Commonwealth Court should reach in the historic case.

You may be interested in petitioner findings, but not willing to read the 550 page filing. Well, you are in luck. A good overview is the introduction, posted [here](#). Want more detail, explore <https://www.fundourschoolspa.org/trial>.

Charter Schools – Clearing Up a Misperception

AAUW Pennsylvania is NOT against charter schools. Charter schools and cyber schools have certain benefits for some students and are an element of the overall K-12 education landscape. There are aspects of the current Pennsylvania laws governing charter schools and cyber charter schools that AAUW Pennsylvania believes need reform.

- Charter school operations, accountability and funding. <https://www.psba.org/issue/charter-school-reform/>. Charter schools can discriminate (not held to Title IX laws) and are not held accountable for education results.
- How cyber charter schools are funded. https://edvoterspa.org/charter_schools/.
- How EITC and OSTC voucher programs use taxpayer monies <https://edvoterspa.org/tax-payer-funded-vouchers/> and the newest voucher program in Harrisburg -- HB 2169 <https://edvoterspa.org/2022/04/harrisburgs-latest-voucher-scheme-passed-the-pa-house/>

This is an excerpt from the [AAUW Public Policy Priorities](#). “We advocate equitable access to education and climates free of harassment, bullying, and sexual assault. We support academic freedom, civic education, protection from censorship, bias-free education, and responsible funding for all levels of education, including early childhood education and programs for students with disabilities. “

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.

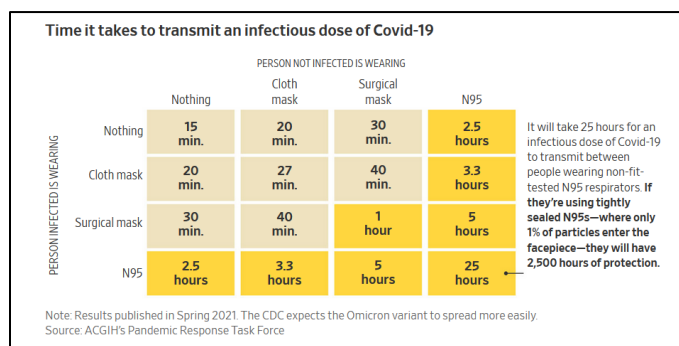
(<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/governance/>)

AAUW Board of Directors Policy Book

AAUW Pennsylvania Bylaws

AAUW-PA Board Handbook

AAUW-PA Policy Manual



SIGNIFICANT BRANCH ANNIVERSARIES

July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Congratulations!

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

Murrysville Area	July 15, 1971	50 years
Huntingdon	October 12, 1926	95 years
Lebanon Valley	January 18, 1937	85 years
York	April 1, 1972	50 years

AAUW Pennsylvania Board Meetings

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 (FY22)

July 18 & August 2, 2021	Zoom
October 16 & October 19, 2021	Zoom
January 12 & January 24, 2022	Zoom
April 4 & April 13, 2022	Zoom

First Board Meeting of FY23

Planning meeting for new Board

July 22 & July 23, 2022	Harrisburg Area
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AAUW Pennsylvania Board

President	Ann Pehle (Carlisle) aauwpa.president@gmail.com
Program VP	Lee Wolfe (Lansdale) aauwpapvp@gmail.com
Membership VP	Randi Blauth (Easton) aauwpamembership@gmail.com
Secretary	Ajla Glavasevic Laussegger aauwpasecretary@gmail.com
Finance Officer	Ann Echols (State College) aauwpafinance@gmail.com
AAUW Funds Chair	Deb Roney (Huntington) aauwpaaauwfunds@gmail.com
Administrative Director	Pat Byerly (Pittsburgh) aauwpaad@gmail.com
Bylaws Chair	OPEN
College/University Liaison	Peggy Schmiedeck (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

(Having the opportunity to work with wonderful women, focused on the AAUW mission is another reason I am an AAUW member.)



FYI is written (unless otherwise noted) and edited by Ann Pehle, President. Published after every AAUW Pennsylvania Board meeting.
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