



THE KEYSTONER

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The AAUW PA Board is on the countdown for the Summer Retreat. Our retreat committee is swamped taking care of logistics to ensure that all runs smoothly July 28 and 29. Our branch breakout session presenters are gearing up to share their insights with others. We are delighted that so many branches have come forward and offered to present.

Holding the retreat on a college campus with accommodations at a hotel and the opportunity to add a second day to the stay is a new experience for us. It has all come together nicely. I want to thank AAUW PA Board members: Susan Wheatley, Lori Woods, Pat Byerly, Ann Echols, and Rebecca Gardner for spending many many hours working on the retreat planning and logistics. I am fortunate to work with such dedicated volunteers who truly embody the AAUW spirit.

We have a few openings on the state board for the next two-year term. They are District Coordinator (East and Central), Social Media Coordinator College/University Liaison, Bylaws Chair and Nominating Committee Chair. Each of us fills these volunteer positions in ways that play to our strengths and fit in our schedules. There is no one right way to serve as a state or branch officer. If you are interested in knowing more, please stop Pat Byerly or I at the retreat or email one of us (see contact list on last page).

I understand that many branches are taking a summer break. Your state board is not—so please do check in with us if you have any questions or just to say hello.

Thank you for all you do for women and girls in Pennsylvania.

Cindy Hall (State College)
President, AAUW Pennsylvania

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENT



Thank you to all who registered for the 2023 Summer Retreat! This is a time for all of us to gather together, share a meal, listen, and learn from each other, strengthen our collective bonds, and get to know others who are “fighting on the frontlines” to advance equity for women and girls!

Thank you to all the branches who will be presenting as a part of a full program with an array of topics. These presentations will profile branch advocacy efforts, programming, and outreach activities across the state. In addition to the keynote address by State Rep. Donna Bullock, nine break-out sessions are planned for Saturday, July 29th:

We are also very excited to have AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell attend the afternoon town hall session. I look forward to seeing many of you at the retreat and for those unable to attend, look for highlights of the 2023 Retreat in future *Keystoner* issues.

Lori Woods (Indiana Co)
Program VP, AAUW Pennsylvania

Save the Date!
2024 AAUW PA Conference
April 5-7, 2024
Harrisburg, PA

WHAT DOES THE AAUW PA BOARD DO?

Activities and accomplishments undertaken by the board from July 2022-July 2023.

Intermediary Role

State board members serve as resources for AAUW PA branch officers and members. They are the intermediaries between branches and national and because many board members serve or have served in leadership positions in their branches, they understand and can communicate branch needs and perspectives.

2023-2024 AAUW PA Strategic Plan

A brief plan was developed for AAUW PA with five goals, and accompanying strategies and evaluation identified. The plan is intended to move the state forward supporting the branches in a time of change. This is a one-year plan acknowledging the expectation for change.

2023 Summer Retreat

The July retreat in Gettysburg was planned by Susan Wheatley and Lori Woods with support from Ann Echols and Pat Byerly. Their goal was to share individual branch programming and initiatives across the state as well as provide an opportunity to hear from Pennsylvania State Representative Donna Bullock who shares our mission.

Planning for 2024 Conference

Best Western Premier, the Central Hotel has been selected for the AAUW PA convention which will be held on April 5-7, 2024. Programming ideas can be directed to Lori Woods.

Zoom Programs and Webinars

Statewide Webinars were developed and offered on different topics as well as those labeled “Mission Critical Programs.” Lori Woods is seeking to work with branches to share their online programs more broadly to maximize the reach of programs developed by branch program committees. Examples of programs offered this year include How to Engage with Elected Officials, the New Pennsylvania Project, War on Ukraine, Bias of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in Hiring, News Savvy, Communicating Across Generations, Where Do Your State Legislators Stand on AAUW Issues?, and Pennsylvania Reproductive Rights After Dobbs.

Numerous recordings of AAUW PA programs can be found on the AAUW PA website under Virtual Events: <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/aauw-aauw-pa-webinars/>

Impact Analysis of Adding a 501(c)(3) to the State Organization

Significant time was spent by Ajla Laussegger and a small committee in consideration of the positives and negatives of adding a 501(c)(3) organization to AAUW PA. Consultation with nonprofit attorneys was managed by Ajla.

2023 Branch Awards Distributed

More than 100 branch award certificates were produced by Pat Byerly and mailed to branch presidents as well as organized for the 2023 Yearbook.

2023 State Gateway to Equity Award

The AAUW PA Gateway to Equity Award was managed by Sandra Miller and the Public Policy Committee. The recipients are from the Carlisle branch and are presenting at the Summer Retreat Plenary Session.

Coordination and Oversight for AAUW and AAUW PA Donations by Branches

Sally Kalin, Funds Chair, interpreted AAUW fund-raising guidelines for branches, provided guidance on donations, bequests and Legacy Circle membership, and conducted a survey of branches on their fund-raising activities.

Recruit and Fund AAUW PA NCCWSL Student Attendees and Mini-Grants

Four impressive students were awarded funding to attend the NCCWSL conference in Maryland this year. The Carlisle branch provided additional financial support to the state to support the state's efforts. Barbara Johnstone also awarded two mini-impact grants of \$500 each to college students.

Reviewed and Signed Advocacy Petitions and Letters in Support of Pennsylvania Non-profit organizations

Sandra Miller and members of the Public Policy Committee continue to review all requests for signatures of support on petitions and letters from other non-profit organizations in the state. Typically, the AAUW PA President's signature is provided after a thorough review.

Officers Spoke at Several Advocacy Rallies in Harrisburg

State Board officers spoke at rallies in Harrisburg when organizations requested a speaker or presence from AAUW. Requests are channeled through Sandra Miller to ensure the requesting organization and topic match AAUW's mission and stance. Sandra Miller, Ann Pehle, and Barbara Price have filled these speaking roles on behalf of AAUW PA.

In addition, AAUW PA participates in statewide initiatives: The Campaign for Women's Health and the FIX Harrisburg organization's monthly meeting, as well as Education Voters of PA. Sandra Miller also attends the League of Women Voters' Government Relations Committee meetings as an AAUW representative and statewide member.

***Keystoner* Redesigned**

Rebecca Gardner, redesigned the *Keystoner* to update our image as we moved to a completely online publication. An abbreviated format is available for branches who choose to print for some of their members. The Marketing and Communications position is now an elected vice president position on the Board due to the growing importance of marketing and communication planning and activities.

***Keystoner* Published**

To date, six issues of the *Keystoner* have been published online overviews public policy and advocacy initiatives, programs, and events.

AAUW Pennsylvania 2023 Yearbook Published

The annual AAUW PA yearbook was published online in early May before the annual business meeting and can be accessed on the state website. The yearbook features all branch and state award winners as well as information on public policy initiatives, advancement activities, membership, and the state budget.

AAUW PA Instagram Account and Linked In Account Added to Online Marketing Efforts

Rebecca Gardner created a Linked In account as well as updated the AAUW PA Instagram account. Linked In reaches professional women and men; Instagram differs from Facebook since it skews younger.

AAUW PA Board Handbook with Revised Position Descriptions Updated

Pat Byerly and Deb Roney, Huntingdon, with input from state officers, updated the AAUW PA Board Handbook and all position descriptions in the handbook. The handbook was last updated in 2014.

Nominating Committee Recommended Nominees and Oversaw 2023 Election including the Bylaws Revision

Susan Norris and the Nominating Committee secured a new Membership Vice president for the AAUW PA Board (Karen Wellin) as well as oversaw the election of Ann Echols for a second term as Finance Officer. Susan and the Nominations Committee advised on the appointment of Paula Tomko as Secretary as this nomination was late in the cycle. In addition, they managed the proposed bylaws change for the election.

Ongoing Updates to the AAUW PA Website

The website requires constant updating with new programs, events, recordings, and membership information. The website is a template developed by national, the banner and logo are part of the template. AAUW PA Board Members are responsible for updating the website text that pertains to their responsibilities. Pat Byerly manages the updates to the site with additional support from Ann Pehle.

Annual Business Meeting for Membership held May 9, 2023

The membership meeting provides the opportunity for the full membership to certify the election of incoming AAUW PA board officers and Bylaws revisions. Parliamentary procedure guides the meeting.

Bi-Monthly Branch Counterparts meetings – Membership VPs and Presidents

Counterparts meet bi-monthly on Zoom. Meetings are scheduled in advance and agendas are set and distributed prior to the meetings. The meetings provide an opportunity for branch officers to share ideas, provide input, and discuss areas of concern.

AAUW Community Hub Launch

Randi Blauth, Membership VP, registered approximately 100 Problem-Solving Contacts with national and branch Membership Officers.

Coordination and Guidance for Disbanding Branches

Randi Blauth worked extensively with National to understand and advise on procedures to disband branches. Linda Robbins worked with disbanded branches to add their documents to the AAUW PA archives. In the last year, six branches have disbanded due to lack of leadership and membership.

Oversight for AAUW PA Archives and Relocation

Linda Robbins is working to move the AAUW PA archives to a new location. She will be providing additional information and guidance to the branches as we seek to ensure that branch records are properly preserved.

Finance Committee Created to Develop 2023-2024 Zero-Based Budget

Ann Echols has undertaken an effort to review how AAUW PA spends its funds and consider if the budget reflects the state's role to serve as an intermediary with national and as a resource for branches. The state's focus is on public policy and mission-specific programming and the budget should reflect these priorities.

Ongoing National Committee Commitments

AAUW PA officers and members spend significant amounts of time as members of national committees: Cindy Hall, Nominations; Ann Pehle and Deb Roney, Advancement; Barbara Price, Public Policy (chair); Paula Tomko, Governance; Susan Nenstiel, Audit.

If you have an interest in being involved with the AAUW PA Board, please contact Cindy Hall, President (aauwpapresident@gmail.com) or Susan Norris, Nominating Committee Chair (aauwpanominations@gmail.com). We would be delighted to hear from you.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY NEWS

Dickinson College AAUW Student Organization

AAUW Carlisle Outgoing President Kathleen Gorak and Incoming President Kate Elkins recently met with the Dickinson College AAUW Student Organization Executive Committee to learn more about their plans for the new school year and ways for our two groups to work together on shared initiatives, such as registering voters at the September Harvest for the Arts Festival in Carlisle. They are impressive students individually, to be sure, but collectively, this group is dynamite - full of enthusiasm, creativity and determination to make a difference on campus and in the wider community!

THANK YOU MEMBERSHIP VP RANDI BLAUTH

During the April 22nd State Board Meeting Randi Blauth was recognized by President Cindy Hall for her exemplary service as Membership VP. Randi worked tirelessly to resolve challenges with the Community Hub, met regularly with branch counterparts and provided advice and direction for disbanding branches. Thank you Randi for all your efforts on behalf of AAUW PA!



ELLEN (KATE) KATHLEEN SWEENEY MAY 15, 1944- JUNE 12, 2023



Kate Sweeney, member of Makefield Area Branch and, from 2008 to 2010, AAUW PA co-president, passed away June 12, 2023. Kate was instrumental in founding Makefield Area's successful Cops 'n' Kids Delaware Valley program that expands children's access to books; learn more at <https://copsnkidsdelval.org/about/>.

As AAUW PA co-president, Kate was a team builder. With her masterful interpersonal skills, she listened thoughtfully, inspired us to work, and made meetings successful and enjoyable. Because she worked in a chocolate store, she would bring chocolates to meetings to see us smile. Kate often suggested creative and inclusive solutions to snags and handled tough decisions thoughtfully (in both meanings). With others, she expanded Leader on Loan, created a Branch Survival Guide, developed AAUW Basics for student affiliates, and completed an overhaul of the AAUW PA Board Handbook. She, administrative director Toni Hoffman, and I often found ourselves late at night simultaneously editing shared documents (before platforms like Google docs made this much easier), emailing them back and forth and trying to decide how much to become “grammar police” for others’ submissions. Best of all, she made staying up to get AAUW PA work done (and the following day’s fatigue) something to look forward to and something to miss.

Outside AAUW, Kate and her husband, Stephen, were fond of international travel and art, both collecting and making it. In 2021, Kate returned to her native Minnesota to be near family. Kate’s character and dedication touched so many people. She is sadly missed.

Deb Roney
AAUW PA Past Co-president 2008-10

For more information on Kate’s service please visit:
<https://www.phillyburbs.com/obituaries/psom0512449>

Condolences can be sent to Kate’s sister in-law at the address below:

Arlene Aguirre
30 Lynwood Rd
Verona, NJ 07044

MISSION-BASED PROGRAMMING

Murrysville Area AAUW presents "Breaking Protocol: America's First Women Ambassadors"

Dr. Philip Nash was the guest speaker of the Murrysville Area branch at their meeting on Thursday, February 9, 2023, in the Murrysville Community Library.

The long battle for inclusion of women into U.S. government high-level service has been fought for years by smart, strong women. Dr. Nash discussed the pioneering women who were the first to break into the ranks of the US foreign service.

Two of those pioneers, included in his book "Breaking Protocol: America’s First Female Ambassadors, 1933-1964," are Ruth Bryan Owen and Helen Anderson.

Ruth Bryan Owen lived a life of firsts. She was the first woman elected to represent Florida in Congress, the first woman to serve on the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs. In 1933 she was appointed the first female chief of a U.S. diplomatic mission.

An early supporter of the United Nations, Helen Eugenie Moore Anderson was appointed by President Harry Truman as U.S. ambassador to Denmark in 1949, becoming the first woman to hold the rank of ambassador. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy named her minister to Bulgaria.

Dr. Nash, an award-winning teacher, is Associate Professor of History at Penn State Shenango. He held a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard University and was a Fulbright Visiting Professor at the National University of Singapore in 2010. A frequent guest on the “Professor Buzzkill” history podcast (at professorbuzzkill.com), he is author of three books, including “Clare Boothe Luce: American Renaissance Woman” (Routledge, 2022).

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

AAUW State College

Four women students from Penn State University Park attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) this spring. Two of the attendees shared their experiences below:

Lauren Mazzatesta

NCCWSL taught me that I am enough *because* I am me— not in spite of it. I learned that I have inherent marketable traits that will attract a fruitful career. My “soft skills,” such as emotional intelligence, communication, and listening, are valuable “skills.” I learned that you needn’t participate in extraordinary opportunities to be an extraordinary candidate in the job market. “Ordinary” roles such as volunteering at your local food bank, being a mom, or being a caretaker to a family member affords you an equal, if not more, rewarding experience. It is how you convey your skills, experiences, and ultimately, yourself to the world that will determine your fate. But sometimes you won’t get the desired job or internship, and that’s okay too. Altogether, I learned that you do not (and should not) adapt to other people, situations, or job positions. They should adapt and accommodate you.



Megan Kelby



The NCCWSL conference was unlike anything I’ve ever experienced before. I have never been in a space with that many driven, powerful, and welcoming women. With the theme of empowerment, we built a schedule that met our specific interests and were provided with an impressive variety of speakers. I attended workshops that ranged from finding my inner voice and advocating for myself in the workplace as a woman, to recognizing toxic relationships. They allowed me to gain new perspectives and add to my toolbox as I step into my professional life. I felt unwavering support and respect for every woman I met. We are the future and must be willing to step up. From my experience and the connections made at the NCCWSL conference, courtesy of AAUW, I can

confidently say that the future of women leaders is bright, and I am extremely honored to be a part of it.

“Being a Part of Something that Matters“ Presentation

Connie Schroeder, State College Branch Marketing & Communication VP created a slide show compilation of highlights from the past 12 months. Of branch activities. The presentation has been promoted via social media and is being shared with potential members who would like to learn more about the branch. The slide show can be viewed at: <https://bit.ly/AAUWSCHighlights2022-2023>

AAUW Carlisle and AAUW Harrisburg Go to Washington!

AAUW Carlisle Community Activities Chair Cindy Sutton planned a trip to Marjorie Merriweather Post's Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens in Washington, D.C. in May and invited AAUW Harrisburg to join us! A good time was had by all 40+ of us! Below are pictures from the day with some of the Carlisle Branch members on the left and some Harrisburg Branch members on the right.



BRANCH ANNIVERSARIES

Eastern Delaware Co: 90 years (May 3, 1933)

Doylestown: 65 years (May 20, 1958)

Johnstown: 100 years (1923)

WEBSITE SUBMISSIONS

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

ADDRESS CHANGES

E-News Subscribers:

Send email address changes and additions to aauwpa.president@gmail.com or the branch officer who manages your branch email list.

SUBMITTING INFORMATION TO THE KEYSTONER

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!)

Deadline for submissions is:

September 2023: Issue: August 25th

Send to the Keystoner editor at aauwpakeystoner@gmail.com

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

SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTORY

If your branch has social media accounts such as Facebook and/or Instagram we would like to collect and publish this information so branches can follow each other. Please send information to the Keystoner editor at aauwpakeystoner@gmail.com
Please put "Social Media" in the Subject line!

AAUW PA STATE BOARD

President	Cindy Hall (State College)	aauwpa.president@gmail.com
Program VP	Lori Woods (Indiana Co)	aauwpapvp@gmail.com
Public Policy Chair	Sandra Miller (Easton/Bethlehem)	aauwpapp3@gmail.com
Membership VP	Karen Wellin (Valley Forge)	aauwpamembership@gmail.com
Finance Officer	Ann Echols (State College)	aauwpafinance@gmail.com
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Bylaws Chair	VACANT	aauwpabylaws@gmail.com

Nominating Committee Chair	VACANT	
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