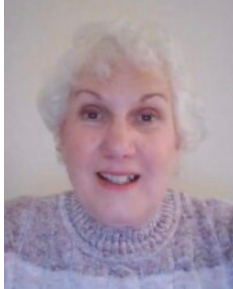


2025-2027 AAUW PA CANDIDATE BIOS

MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT: Karen Wellin, Valley Forge Branch

The membership vice president is specifically responsible for planning, coordinating, implementing, and reporting membership activities and shall perform such duties as the president and board shall direct.



Karen serves as the Membership Vice President for AAUW PA, currently finishing her first term. In that position, she co-chaired a session with Dr. Debe Mack on membership and social media at the 2024 Harrisburg conference. She has also alternated as Valley Forge Branch president and Program VP over the past 20 years, bringing in a variety of mission-based programming. She previously served as the branch Book Sale chair and has organized plant sales as fundraisers. The branch awarded her both the Outstanding Woman Award and the Member Making a Difference Award.

Karen has been a frequent participant at Eastern district meetings, state conventions and conferences, and some national conventions. She also attended the first Atlantic Regional Conference in Virginia in 2024.

Karen earned her B.S. Ed. in food and nutrition from Cornell University and her MS in Elementary Education from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Now retired, she preferred jobs where she could be the mentor, trainer, coach, and supervisor. Karen worked as a sales manager for a frozen food company hiring, training, and supervising young sales representatives. In her position at the Franklin Institute Science Museum, she coached high school and college interns, supervised volunteers of all ages and backgrounds, and led the weekend teams, all experiences that helped her work on a team and taught her to love helping young people achieve their best. Karen also belongs to her local Lions Club and serves as co-chair of her Cornell class reunion committee, for both of which she has recruited new members.

When asked what she sees as the primary focus of AAUW-PA and how she would work toward that goal if elected, Karen answered:

AAUW PA has a responsibility to be a steward for state dues and to use the funds responsibly. In this role, the state organization should be a support and educational tool for state branches and members. AAUW PA can help in disseminating information about AAUW nationally and locally by publishing *The Keystoner*, holding educational conferences, and emailing members as necessary. AAUW PA can be the clearing house for public policy initiatives that affect the state; in this role, our members stay informed and encouraged to be active in public policy. AAUW PA's focus on mission based programming through virtual or in-person means again helps our members to be inspired to work for AAUW. And, AAUW PA needs to focus on increasing and maintaining membership.

My role in this is multi-layered. Communicating with branch leaders is necessary. Building personal bonds with members is also so important, and a goal I have for the next 2 years is to do more traveling and meeting members in person. I wish to attend more local events so that I better understand branch needs and branch best practices. Being the “go-to” person who can answer membership questions as they arise is also important. Staying informed about national membership initiatives helps me do the job. Finally, thinking creatively and “outside the box” is a longer term goal – What membership recruitment strategies have worked in the past and what can work in the future? How do we best retain membership and are there new ways to do so? Are there organizational changes that can be made – what role might virtual branches, combining branches, creating new branches, and attracting non-branch members have in the future?

SECRETARY: Charlotte Ridge, Huntingdon Branch

The secretary shall record and keep minutes of all business, board, and special meetings and is the member designated to record and make available upon request the minutes of each meeting and board meeting. The secretary shall perform such other duties as the president and board shall direct.



Charlotte, who has been a member of AAUW Huntingdon since 2016, is currently serving as the appointed AAUW-PA board secretary after the resignation of the previous secretary in 2024. She has served as branch public policy chair, finance officer, and in her current position of co-president. In those roles, she has organized and participated on a number of panels, presented lectures, and hosted candidate forums and community action events (postcard writing/contacting legislators). She is particularly active in Juniata College’s get-out-the-vote efforts in collaboration with the branch. Charlotte attended her first state conference in Harrisburg in 2024.

Charlotte earned a B.A. degree in Political Science and Communication from Macalester College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Iowa. She currently holds a position as assistant professor in the politics department at Juniata College, where she also serves as faculty secretary. Prior to Juniata, she taught courses at the University of Iowa, Colby College, and Middlebury College. She has also been faculty leader at The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars.

When asked what she sees as the primary focus of AAUW-PA and how she would work toward that goal if elected, Charlotte answered:

I believe that our focus is advancing gender equity in Pennsylvania and the US, primarily in education and the economy. We also advocate for fair funding for public schools, fair elections and good government policies, voting rights, and other issues. These issues, while

not our focus, also indirectly move our agenda forward by creating a fairer world for everyone, including women and girls.

If I can help the organization with administrative work, I will be contributing to our other work by freeing board members to get more substantive tasks done.

FINANCE OFFICER: Pamela Fuller, State College Branch

The finance officer shall be responsible for collecting, distributing, and accounting for the funds of the Affiliate and for meeting specific deadlines. The finance officer shall serve as custodian of all funds and securities and as the designated contact for finance to AAUW.



Pam attended the AAUW PA conference in Harrisburg in April 2024 after an AAUW-member friend of hers told her about the organization. Apparently, the deep dive with national, state, and local members won her over because she joined the State College branch that weekend! Of course, she then volunteered at the AAUW State College book sale. Pam graduated from Lock Haven University with a BS degree in management science with dual emphases in Economics/Finance and in Management. She also participated in Army ROTC and was commissioned Second Lieutenant.

In addition to serving six years as a First Lieutenant in Company Command and Battalion Administration Roles in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, Pam worked at Watermark as a client success manager and spent 32 years at Penn State University (PSU). Now retired, Pam brings to us her PSU experience as IT business relationship manager and then as director of organizational planning and effectiveness in information technology, as senior financial advisor for Information technology services, and as the financial officer of the College of Education. She also held other financial roles in Outreach and Student Affairs.

Pam has engaged with her community beyond her workplace, serving as board chair of Bridge of Hope Centre County, an organization whose mission is to end family homelessness for primarily single women and their children through neighboring relationships. In that role she led their efforts to become operational, finding an office and staff, leading a new board, working with United Way, and more. She also is an organizational change management practitioner, business relationship management professional, and facilitator.

When asked what she sees as the primary focus of AAUW-PA and how she would work toward that goal if elected, Pam replied:

With the knowledge that I have about AAUW-PA's role so far, and after researching, I offer the following:

AAUW-PA represents, translates, and connects the National AAUW vision, mission, priorities, advocacy opportunities, and resources to increase equity for women and children to local chapters - supporting and spurring local action and advocacy. AAUW-PA can also influence law and policy within PA, and inform local chapters on how to influence local policy. State-level leadership should build relationships across the state to influence policy within PA.

As a Financial Officer, my role would be to understand and support the strategic priorities at the State level and advise on the financial position needed to support activities to realize those goals I would also be available for the Board members and local chapters to advise and support as necessary, ensuring that expenditures are allowable, allocable, and appropriate use of funds with proper documentation. I will also provide financial reports to reflect the costs per strategic priority.