



THE KEYSTONER

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Thoughts on recruiting branch leaders . . .

Begin by understanding why some members agree to become leaders and others do not. The easy answer is the time commitment; yet, we all know leaders who wear many hats. Pressure from others also may be a reason. However, many branch leaders serve two consecutive terms (four years) as president and continue to serve in other board positions. These are decisions they make after having experience on a board and as a member. You might say *well they have to*, but really they don't.

What drives a member to say yes to leadership? Above all, a commitment to AAUW's mission. For presidents, a willingness to chair meetings and oversee branch business is simply not enough. If a leader doesn't see the alignment between her or his values, it will be challenging at best to lead the branch forward.

Most branch presidents want a leadership team they can count on. All of us want to be part of a supportive goal-oriented team. A strong leadership team is important to balancing workloads. Leaders need to know there are others they can count on when the days get particularly challenging.

What are the critical duties that help your branch move the AAUW mission forward? Can you rethink some things to lighten the load? The activities that were important in the past, may no longer be so. (Look how the work world has changed.) We all need to be more flexible, even when it isn't easy.

I urge you to recruit for leadership positions by selling our organization using a carefully planned strategy. Who is the best person to make the ask? Show off your team. Attract new leaders by encouraging them to experience the energy and cohesion within your branch and board.

Finally, support and grow your branch members. Invest in them by making it easy to attend state retreats and conferences. Make sure they know how much they matter to you and our mission.

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 GLORIA BLACKWELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AAUW

Dear AAUW Leaders,

For those who were able to tune in to this week's AAUW Winter Member Gathering – thank you for your participation. The recording has recently been posted and we hope you take the time to share it with your members: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PDN1kZsNXQ> In this critical moment as we navigate the transition to a new administration and uncertainty looms, we need to remember to take care of ourselves, support one another and those who look to us for support.

Even if we can't see the entire path ahead and progress may take more time, our collective efforts must continue to shape a future where women's economic equity isn't just a dream but a reality.

The resilience of AAUW as an organization cannot be overlooked--and all we have invested in women and girls demands that we remain focused and purposeful.

We face significant challenges for equity and attainment in education. As advocates, our resolve will be tested like never before.

Our reality: Across the nation, laws and policies hinder equal access to quality education. From budget cuts to legislative rollbacks, the road ahead is tough.

Our resolve: Our efforts to advance women's economic security through higher education remains critical. The progress we've made is at risk — and we must be vigilant in fighting back.

Our advocacy: We are ramping up our efforts to influence policy surrounding enforcement of Title IX civil rights protections and supporting essential college-access programs.

Our support: Our Fellowships & Grants programs will continue to support women scholars globally.

Our community: We will strengthen our network to create a united front for change.

AAUW's foundation is unwavering and rooted in strength, courage, and purpose. Side by side, we will continue the fight—for the women, girls and communities we cherish, the impact we elevate, and the legacies we create.

With your ongoing support, we will persevere.

In solidarity and with gratitude,

~Gloria

AAUW PENNSYLVANIA STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS FOR 2025-2027

Guiding Principle: We seek to create a welcoming and respectful environment for everyone that makes them feel comfortable and appreciated and provides opportunities for engagement in support of our mission.

Enhance Awareness of AAUW’s Mission and Advocacy

Strengthen understanding of AAUW’s mission across Pennsylvania, promoting its public policy priorities through advocacy at national, statewide, regional, and local levels

Promote Mission-Driven Priorities and Activities

Support affiliates in creating and executing programs that align with AAUW’s mission, fostering Five-Star participation and increasing attendance and engagement in state-sponsored retreats and conferences

Increase and Retain Membership, with a Focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Engage with Pennsylvania colleges, universities, and communities to attract and retain diverse faculty, staff, and students to support AAUW’s mission

Implement Leadership Succession Planning

Develop and execute a leadership succession plan for both state and branch boards, fostering shared officer responsibilities



The graphic features the AAUW Pennsylvania logo at the top left, with the text "2025 Summer Retreat" below it. The central text reads "collective action FOR lasting change" in a stylized font. The background shows a cityscape at night with glowing figures and speech bubbles.

**Join us on Saturday, June 28th
Wyndham Garden State College**

**Kick off the weekend with our Welcome
Reception**

**Friday, June 27th | 6:30–8:00 PM at
Wyndham**

Registration opens soon–We can't wait to see you there!

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENT



Strength in Solidarity: Supporting Each Other and Advancing Equity

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou

Recently, I visited a branch member who had moved into a senior living facility. It was a reminder of how important it is to stay connected, especially during times of transition. It was a moment of vulnerability, not knowing what to say to offer comfort, but then realizing that all I truly wanted was to know she was okay. She reassured me that she was. In that moment, I felt grounded, fully present in the flow of life. I made a note to buy her some blackberries, something she loves, and I also noted her birthday is coming up.

This experience made me reflect on how supporting and caring for each other within our branches is just as crucial as advancing equity for women and girls. Both are essential in fostering an environment where growth, collaboration, and fairness can truly thrive. By supporting each other, we create a nurturing community that gives us hope, keeps us engaged and reminds us of our shared humanity. This collective strength enables us to more effectively advocate for systemic change that benefits all women and girls.

Being connected is how we tether each other to this blazing world. Stay grounded, remain open to others, and trust that our organization is what we commit to making it.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Summer Retreat in State College this June! It going to be a one-of-a-kind, unforgettable experience!

Lori Woods (Indiana Co)
Program VP, AAUW Pennsylvania

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES



Hello Advocates!

It is a very difficult time for all women and girls as we watch the deterioration of DEI programs across higher education and throughout our society “being scrubbed” as the headline in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* called the removal of DEI language by Penn. In order to push back nationally, our State Board and Branches signed on to a letter to Gloria Blackwell, CEO. Thank you to the many branches that signed on and to the Board for their support. I am proud to be part of this organization. [Stepping Up 2.0 - Google Docs](#)

Updates for AAUW Public Policy Priorities: The comment period for the changes to the National Public Policy Priorities (Public Policy Priorities Changes—AAUW: Empowering Women Since 1881) is closed. Thank you to all who sent in comments. The Public Policy Committee is currently reviewing all comments.

Title IX: While the Kentucky order and the new administration have deleted key parts of the revised regulations, Title IX is still the law of the land- just need to know that the regulations specifying many actions in Higher Education regarding harassment and due process have reverted to the 2020 version. Here is another resource that can help guide our work in the coming years.

Title IX from National Women’s Law Center: [How Schools Can Take Steps to Effectively Address Sexual Harassment While Complying with the Trump Title IX Rule - National Women's Law Center](#)

Another resource that I found helpful as we navigate these times: [Tracking Higher Ed’s Dismantling of DEI](#)

National held an excellent post-election Webinar that I felt should be shared in case you were not able to attend. We have work to do!

[Securing the Future: A Post-Election Conversation on Women's Economic Security - YouTube](#)

State News:

Pay Equity has been introduced in the PA House of Representatives: [HB 560](#) has been sent to the Labor and Industry Committee and we will keep you posted on actions that we can do to support its passage this legislative session.

Pay Equity Day is March 25th. I shared a partner’s incorrect date and I apologize for the confusion. We are doing local meetings this year during March and it is great that there is a bill to focus on! Talking points and legislative meetings are coming soon from your Public Policy chair so you can schedule your legislative meeting at their local offices.

Paid Leave or the Family Care Act [HB 200](#) has been introduced and sent to the Labor and Industry Committee. There is an action alert that will send letters to your representatives to support the new bill.

Take Action: It is time for us to address how PA does not have these protections for women. We can make a difference in the lives of Pennsylvanian women and families this year.

Governor's Budget:

Governor Shapiro presented his vision for the 2025-26 budget on February 4th. Here is the link to the Governor's [website](#) on the budget and you can watch his speech. For the education budget, he proposed the same level of funding for adequacy and tax equity with important cyber charter reform. With very low increases in basic education and special education funding, we will need this budget to pass as a package to meet the basic inflationary demands on school districts. It is an important budget year to meet the mandate to fix our unconstitutional school funding system and many opportunities to support these efforts. Visit the [Education Voters](#) and [PA Schools Work](#) pages for more information.

He also spoke strongly on minimum wage and we will be tracking legislation as it is introduced.

We appreciate all your efforts in outreach for these bills and look forward to a busy budget season.

Sandra Miller (Easton/Bethlehem)
Public Policy Chair, AAUW Pennsylvania

AAUW PA BOARD UPDATES

Advancement Activity

On behalf of the AAUW Advancement Committee, I heartily congratulate AAUW PA and branches across Pennsylvania for increasing membership in the state by 56 members in 2024 compared to 2023. This accomplishment keeps us as the fifth largest state in terms of AAUW membership.

Congratulations also for the sizably increased giving to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund in 2024 as compared to 2023. \$26,480. That is a whopping increase of over 50%.

Both of these are wins for the organization and help us devote more to the mission we all support. Keep up the great work, PA! Women and girls rely on our work to bring them equity.

Deb Roney
PA Representative to the AAUW Advancement Committee

2025 PA Annual Report

The Commonwealth has a new 2025 Pennsylvania Annual Report and some branches may need to respond.

Annual Reports | Department of State | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dos/programs/business/types-of-filings-and-registrations/annual-reports.html>

PDF instructions can be found at:

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dos/resources/business/graphics/2024-annual-report-help-guide.pdf>

This is new for us, the state affiliate, too. First, open the PDF document and follow it to step 5, and see if your branch name can be pulled up from the website. If it appears, then you need to file (\$0 for nonprofits). If it doesn't appear, you don't need to file.

The deadline is June 2025, but don't delay!

AAUW PA MEMBERSHIP – STAND UP! SPEAK UP! LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD!



This title was borrowed from a phrase used by Governor Shapiro, and I think it explains why We Need AAUW Now More Than Ever. In this political topsy-turvy time, AAUW's mission is greatly affected. Whether it is the attack on the Department of Education, the need to safeguard equal educational opportunities through Title IX, or threats to DEI initiatives, AAUW is committed to being heard.

Tell our members how they can make a difference by being a member of AAUW and use that message in recruiting new members. We stand strong when we stand together. It's amazing to me when I think back 25 years ago and remember hearing members say that AAUW wasn't relevant to younger women anymore. Women were seeking higher education in great numbers, women felt that they were breaking through that glass ceiling, and no one seemed to worry about reproductive rights. How things have changed! AAUW's mission to fight for equity for women and girls is more relevant than ever. Let your voices be heard and seek out ways to tell the AAUW message to all potential members.

A few important notes:

1. The AAUW Board of Directors will consider an increase in AAUW individual member dues at their upcoming February 2025 meeting. The proposed increase is \$5 each year for the next 5 years, starting April 1, 2025. We will probably know the outcome of this vote by the time this Keystoner is published. Dues only cover about 15% of AAUW's budget so regular dues increases are necessary to keep AAUW financially healthy.
2. Reminder that membership dues are for one year and dues are renewed after one year, no matter when the member joins. Someone who joins in March 2025 doesn't pay dues again until March of 2026. We no longer have that June 30 "cut-off".
3. In April of this year, all branches will be required to complete the Annual Branch Survey. Less than 50% of branches nationally participated last year. We can do better.
4. Finally, a big Shout Out and Congratulation to our Pennsylvania Beaver Valley Branch for achieving all five stars in the AAUW 5 Star Program last year – only 14 branches nationally achieved such a distinction!

Thank you for all you do for AAUW!

Karen Wellin (Valley Forge)
Membership Vice President, AAUW Pennsylvania

NOMINEES FOR STATE BOARD POSITIONS

From April 1-30, 2025, AAUW PA members will vote on candidates for state elected offices. Full voting details will be posted on the AAUW PA website and are included in this *Keystoner* so all members have them.

The committee would like to thank the candidates for agreeing to run and to serve if elected. The co-chairs would also like to thank the state board for support and the Nominating Committee members for their very helpful contributions:

- Eva Kaufmann (West Chester-Chester County Branch), Eastern PA
- Kacie Kirkpatrick (Beaver Valley Branch), Western PA
- Mary Kratzer (Harrisburg and Huntingdon Branches), Central PA
- Alternate: Sriya Vontela (State College Branch), Central PA

Read below for details about the candidates for these offices:

MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT: Karen Wellin, Valley Forge Branch



Karen serves as the Membership VP 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



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.

Charlotte responded to the questions asked of all candidates as follows:

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF AAUW PA?

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.

HOW WOULD YOU USE YOUR ELECTED POSITION TO WORK TOWARD THAT GOAL?

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

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 for 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.

AAUW PA INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING 2025

The annual officer elections and voting on proposed bylaws amendments will begin **April 1, 2025**, and continue until **11:59 pm April 30, 2025**.

All the votes will be announced and ratified at the affiliate's annual meeting on Saturday, May 3, 2025. There will be NO in-person (or synchronous on Zoom) voting during the annual meeting on May 3.

Instructions for voting will be outlined on the AAUW PA website (<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/nomination-and-election/>) no later than April 1.

There are step-by-step instructions for members to vote online, by paper ballot, and by branch voting—if this option is made available to you by the branch President/Administrator. If you have any questions, contact Deb Roney (aauwpanominations@gmail.com).

1. Online voting requires only the SurveyMonkey link that you will receive by email on April 1. All you need in addition to that link is a computer with Wifi. In just a few minutes, you will be done.
2. If you prefer to vote via a paper ballot, the ballot and instructions will be in the email all members will receive on April 1. Please note that your completed ballot must be postmarked by **April 15, 2025**, to allow time for delivery.
3. If your branch is hosting a branch voting event, follow the instructions of your branch officer, who will receive an email with the branch voting materials and directions no later than April 1. Branch votes may be submitted by mail (postmark deadline **April 15**) by email (deadline **11:59 pm April 30**).

Ann Pehle (Carlisle)

Deb Roney (Huntingdon)

Nominating and Election Committee Co-Chairs, AAUW Pennsylvania

BYLAWS UPDATE

BRANCHES:

If your branch has not yet made the bylaws changes mandated by National to conform with national bylaws, those changes are due to AAUW PA Bylaws Chair Deb Roney at aauwpabylaws@gmail.com as soon as possible. Thank you to those branches that have completed this process already or are currently underway.

If your branch wishes to make any changes to the other articles in your bylaws, please send your proposed changes to AAUW PA Bylaws Chair Deb Roney at aauwpabylaws@gmail.com before your branch votes on them.

STATE:

The state board recommends adoption of some proposed bylaws changes to clean up odds and ends inadvertently created or left in last year's bylaws overhaul.

By February 20, we will make available on the AAUW PA website a document detailing the two categories of changes that we are proposing and the rationales for each change: substantive changes that address the content of the bylaws and technical changes that clean up editing errors and unnecessary duplications. We will also provide a copy of the bylaws with those changes indicated in the text, with proposed additions in bold italics and proposed deletions in strikethrough.

Members are invited to ask questions, suggest changes, and comment on the proposed amendments from **Thursday, February 20 through Saturday, March 15, 2025**. The bylaws committee will review the feedback, finalize the proposed amendments, and make them available to the membership via the website no later than April 1.

After the member-proposed changes to the bylaws are reviewed and the final documents are presented electronically to the membership, members will vote on these proposed amendments, along with the officer elections, via Survey Monkey.

Each bylaws amendment must be approved by two-thirds of those voting on the business of the annual meeting, provided that a quorum is present and voting. All changes will be made via separate motions, and members can cast votes on each motion individually. However, members can instead choose either to vote on all changes of one type simultaneously or to vote on all changes simultaneously.

Voting will take place between **Tuesday, April 1 and Wednesday, April 30, 2025**, in advance of the Annual Business Meeting on **Saturday, May 3, 2025**, on Zoom, at which time the results of the bylaws votes and election of officers will be certified.

Deb Roney (Huntingdon)
Bylaws Chair, AAUW Pennsylvania

SPECIAL HONOREE REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

Is there someone in Pennsylvania with AAUW in her/his veins who has tirelessly worked at the branch and state level over several years?

Ann Pehle has been asked to chair a selection committee to determine if there is a 2025 recipient meeting the following criteria.

- Years and variety of service at Branch and State levels. Service at the National level is a plus but not required.
- Contributions improved the organization significantly by bringing innovation and efficiency.
- Increased public recognition of AAUW.

Any present or former member of the AAUW PA board may nominate a member for the award by submitting a memorandum of nomination to Ann Pehle, apehle@outlook.com. If awarded, the presentation will be held at the Summer Meeting, June 27-28, 2025.

Ann Pehle (she, her, hers)
AAUW Pennsylvania College/University Liaison

2025 DEIB BOOK SERIES KICK-OFF MEETING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
AAUW PA is holding its 2025
DEIB Book Series Kick-Off
Meeting on **Thursday, March 6,
2025 at 7:00 pm.**



We will be discussing the continued importance DEIB initiatives play in the current environment, launching the first book selected, and sharing the calendar outlining future meetings, reading cadence, and future reads.

AAUW National has confirmed AAUW is not altering its DEIB stance. With that in mind, AAUW PA finds it critical to remain informed and updated on this topic. The DEIB Books Series will aim to encourage and foster discussion related to the DEIB themes selected.

Ajla Lausegger (National Member)
Diversity Chair, AAUW Pennsylvania

2026 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Dear AAUW PA Members,

We have an exciting update to the planning underway for the 2026 Atlantic States Regional Conference! The date and location of the Regional Conference are as follows:

Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott Hotel
25 South Queen St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
September 25-27, 2026

Please mark your calendars! We are working tirelessly with volunteers from our neighboring and East Coast states to bring a robust and impactful program, led by our Programming Committee Co-Chairs, Sandra Miller and Lori Woods, along with educational and social engagement opportunities, as well as entertainment, community, and delicious food. Further, the area is bound to be buzzing with activities and festivals given the time of year.

The Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott Hotel are located in the center of Lancaster, offering many shops, attractions, restaurants, and coffee/pastry stops. For travel purposes, Lancaster is easily accessible from around the state. Additionally, the Harrisburg International Airport is nearby and there is an Amtrack station in Lancaster.



We are excited to celebrate America's 250th birthday focusing on AAUW's mission across the Atlantic Region. Stay tuned for information around Conference details, including location, date, website information, registration details, programming spotlights, and more!

Very truly yours,
Ajla and Cindy

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY NEWS

Student Impact Mini-Grants and NCCWSL

AAUW Pennsylvania is pleased to support the **AAUW Pennsylvania Student Impact Mini-Grants** for 2024-2025. Applications were open until February 15, 2025. Six applications were submitted and the committee approved four. Once all events are held, we will publish more about the impact of each grant. In the meantime, below is a list of the grant-receiving institutions and topics.

Mini-Grants awarded in 2024-2025 are:

- Indiana University Pennsylvania**—Respect Head Covers; Stop Stereotyping
- Juniata College**—Equal access to period products in Huntingdon Area School District schools
- Penn State Greater Allegheny**—Women in STEM Careers
- Saint Francis University**—Honoring Women's History Month

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). AAUW was home to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) for 39 years. Starting in 2025, NCCWSL will be managed by NASPA, the professional home for student affairs administrators in higher education. Go [here](#) to learn more about this announcement.

DATES: May 28-30, 2025

LOCATION: University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Plans are underway for AAUW Pennsylvania to continue to award fellowships to attend NCCWSL. The process for how AAUW branches may contribute to AAUW Pennsylvania's application/award process or donate directly to AAUW will be sent to branch Presidents.

In the meantime. . .there is plenty to do.

1. Promote NCCWSL. Women student leaders benefit from being with thousands of student leaders nationwide for leadership training, inspiration, and networking. Don't you want your college/university to be represented? Don't wait for the dates to be announced.
2. Attend a webinar on March 12 sponsored by AAUW Pennsylvania to hear AAUW Pennsylvania NCCWSL fellowship recipients share their memories.

Ann Pehle (she, her, hers)
AAUW Pennsylvania College/University Liaison
aauwcupa@gmail.com
[401-644-6488 \(text or call\)](tel:401-644-6488)

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

AAUW Fox Chapel Area

From Your Attic to the Archives: April 8, 2025, at 10 am

On Tuesday, April 8 at 10:00 am at the Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church (corner of Fox Chapel and Field Club Roads) AAUW Fox Chapel will welcome Stephanie Zimble, Archivist, Oakmont Carnegie Library.

Documents, photographs, and family papers threaten to overwhelm us at times as storage boxes pile up. They need organizing, but the task is daunting. Archivist Stephanie Zimble, who sorts vast quantities of historical materials for the Oakmont Carnegie Library, will offer some helpful tips on where to start.

To keep it relevant, Stephanie will bring items from the library similar to those we may have in the attic at home to demonstrate the process of assessing what's important – and what's not. She'll then share techniques for protecting and preserving saved family records to make them accessible to future generations.

Ms. Zimble is the technical services and archives specialist at Oakmont Carnegie Library, where she's worked for nearly 20 years. She also provides support through outreach, programming, and collection development to the library's patrons and to the broader Oakmont community. Stephanie has a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

AAUW Indiana County

Ratified, a Community Event!

In a small board meeting our President, Lori Woods, told our group about the availability of the “Ratified” movie in a streaming format.

The discussion ensued to find a place for us all to watch it together if we could. But wait, aren’t there other groups in town that might be interested to watch it with us. Let’s think outside the box and see if we can find a bigger forum.



So, we went exploring, calling the first choice, our local theater, to see if they have the tech, availability, and can accommodate or host this as a community event. What would it cost? Well, under normal circumstances \$500, but the manager was excited about the movie and said that, as a non-profit, they would like to host this for us to demonstrate to the community that this can be a good use of the theater.

As a win/win partnership, they agreed to waive the normal cost if they could take donations and sell concessions to pay the clean-up staff. An event was born! The theater also assisted to get the word out, since there was only two weeks to event time. They allowed us to use the theater software for advanced registration.

We sent the word out to local women’s groups, email blasts, and got an article in the front page of the local paper. On the night of our event there was a sparse turn out at 10 minutes to seven with only about a dozen people, even though there were 42 registered. But as the movie started at 7 o’clock, more drifted in.

After the screening, when the lights went up there were 50-60 people who had turned out for “Ratified” and 12-20 who stayed for an after discussion on the story. We were very happy with the turnout for our little town and that there was some buzz created about the story of ratification and interest generated for the mission of the American Association of University Women.

AAUW State College

AAUW State College Ramps up for 63rd annual Used Book Sale

Carrying on a time-honored tradition that continues to excite community members, AAUW State College members are hard at work these days finishing up the sorting, pricing, and packing of thousands of books donated for their annual Used Book Sale. This year's sale will held **May 17-20** at the **Penn State Snider Ag Arena in State College**.



The largest single category of the sale is the Children's section, which features about 25,000 books, about 1/6 of the total number of books brought to the sale. When we received an invitation to participate in February's annual State College Area School District annual book fair, *SCASD Reads*, we were there in a heart beat. 1200 parents and students attended the event and our book sale chairs, Donna Trapp and Mary Ann Blair, had fun inviting them to join us at the sale.

Book sale proceeds fund undergraduate scholarships and programs offered by local non-profits whose missions that in some way reflect AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls. Learn more about us and plan to join us for an inspiring and impactful event, and share this with your networks of family, friends, and colleagues:

<https://aauwstatecollege.org/used-book-sale-centre-county/>

UPCOMING BRANCH ANNIVERSARIES

- State College April 22, 1918—109 years
- Bradford April 16, 1921—104 years
- Carlisle May 10, 1924—101 years
- Bethlehem, April 4, 1929—96 years
- Beaver Valley, April 16, 1930—95 years
- Eastern Delaware County, May 3, 1933—92 years
- Indiana County, May 5, 1936—89 years
- Doylestown, May 20, 1958—67 years
- Fox Chapel May 26, 1959—66 years
- York April 1, 1972—53 years

ADDRESS CHANGES

E-News Subscribers: Send email address changes and additions to the President 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!)

The next issue of the *Keystoner* will be published in May. Below is the deadline for this issue.

Issue	Content Deadline	Anticipated Publishing Date
May 2025	Friday, April 12, 2025	Monday, May 1, 2025

Please send information to the Keystoner Editor and put "For the Keystoner" in the Subject line!

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