



Branch

Banter

SEPTEMBER 2020

MOVING FORWARD

DUE TO COVID-19, THE AAUW BOARD HAS MADE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO OUR SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING

- WHEN:** Tuesday, September 15 (Note change of usual date)
TIME: 4:00 – 6:00 PM (Note change of usual time)
WHERE: Sunset Lane Park pavilion (Parking and restrooms available)
WHY: Due to COVID-19, we are unable currently to meet at the York Alliance Church.

PLEASE NOTE:

RSVP if you plan to attend. If you forget, you are still welcome to the meeting. RSVP to Sandy Cooley or Nancy Spataro.

- Masks required. Hand sanitizer recommended.
- There are large picnic tables and benches that allow for social distancing. Feel free to bring your own chair.
- Refreshments will not be provided. Feel free to bring your own.
- Lanyards will not be distributed. Attendance will be taken.
- No guests or public invited due to COVID-19.
- Annual donations of adult disposable underwear will be accepted.

PROGRAM:

The September meeting is going to look a little bit different this year. We will be starting with an opportunity for members to give any personal updates. Next, we will hold the business meeting followed by a discussion about Moving Forward during COVID-19 including Meeting Mode and Meeting Ideas. Amber and Margaret will lead the discussion. As a preview, some of the options for meeting delivery modes include small groups at homes, Zoom, etc. The meeting ideas include topics that may fit well with different delivery modes. So, it is important to hear from the group how we all want to move forward. After the meeting, members can socialize and catch up.

Margaret Kremer & Amber Seidel, Program Co-Vice Presidents

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER: A Zoom meeting will take place. An email with Zoom information will be sent by noon on the day of the meeting, or a phone call to non-email members. If you are not familiar with Zoom, or do not have access to a computer, please notify Rita Meisenhelder or Barbara Woodmansee.

FROM THE PODIUM

September begins a new year for our York AAUW Branch. We look forward to a promising year no matter how we will meet. It continues to be challenging to plan for the future, but the Board is making every effort to help us stay connected. This first meeting being held outside is one way for us to meet safely. More information about the format for September's meeting can be found in the Program section of this issue.

Because of the COVID-19 challenges, many of our Branch's activities have been curtailed. Some of our Interest Groups and Committees may still be meeting, but they might be conducted in new ways. Please check with the chair of these groups for more details. Look for their information in this *Banter*. Of special note are the new Fundraising Committee, the Education Study Group, and the Higher Education Funding Committee.

Please be assured that our Branch will continue to meet and provide the incredible programs that you have come to rely upon. We will keep you informed about our future meetings through emails and the *Banter*. As always, we welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Enjoy the upcoming year of York AAUW's Branch as we continue to advocate for gender equity for women and girls. We look forward to seeing everyone at Sunset Lane Park!

Barbara Woodmansee and Rita Meisenhelder, Co-Presidents

DISPOSABLE UNDERWEAR DRIVE AT THE SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING SEE YOU AT 4:00 P.M. – IN THE PARKING LOT

Many families are struggling to buy disposable underwear for elderly adults during these perilous times. Please help the less-fortunate in our community by bringing a donation of adult disposable underwear to the September Branch meeting. Betty Hooker will be collecting donations at her car (a white Camry sedan) in the parking lot prior to the meeting. The donations will go to Representative Carol Hill-Evans for distribution to the needy.

2020-2021 YEARBOOKS

The *2020-2021 Yearbooks*, with purple covers, will be distributed at the September meeting. Since the dates of future in-person meetings are uncertain, *Yearbooks* that are not picked up at the meeting will be mailed.

Note: York zip codes are listed in the second line of the address. To save space, York zip codes, which begin '174,' have only the last two digits listed.

Betty Hooker, Yearbook Chair

2020-2021 BUDGET – VOTE AT MEETING

We will vote on the 2020-2021 budget (attached) at the September meeting.

BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 1

The Board meeting for September 1 will be conducted virtually in Zoom. Rita will email the agenda a few days before and then lead the meeting, which **will begin at 10:00 a.m.**

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome back! We hope to see you at the upcoming meeting. We currently have 79 members on our roster and would love to have some more. Please consider inviting friends to join us for the upcoming meetings that promise to be different and interesting.

For your information, we will not be using the lanyard name tags at this time. That will be just one less point of contact between us.

Sandra Cooley & Nancy Spataro, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

WRITE-READ-WRITE PROGRAM

Due to York City School District planning for virtual classes during the first 9 weeks at this time, we will not have the Write-Read-Write program. The teachers have asked that we plan for the fall of 2021. Thank you to all members who have participated in the past.

Jean Quickel & Suzanne Robertson, WRW Program Co-Chairs

PUBLIC POLICY

Vote November 3: Pennsylvania law allows vote by mail without an excuse. Here are the steps and dates for voting this fall.

Step one: Check your registration. **The website votespa.com offers information on registration and allows you to apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot online.**

October 19: Last day to register to vote or update your voter registration. Register to vote.

October 27: Last day to apply for a mail-in-ballot. However, do not wait. Do it now! Apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot.

November 2: Find your polling place. If you prefer to vote in person, be sure to check your polling place. Many were moved in the primary because of COVID-19.

November 3, 8 p.m.: Deadline to return your voted mail-in ballot. Be sure your vote is counted. Complete your ballot and send it back in the postage-paid return envelope as soon as you get it to avoid mail delays.

Remember, When Women Vote, They Change the Conversation!

Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair

BANTER DEADLINE

September 24 is the deadline for articles for the October *Banter*.

EDUCATION STUDY GROUP

The coronavirus has thrown our schools into a state of turmoil. Is it safe to bring students back to the school buildings? Is distance learning a viable alternative? Will the budget stretch to cover the increased costs of technology and cleaning supplies? The Education Study Group will meet, when it is safe to do so, to discuss these and others concerns. Until that time comes, keep aware of what is happening on the local, state, and national levels and the impact on the students. Watch the *Banter* for information about our first meeting.

Nancy Buckley, Education Study Group Chair

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Our Spring Market Faire has been a reliable support for York AAUW's scholarship program for many years. This year, uncertainties brought about by COVID-19 render hosting the Faire impossible. Replacing the income derived from it will be difficult but, if we work together, we will succeed.

You can help us by:

- Providing ideas – simple or complex
- Joining the Fundraising Committee
- Helping to implement chosen ideas

Please contact me to share your ideas. Then, plan to meet (via Zoom) at a time and date to be announced. We will not let a mere pandemic defeat us!

Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair

HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COMMITTEE

During the August Board meeting, a proposal was approved to create a new committee that will consider and recommend the best use of our Fundraising account budget for higher education of women and girls.

The prior Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship Committees' members will combine to form the Higher Education Funding Committee. In addition to traditional types of scholarships, we may consider other programs to financially support local women and girls in their pursuit of higher education. We need to be mindful of the Fundraising account budget since the 2021 Spring Market Faire had to be canceled.

One of the beautiful National AAUW note cards we received this year had this note on the back: "As one of the largest sources of funding for graduate women in the country, AAUW provided \$4.3 million in Grants and Fellowships to 270 outstanding women and nonprofit organizations during the 2019-2020 year." We can all take pride in our organization!

If you have questions, comments, or ideas, please contact Martha or Nancy.
Thank you,

Martha Fleischer and Nancy Spataro, HEFC Co-Chairs

SUNSHINE

I sent get well cards to Flo Kachurak in June and to Betsy Knaub in July. I sent a sympathy card to Linda Hogg for the death of her mother. We got a thank you note from Spencer and Alysia Dech for our sympathy card I sent May 8 for the death of Arlene Dech. They write that Arlene loved the AAUW and the conventions she was able to attend. There is still no date for the memorial service because of the COVID-19 chaos. Kuhner Associates on George St. in York will handle the service.

If you know of an AAUW member who deserves a card due to illness, death in family, or thinking of you, please notify Linda Rupert.

MEMBERSHIP – ARTISTIC HELP NEEDED!

We are in need of someone who would be willing to help redesign our AAUW trifold and create a new postcard that would be used to introduce our AAUW chapter to potential members. This could be you, a family member, or friend who has some artistic talent and who is willing to use Vista Print, Gotprint.com or other printing company to produce these. Our goal is to have these marketing tools in time for our September meeting.

Please contact one of the Membership Co-VPs if you can help:

Sandra Cooley & Nancy Spataro, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

DAYTIME BOOK GROUP

3rd Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. Contact Linda Palmer

We will attempt a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, September 16, at 1:00 p.m. We will choose books for the upcoming months at that time. Please have your list of recommendations ready with a brief synopsis.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

3rd Tuesdays 7:30 p.m. Contact: Sue Zitnick

September 22: *The Great Influenza* by John M. Barry. A look back at the 1918 influenza, how it was handled, and what we can learn from it.

At Sue Zitnick's house. Call for directions. (The Evening Book Group is meeting on the **4th Tuesday in September** due to the change in date for the Branch meeting.)

Book for October: *Women's Work: The First 20,000 Years* by Elizabeth W. Barber.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group is cancelled for September. We will begin playing again when it is the consensus of the group that we can safely include all of the group's members in the game and to hold the game at a safe location. Any ideas? Please call Lois Kulp.

GAME NIGHT

No event in October. Contact Karen Julian.

LUNCH A MONTH

Lunch A Month is on hold. Contact Sandra Cooley.

Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Vision Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Diversity Statement

AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.