



Branch

Banter

JANUARY 2021

VIRTUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

WHEN: Tuesday, January 12 7:00 p.m. (link opens at 6:45 p.m.)

WHERE: Using Zoom (see link information below)

PROGRAM: We will be holding a virtual holiday party and hopeful kickoff to 2021 for the January meeting. Join us via Zoom for some interactive online fun.

NOTE: *The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link will open at 6:45 so that we all have time to get online and resolve any technological issues.* If you do not have access or feel comfortable using Zoom and would like to watch at another AAUW member's home, please reach out to Co-Presidents Barbara Woodmansee or Rita Meisenhelder so they can connect you.

Margaret Kremer & Amber Seidel, Program Co-Vice Presidents

HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COMMITTEE

We are extremely pleased to announce that Marion Bowman's daughter, Marya Bowman, is donating money in Marion's memory and honor to our scholarship program. For those who did not know Marion, she was an active long-time AAUW member who passed away almost a year ago.

Marya's generous donation is \$4,000.00 this year and the same amount for two consecutive years. This gift will enable us to provide named scholarships to deserving local high school girls enrolled in the Dual Enrollment Programs with York College and Penn State York.

Living in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Marya is Director of Hilti Store Operations and Facilities in North America and has degrees from Elizabethtown College and Oklahoma City University. In addition, she serves on the Boards of Habitat for Humanity Tulsa and Meals on Wheels Tulsa.

We are very grateful to Marya for remembering Marion's commitment to AAUW York Branch with this important honor to her memory.

Martha Fleischer & Nancy Spataro, HEFC Co-Chairs

FROM THE PODIUM

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a peaceful and healthy holiday and is ready to look forward to a new year. We have reason to be optimistic in 2021 now that the COVID-19 vaccine is being distributed. The future looks brighter for all of us.

As we begin 2021, we look forward to building on our 2020 accomplishments. It is exciting to see the Higher Education Funding Committee developing a new way to support education through the Dual Enrollment Program for high school students. The Amaryllis Growing Kits fundraiser was a new and very successful source of funding. What fun it has been to watch the bulbs slowly peek their way through the soil! Thank you to the Fundraising Committee and to everyone who participated.

At last month's Branch meeting, there was a lively discussion about the proposed increase in AAUW National dues and the issue of eliminating the education requirement for AAUW membership. The good news is that AAUW-PA will not be increasing their dues. We even had a surprise guest! Judy Orcutt, a former York Branch member who recently moved out of town, was able to join us for a fun filled evening. Please join us for our future Branch meetings because there may be even more surprises.

One of our tasks this year is to recognize members who exemplify the spirit of AAUW and have made a difference in our Branch. Please consider nominating someone for the Outstanding Woman Award, Member Making A Difference Award, York Branch Special Honoree, and Gateway to Equity Award. Information about the awards is in the *Banter*. Here's to a year full of promise and good works!

Barbara Woodmansee & Rita Meisenhelder, Co-Presidents

BOARD MEETING

The January 5 Board meeting will be conducted virtually using Zoom (see link above). Barbara will email the agenda a few days before and then lead the meeting, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Branch members are welcome to attend Board meetings.

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW's Gender Policy Agenda outlines priority issues for the 2020-2021 program year. Here is what AAUW would like to see nationally to advance gender equality in terms of economic security:

1. ENSURE EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK: Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, the Pay Equity for All Act and the Fair Pay Act.
2. IMPLEMENT PAID SICK LEAVE AND PAID SICK DAYS: Pass the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act and the Healthy Families Act.
3. STOP HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE: Pass the BE HEARD in the Workplace Act, the EMPOWER Act, and the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act.
4. RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE AND ELIMINATE THE TIPPED MINIMUM WAGE: Pass the Raise Wage Act of 2019.
5. CLOSE THE RETIREMENT GAP: Maintain and strengthen current Social Security benefits, including full cost-of-living adjustments, guaranteed lifetime benefits, a progressive benefit formula, spousal and widow benefits and disability and survivor benefits.
6. PROTECT PREGNANT WORKERS: Pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair

BRANCH AWARDS

York Branch is given the opportunity to present three awards annually through the sponsorship of our state organization, AAUW-PA. The honorees are recognized by AAUW-PA, and members receive a certificate recognizing their accomplishments.

The **Gateway to Equity Award** is given to individuals or organizations that have shown by action and philosophy that they advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, or research. This award is selected by the Branch Board members.

The **Member Making a Difference Award** is given to a member who has made a big difference in something important to the Branch within the last year. This person need not be an officer or a committee chair.

Outstanding Woman Award

- She has provided meritorious service to the Branch and the community over multiple years.
- She may not be the current president.
- The state allows two nominees.

Check our *Yearbook* for past honorees. Please submit your nominations **in writing by January 15**, and give examples of the person's accomplishments.

You may send an email or a note via mail to Lois Conaway. Thank you for your suggestions. A committee of past recipients will select the 2021 honorees.

Lois Conaway, Awards Chair

SUNSHINE

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

BANTER DEADLINE

January 24 is the deadline for articles for the February *Banter*.

DAYTIME BOOK GROUP

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

Please note date change:

Because of the Presidential Inauguration, we will be holding our Zoom session on Wednesday, January 27.

Book: *Women Rowing North* by Mary Pipher Led by Linda Palmer

EVENING BOOK GROUP

3rd Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. Contact: Sue Zitnick

Evening Book Group has decided to put the group on hold until at least March with the expectation of a surge in COVID-19 cases after Christmas. Please check the March *Banter* for more information going forward. The chosen books will just be moved to March and April for now.

Book for March: *Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope* by Nickolas Kristof
Book for April: *Michelangelo: God's Architect* by William Wallace

BRIDGE GROUP

Bridge Group is on hold. Contact Lois Kulp.

GAME NIGHT

Game Night is on hold. Contact Karen Julian.

LUNCH A MONTH

Lunch A Month is on hold. Contact Sandra Cooley.

SUPPER CLUB

Supper Club is on hold. Contact Lois Kulp.

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.