



# Branch

# Banter

JUNE 2021

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## FROM THE PODIUM

Even in a year of a global pandemic, the York Branch of AAUW remained committed to the empowerment of women through webinars, Town Halls and Zoom meetings on the National, state, and local levels.

- We kicked off the 2020-2021 year by celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. In the fall, we mourned the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a champion for the rights and equality of women, and exercised our right to vote in a Presidential election. Betty Hooker continued our Branch's commitment to the Get Out the Vote Project. Throughout the year, Carol Heintzleman kept us informed of public policy issues regarding education, redistricting, and equal pay for women.
- Our Scholarship Committees became the Higher Education Scholarship Committee to reflect the scope of its work more adequately. They identified a need to support high school students who are seeking dual enrollment at York College or Penn State York. A generous contribution from the daughter of our member, Marion Bowman, made in Marion's memory will support the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program
- Amber Seidel and Margaret Kremer, Program VPs, adapted to the challenges of COVID-19. They presented an interesting array of programs throughout the year that were informative, fun, and thought provoking.
- The Fundraising Committee, chaired by Nancy Buckley, conducted three new fundraisers, all of which were successful due to our member support. The results exceeded all expectations. Thank you all for your support!
- A new committee, the Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee, has been formed to explore how Branch can promote inclusion and diversity awareness for our members. the York
- We would like to thank the Board for all their wisdom, guidance, and support throughout the year. Everything was conducted from a distance and look what we have accomplished!

*Rita Meisenhelder & Barbara Woodmansee, Co-Presidents*

## JOINT BOARD MEETING – JUNE 22

In-coming and out-going Board members will meet virtually on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. Rita will email the agenda and then lead the meeting. Branch members are welcome to attend.

## THANK YOU FROM BARBARA WOODMANSEE

As I end my term as Co-President. I want to thank those who guided me through the last two years. I was fortunate to have had two very capable co-presidents as partners. Martha Fleischer's insight and Rita Meisenhelder's calming and thoughtful approach to problem solving helped the Branch move forward as we navigated through two unusual years. I am also grateful for having had the opportunity to serve with a very talented Board and with a membership strongly committed to AAUW's mission.

I wish the best for Rita Meisenhelder and Nancy Buckley, next year's Co-Presidents. Their success is assured because they will be serving with a strong and capable Board.

Thank you.  
Barbara Woodmansee

## THANK YOU, BARBARA

(As presented at the May 11, 2021 Branch meeting.)

We are here this afternoon to honor and thank Barbara Woodmansee, our Co-President, for her past two years of service to our Branch. I first knew of Barbara through AAUW. I knew who she was on sight. I knew that she worked for Access York. For many years before I returned to York, I knew, from my mother and sister, the high regard Access York had in the community. Barbara's reputation preceded her; others respected her. But I did not know her personally. However, I started to see her at political gatherings for a candidate we both supported. Not once, but a few times. Each time, we recognized each other and talked of our delight in our candidate who eventually won. She was always quick with a smile, friendly and gracious.

Over the years, I had wanted to help more with AAUW. I was not sure what that meant for me. However, when I heard that Barbara was going to be the next Co-President, I knew it was my time to get into the game. Plus, I wanted to get to know Barbara.

Due to this year of working with Barbara, I got to know her. I can tell you a few things about her. First, she is quick. As soon as an email would come to both of us, she was on top of it with a thoughtful and appropriate response. I thought, "Great, I have to pick up my pace to keep up with her!" Plus, she knew the goings on with AAUW PA and National. I thought, "Great, I have to learn all those details." I watched her easily and efficiently run meetings where she listened to all members and their positions on topics. I thought, "Where is that *Roberts Rules* book I had from high school?" I was overwhelmed in the beginning of this year. However, because Barbara was efficient, thoughtful, and patient, she was the mentor, and cohort, I needed for this year. Barbara had good intuitions, and always had additional questions and ideas for us to consider on various issues.

Barbara, I offer my thanks to you for this year. Due to the unusual circumstances this year for holding meetings, you steered all of us so that our Branch continued to communicate with each other and be active as much as possible. Best of all is our friendship.

*Rita Meisenhelder, Co-President*

## AAUW MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2021-2022

Your 2020-2021 membership officially ends on June 30, but please help your Membership Co-VPs **by sending your \$83 check to renew your membership by June 5**. This will ensure that you and your correct information are included in the next *Yearbook*.

We need the remaining time in June to track down those who have not responded to the call for membership renewal and to collate and tabulate the dues in order to get the state and national dues paid in a timely fashion. We also will be recording any 2021-2022 *Yearbook* information additions, deletions, or corrections for Betty Hooker.

Thank you for your help and your renewal!

*Sandy Cooley & Nancy Spataro, Membership Co-Vice Presidents*

## DUAL ENROLLMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SPONSORS

A profound “thank you” to all whose names appear below as well as those who contributed lesser amounts.

### Benefactors (\$250+)

Carol Anderson Nancy Buckley Betty Hooker Sue McMillan

### Angels (\$100)

Joan Beekey Lois Conaway Janice Cromer Donna Fulton Carol Heintzelman Lorraine Hovis  
Karen Koons Michele Latulippe Kathy Levey Carol Little Jane Long Arlene Martin  
Rita Meisenhelder Phyllis Millard Sydney Otte Linda Palmer Jean Quickel Suzanne Robertson  
Barbara Rooney Linda Rupert – *in memory of Marion Bowman* Mary Sue Shaw Doris Sterner  
Darla Stover Sally Wagman Sue Zitnick

### Patrons (\$75)

Susan Boyer Martha Fleischer Barbara Woodmansee

### Friends (\$50)

Marguerite Bernstine – *in memory of Ruthe Craley* Bonnie Bluett Ellie Bosserman Linda Keeler  
Anne McFeely Sandi Ream Susan Renoll Kay Roddy Deb Smyser Nancy Spataro Elaine Yates

## One Last Reminder to Donate to York Branch’s 2021 Dual Enrollment Scholarship Fund

York Branch’s Dual Enrollment Scholarship Fund supports high school students who wish to enroll in courses at Penn State – York or York College. The courses are offered at half price, and students receive high school credit and a head start on their college careers.

We welcome donations in any amount but remind you that if you contribute at least \$25, you will receive a recipe booklet containing previously unpublished Spring Market Faire Recipes, the best of the best published SMF recipes and some Legacy recipes from York Branch members.

## FRACKING IN PENNSYLVANIA UPDATE

Barbara Rooney and several other members researched and presented the Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Fracking Report in 2013 and 2016. Interested members can contact her for the updated research or for discussion.

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

A Great Reason to Engage in Public Policy: An Age Lab survey of adults 85 and up found that those who remained sharp into late old age were interested in social and political issues. So, stay socially vibrant, not just with friends but by being aware of the larger social world. It is more important than ever to stay engaged, since the pandemic has had a significant impact on women, especially women of color. Some state issues to follow over the summer include pay equity, minimum wage, paid leave, and redistricting. Have a great summer!

*Carol Heintzeman, Public Policy Chair*

## **AAUW ELECTION RESULTS: MEMBERS HAVE SPOKEN**

In case you didn't see the AAUW announcement email: Many thanks to the 28.67% of members who voted in AAUW's 2021 National Election. It took three days to reach the required quorum - a testament to our members' passion and engagement.

Julia Brown and Malinda Gaul were re-elected as board chair and vice chair, respectively, and Elizabeth Haynes and Joseph Bertolino will retain their board seats.

AAUW's public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters.

The board-recommended ballot initiative to remove the college-degree membership requirement did not receive the two-thirds vote required to enact a bylaws change. However, a remarkable 63% of you voted in favor of this change, indicating a momentum shift toward a more inclusive membership. Previously it had been less than 50%.

While we have many voices, all AAUW members share a commitment to advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. More than ever, we must embrace our values and continue to strive towards diversity, equity and inclusion. It's a journey that will never end.

Thank you for voting.

*Sue Zitnick, Bylaws Chair*

## **BANTER DEADLINE**

**AUGUST 24** is the deadline for articles for the **September Banter**

## **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.

## DAYTIME BOOK GROUP

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

We will not be meeting during the summer months. We hope to meet in person in September, when we will choose books for the upcoming year.

## EVENING BOOK GROUP – JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER

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

Note: We are meeting in the afternoon at 1:00 p.m. for now. Also, we are limiting attendance to 6 members so we can maintain social distancing. Please call Sue if you wish to attend to find out where we are meeting for that month. Plan on wearing a mask and bringing your own water/drink, at least for the summer.

**June 15:** *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster* by Bill Gates.

**July 20:** *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway.

**August 17:** *Simply Living Well* by Julia Watkins.

**September 21:** *Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century* by Jessica Bruder.

## 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.