



# Branch Banter

SEPTEMBER 2021

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## MEET AND GREET

**WHEN:** Tuesday, September 14  
**TIME:** 4:00 – 6:00 PM (Note change of usual time)

### PLEASE NOTE:

- 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.
- Guests may be invited and must follow mask and social distancing guidelines.

### PROGRAM:

We will be divided into groups and be given a question or idea to talk about. The groups and questions will change. It will be a nice way to say 'Hi' to everyone after the summer's break.

*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.

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

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 the York Food Bank for distribution to the needy.

## **2021-2022 BUDGET – VOTE AT MEETING**

We will vote on the 2021-2022 budget (attachment) at the September meeting.

## FROM THE PODIUM

Welcome back to the AAUW York Branch's 2021-2022 year. For our September Branch meeting, the Board has chosen to kick off the year by meeting outside. As COVID-19 is on the rise in our county and state, the Board felt we will be safer meeting outside than inside. Details of the meeting, plus COVID-19 precautions, are described above in the *Program* section.

In July, the AAUW PA held their Summer Retreat. Of the 32 Branches in the state, there were 70 attendees and 4 were from York. We learned that York had the most Gift Honorees and placed in the top 10 Branches for overall donations. As we learned that younger women tend not to join groups as in the past, Branches are looking to retain memberships rather than focusing on recruiting new members. Due to declining enrollments, some Branches are using an Executive Team (Past Presidents) rather than a traditional Board. A variety of program ideas was exchanged. Branches discussed using community partners for fund raising. The Five-Star National Recognition Program was described and discussed. Branches are urged to explore what they may already be doing to qualify for this honor. From the beginning to the end of the Retreat, we were delighted and honored to represent our dynamic Branch.

We, as Co-Presidents, look forward to starting anew. Join us for a committee you may not have known about or considered helping. Let us know what you may be interested in. Exciting and interesting things are happening in our community, our state, and on a national level. Let's band together and continue to make a difference. See you at the September meeting.

*Rita Meisenhelder & Nancy Buckley, Co-Presidents*

## BOARD MEETING

The September 7 Board meeting will be conducted virtually using Zoom. Rita 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.

## MEMBERSHIP

**Welcome!** to new member: Jennifer (Jenny) Sears. Her information is in your new *Yearbook*.

*Jean Quickel & Suzanne Robertson, Membership Vice Presidents*

## 2021-2022 YEARBOOKS

The *2021-2022 Yearbooks*, with 'Solar Yellow' covers, will be distributed at the September and October meetings. Yearbooks not picked up by October 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*

## BANTER DEADLINE

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

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ARLENE DECH**

A memorial service for long-time member Arlene Dech will be held on Friday, September 10, in York. The service is tentatively scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. I hope that many members will attend and share memories of Arlene with her children, Spencer and Nancy.

*Betty Hooker, Archives Chair*

## **SAD NEWS**

Long-time member, *Betty Bortner*, passed away on June 27, 2021. The cause of death was cancer. Betty joined AAUW in the mid-1990's and served as Co-Secretary from 2000 until 2007. Betty received the 'Outstanding Woman Award' in 2005 for her service to the Branch.

Many of us will remember Betty as our Hospitality Chair. She accepted this position in 2010 and arranged for outstanding refreshments until meetings were suspended in March of 2020. On special occasions, Betty would bring her homemade chocolate candy which was a special treat for all of us. Betty will be remembered for her cheerful, optimistic outlook on life. We will miss her.

*Flo Kachurak* passed away on August 17, 2021. Flo joined the Branch in 2015 and became active immediately, serving as Membership Co-Chair from 2017 until 2019. Flo enjoyed AAUW activities and treasured the friends she made through AAUW.

Flo moved to Maryland in 2020 to be closer to her son as she battled ovarian cancer.

*Betty Hooker, Archives Chair*

## **HOSPITALITY CHAIR NEEDED**

We are looking for a new Hospitality Chair, due to the passing of Betty Bortner. This person will manage arrangements for monthly refreshments at Branch meetings. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Rita Meisenhelter or Nancy Buckley.

## **AAUW FUND**

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) provides for hundreds of young women from around the United States to come together for three days of leadership training, inspiration, and networking. NCCWSL was founded more than three decades ago and has attracted over 10,000 student leaders. The workshops, panels, speakers, and activities provide opportunities to learn from experts and also provide peer networking.

To help provide funds for a NCCWSL scholarship, the York Branch will be participating in the *Bosco's* 'Friends Helping Friends' fundraising event. The \$5.00 shopping pass entitles the customer to save up to 25% off the lowest prices. This event will be on Wednesday, October 20, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Your shopping pass may be purchased at the September 14 Branch meeting. All \$5.00 will help support a NCCWSL scholarship.

*Jane Long, AAUW Fund 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.

## **EDUCATION STUDY GROUP**

COVID-19 has brought about so many changes in the field of education – in-person or online?, mask or mask free?, what should the history curriculum include? These quandaries are in addition to continuing concerns – how should education be funded?, what is the role of charter schools and are they fulfilling that role? Join the Education Committee at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 28, at Nancy Buckley's house to discuss your concerns. For more information, call Nancy.

*Nancy Buckley, Education Study Group Chair*

## **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

With the help of a dedicated group of volunteers, two successful fundraisers enabled AAUW York Branch to fund our scholarship program last year in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. What about this year? Shall we sell flower bulbs again? Is another Spring Market Faire possible in the foreseeable future? Bring your ideas and/or opinions to a meeting of the Fundraising Committee at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday September 21, at Nancy Buckley's house. For more information, call Nancy.

*Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair*

## **HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (HESC)**

The Higher Education Scholarship Committee is happy to announce the recipients of the Marion Bowman Memorial Dual Enrollment Scholarships for the fall 2021 semester:

Katelyn Lockamy (West York) – Penn State York, Intro to Psychology  
Melody Leubecker (York Suburban) – York College, American History  
Zinnia Pinkerton (York Suburban) – York College, General Psychology  
Autumn Miller (Central York) - York College, American History

In correspondence with these students, ALL have expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to AAUW for giving them this opportunity to jumpstart their college educations and career goals.

*Martha Fleischer & Nancy Spataro, HEFC Co-Chairs*

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

The 2022 election offers challenges and opportunities. Pennsylvania will be electing a Governor, U.S. Senator and all Representatives in the U.S. House and PA State House as well as some state senators. This is an opportunity to focus on AAUW issues. Candidates may be willing to sign onto some bills in order to appeal to the women's vote. It is an opportunity to discover where candidates stand on our issues. We will need to take all of this into consideration when casting our vote.

*Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair*

## **WRITE READ WRITE PROGRAM**

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 (Delta) virus, we are unable to determine whether it will be possible to conduct the Write Read Write program this school year. We will keep you posted.

*Jean Quickel & Suzanne Robertson, WRW Program Co-Chairs*

## **DAYTIME BOOK GROUP**

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

Because of the latest news regarding COVID-19, we will continue meeting via Zoom. Our next meeting will be on September 15 at 1:00 p.m. We will choose books to discuss during the upcoming year. Please have suggestions ready.

## **EVENING BOOK GROUP**

3rd Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. Betty Hooker

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 Betty 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.

September 21: *Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century* by Jessica Bruder  
October 19: *Promised Land* by Barack Obama.

## **BRIDGE GROUP**

Bridge resumes Wednesday, September 1, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Jenny Sears. Please call her if you are not yet signed up. Please note the new starting time.

We will break for lunch at noon. BYOSandwich.

Jenny recently joined AAUW and the Bridge Group. We extend a big welcome to her.

Hostesses for the coming months are: October, Anne McFeely; November, Karen

Julian; December, Janet Misiolek; January, Lois Kulp.

For information about the Bridge Group, please call Lois Kulp.

## **LUNCH A MONTH**

Lunch A Month will be held at the Stone Grill on Thursday, September 23, at 1:00 p.m. Make a reservation with Sandra Cooley *by September 18*. Hope to see you there.

## **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.