



Branch Banter

NOVEMBER 2021

JUSTSERVE.ORG: A VOLUNTEER COLLABORATIVE IN YORK COUNTY

PROGRAM:

Join us to learn about JustServe.org, a new initiative in York County. It is a website linking volunteers with community organizations that need their help. JustServe's service and website is non-discriminatory and free of charge to all in the community. Their goal is to build a better community.

Dr. Christopher L. Smith serves as a volunteer community outreach coordinator for JustServe.org. He is a Board-Certified practicing physician in York who completed his residency and fellowship at Johns Hopkins Medical Institute. Dr. Smith has served in various volunteer positions including providing free health care for war ravaged individuals in Kosovo, youth leader, teacher, and minister for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Margaret Kremer & Amber Seidel, Program Co-Vice Presidents, with Betty Hooker & Barbara Woodmansee

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new member Gina Christianson! Please add her to your *Yearbook*:

Jean Quickel & Suzanne Robertson, Membership Co-VPs

2021-2022 YEARBOOKS

Yearbooks that were not picked up at our September and October meetings were mailed after the October meeting. Please contact me if you have not received your *2021-2022 Yearbook*, and I will mail one to you.

Betty Hooker, Yearbook Chair

BANTER DEADLINE

November 22 is the deadline for articles for the December *Banter*.

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2!

FROM THE PODIUM

Autumn has arrived. The leaves are changing and there is a chill in the air. This is the time of year when one appreciates living in an area where we experience four seasons. November is a time of personal and communal awareness as we vote each year, and a time to give thanks for our country which affords freedoms of expression, thought, and the right to vote.

As we go to the polls or vote by mail this year, we are becoming increasingly cognizant that our local and state elections are as important as any national elections. The candidates for school board members have taken a more political slant than ever before. Issues that are so critical to AAUW, such as pay equity, fighting racism, parental leave, women's reproductive rights, childcare, and economic concerns for women because of COVID-19 are being determined at the state and local levels as well as nationally. Each vote can be effective in the improved wellbeing for our neighbors. In addition to your vote, know that you are making a difference by being part of the local, state, and national AAUW organization.

Effective October 18, 2021, AAUW announced that Gloria L. Blackwell is our new national CEO. Prior to her appointment, she served as Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer. Ms. Blackwell has over 30 years of experience with nonprofits. She states, "I stand in a unique place, and I plan to use my skills and expertise to build a new and stronger vision for AAUW. I vow to grow our impact across all communities and expand our commitment to infuse equity and inclusion in everything we do."

The recent Zoom conference presented by AAUW PA on *Increasing and Retaining Membership* yielded many helpful suggestions for making prospective members feel welcome in local branch functions. Representatives of Pennsylvania branches that have grown successfully stressed the need for a three-step process that begins with recruitment that leads to engagement in branch activities resulting in long-term retention.

Later this month, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving with our families and friends. As we celebrate, let us be thankful for the opportunities we share of advocating for justice for women. Happy Thanksgiving!

Rita Meisenhelder & Nancy Buckley, Co-Presidents

BOARD MEETING

The November 2 Board meeting will be conducted virtually using Zoom. Nancy will email the agenda a few days before and then lead the meeting, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

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.

PUBLIC POLICY

In spite of all the evidence pointing to the need for an increase in the PA minimum wage to a livable wage, no action has been taken by the legislature in Harrisburg. Groups that have taken the lead, like We the People and Raise the Wage PA, are focusing on the three bills that may have some chance of being heard in upcoming sessions: (1) SB672 – Increasing the Minimum Wage, sponsored by Sen. Dan Laughlin (R-Erie County) and Sen. Pat Browne (R-Lehigh County), proposes a one-time increase to \$10. Further increases would be dependent on inflation. Tipped wage would be 40% of the minimum wage; (2) SB12 – Comprehensive Modernization of the Minimum Wage, sponsored by Sen. Christine Tartaglione (D-Phil), proposes an immediate increase to \$12 with yearly increases reaching \$15 by 2027. Tipped wage would be eliminated; (3) HB345 – One Fair Wage is the House companion bill to SB12. The main sponsors are Rep. Patty Kim (D-Dauphin County) and Rep. Stephen Kinsey (D-Phil). At this time, the bill having the best chance of being brought up for consideration is SB672.

Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair

AAUW –YORK BRANCH LYNCH CREEK FARM FUNDRAISER!

Tired of the long, hot summer? Ready to think about wreaths, centerpieces, and other decorations for the winter season? Look over the possibilities available from Lynch Creek Farm. Supporting this fundraiser is easy:

1. Visit www.LynchCreekFundraising.com/c/275158
2. Be sure that you are on the page headed AAUW – York Branch
3. Make your selection by exploring a product category or by clicking on Shop Online
4. Do not forget to do your gift shopping as well!
5. Your purchases will be sent in early December to you or your designated recipient
6. Now reach out to your family and friends. Using the URL above, they can order directly from Lynch Creek Farm and our Branch will receive the rebate. Flyers will be available at the October meeting.

The sale continues through the first week of December, so the earlier orders are submitted, the more certain that supplies of your favorite selections will be available.

Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair

HOW TO ENGAGE IN COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS FREE WEBINAR

Current events in our nation have made it more important for leaders to engage in courageous conversations, even when they are difficult or make us feel uncomfortable. Engaging in open, authentic, truthful dialogue in an atmosphere of trust and respect is the key to effective leadership for improvement, especially on issues of race, gender, socioeconomics and other social justice topics. In this webinar, participants will understand how to create a safe space for courageous conversations to occur and strategies to initiate and facilitate meaningful interactions. Presented by Shileste Overton Morris, Ed.D., Director, Center for Schools and Communities

Thursday, November 18, 2021, 3-4:30 p.m. EST

To register and for more information: <http://thirdthursday.safeschools.info>

[This webinar was suggested by member Michelle Kern and approved by Co-Presidents Rita Meisenhelter & Nancy Buckley.]

DAYTIME BOOK GROUP

3rd Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. via Zoom Contact Linda Palmer
October 20: *Fifty Words for Rain* by Asha Lemmie Led by Linda Palmer

EVENING BOOK GROUP

3rd Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. Contact: Betty Hooker
Please note we are meeting Tuesday, November 23, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betty Hooker.
This is a change from the date announced in the October *Branch Banter*.

Please call Betty if you plan to attend. Plan on wearing a mask and bringing your own water/drink.

Tuesday, November 23: *Tidelands* by Phillipa Gregory.
Tuesday, December 21: *Dark Tides* by Phillipa Gregory.
Tuesday, January 18: *Peril* by Bob Woodward and Robert Costa

BRIDGE GROUP

Hostess for Bridge on Wednesday, November 3, at 10:00 a.m. is Lois Kulp, at her home.
Hostess for December 1 is Janet Misiolek.
We break at noon for lunch. Please bring a sandwich.
If you would like to join the Bridge Group or be a sub, please call Lois Kulp for information.

LUNCH A MONTH

The November Lunch will be at the First Post on Thursday, November 18, at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Sandy Cooley by November 13.

SUPPER CLUB

The Supper Club is on hold until further notice. If you are interested in helping to revive this interest group, please call 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.