



# Branch

# Banter

FEBRUARY 2022

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## HEALTHY AGING AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

**PROGRAM:** Megan Craley has been with the York Area Agency on Aging for 8 years. She has experience meeting with patients as a care manager to prevent readmission. Now, as the Health and Wellness Coordinator, she leads free health and wellness programs, carries out agency services presentations, attends community health and wellness fairs, organizes the York County Senior Games, and is part of three coalitions. She will be speaking to us about healthy aging and community programs available for seniors.

York County Area Agency on Aging has a variety of services available to York County adults 60+. Their focus is to empower older adults to maximize their quality of life and independence. They hope to help older adults age healthily by providing health and wellness programming, but they also set up services in people's home for those who are in need of more assistance. Their agency helps older adults to better understand Medicare and provides volunteer opportunities to stay active. Adult Protective Services is a growing need in our community, and they are there to investigate reports of need. Don't forget about Senior Games!

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

## FROM THE PODIUM

Holidays are over, the new year has begun – a perfect time to reflect. AAUW has done just that in the latest issue of *Mission and Action*, the national newsletter. Among the accomplishments:

- Outreach – sponsored STEM programs for young students; Start Smart, Money Smart, and Work Smart for college students
- Public Policy – Two-Minute Activist letter writing campaigns; Legal Advocacy Fund; Equal Pay Every Day roundtables
- Fellowships and Grants – awarded nearly \$5 million dollars
- Research – current projects include Racism and the Pay Gap; Retention of Women in Manufacturing; Pandemic Inequity

What an impressive list!

Our Branch has also accomplished a great deal despite COVID-19. From relevant Branch meetings to an innovative scholarship program for dual enrollment students to the Get Out the Vote program, we have implemented AAUW policy on the local level for nearly 50 years!

We all regret that we cannot meet in person as we approach our anniversary on April 1, but we encourage all our members to “come” join us at the next Zoom meeting on February 8.

*Nancy Buckley & Rita Meisenhelder, Co-Presidents*

## BOARD MEETING

The February 1 Board meeting will be conducted virtually using Zoom (see link above). Nancy 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.

## SAD NEWS

Long-time member Shirlee Smolin passed away on Saturday, January 15, at UPMC Memorial Hospital at the age of ninety-six.

Shirlee joined the York Branch in December 1984 and immediately became a leader, chairing the "Women's Work/Women's Worth" Study Group (1985-1987). Shirlee joined the Board as the Legislative Chair in 1988, keeping members informed of family and "Women's Issues" and pending legislation. She encouraged action!

Shirlee became York Branch president in 1993 and received the Branch's *Outstanding Woman Award* in 1997.

Shirlee's knowledge of family legislation was useful when she became the Branch representative to Child Abuse Council (1995-1996). At the same time, Shirlee was a Green Circle facilitator (1995-96). Shirlee served as the Gender Equity Representative to the Board from 1997-2001.

Travel was always near and dear to Shirlee's heart, and she founded the Travel Interest Group in 1996. This fun and educational group shared their firsthand experiences they had had on their world travels.

We will miss Shirlee's wit and wisdom. She was passionate about education, children's welfare and women's equality. She always had something interesting, thoughtful, and informative to say about current events and everything else!

*Betty Hooker, Archives Chair*

## PUBLIC POLICY

The Pennsylvania redistricting maps have been issued for the PA House and Senate. Spotlight PA, an independent, non-partisan newsroom powered by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* in partnership with PennLive/*The Patriot-News*, TribLIVE/*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* and WITF Public Media has set up a site you can search to see your old and new legislative districts. The maps were drafted and given initial approval by the Legislative Reapportionment Committee, a five-person panel made up of the four top legislative leaders from both major parties and a nonpartisan chair selected by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. These maps are not final. They are currently under a 30-day public comment period and could be subject to legal challenges after the final vote in January. Currently in the Pennsylvania House, Republicans hold 113 seats while Democrats hold 90. The new map decreases the number of districts where Republican candidates are projected to win based on past election results. It maintains the number of districts that are not majority white. In the Pennsylvania Senate, Republicans currently hold 28 seats while Democrats hold 21. There is one independent senator. The new map maintains the number of seats that Republicans are projected to win based on past election results. It also maintains the number of districts that are not majority white, while increasing the number of districts where minority communities account for 30%-40% of the voting-age population. Each district, whether House or Senate, offers a percentage breakdown by party registration and race and ethnicity comparing the old and new map. Search for your district to see how it would change. [https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2021/12/pennsylvania-redistricting-house-senate-districts-lookup-tool/?mc\\_cid=3dcda812aa&mc\\_eid=343f447f14](https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2021/12/pennsylvania-redistricting-house-senate-districts-lookup-tool/?mc_cid=3dcda812aa&mc_eid=343f447f14)

*Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair*

## OFFICER NOMINATIONS NEEDED

These are summaries of the duties of each of the officers we are seeking for the next year. Please consider serving our Branch in whatever capacity you are able so that we continue to be a vital organization within the York community.

### **Co-President: (May take turns at these responsibilities)**

- Preside at scheduled Board and Branch meetings
- Write the President's message for each issue of *Branch Banter*
- Be informed and remain up-to-date on AAUW issues, and convey important and pertinent information to other members

### **Program Co-VPs (share duties)**

- Supervise the development, planning and presentation of programs
- Write the program article for Page 1 of the *Banter* and send to Sue McMillan, editor, by the 24<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month
- Introduce speaker at the Branch meeting

### **Finance Officer:**

- Prepare monthly financial reports for Board and general meetings
- Keep filed records of deposits and expenses
- Cooperate with the Assistant Finance Officer in the preparation of the budget and the management of bi-yearly major fund-raising event records

### **Secretary:**

- Attend and take minutes at all Branch and Board meetings
- Distribute minutes to Board members in a timely manner
- Write correspondence as directed by the Board or President/Co-Presidents
- Maintain hard copies of records

*Carol Little, Martha Fleischer, & Darla Stover, Nominating Committee*

## DAYTIME BOOK GROUP

3rd Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. via Zoom Contact Linda Palmer  
February 16: *Dutch Girl* by Robert Matzen Led by Gayle Brass

## EVENING BOOK GROUP

3rd Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. Contact: Betty Hooker for information. Plan on wearing a mask and bringing your own water/drink.

Tuesday, February 15: *New Women in the Old West: From Settlers to Suffragists, An Untold American Story*, by Winifred Gallagher. We will meet at Betty Hooker's home.  
Tuesday, March 15: *While Justice Sleeps* by Stacy Abrams

## BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet at the home of Carol Little on Wednesday, February 2, at 10:00 a.m. We break at noon for lunch. Please bring a sandwich.  
For information about joining the group or becoming a sub, please call Lois Kulp.

## GAME GATHERING

We will Gather for Games on Saturday, February 12, at 12:30 p.m. (NOTE: time and day of the week have changed) at the home of Anne McFeely.

Please contact Anne to let her know you are available and find out what to bring to the potluck. We welcome new players. Call Anne or Karen Julian for more information.

## LUNCH A MONTH

The February Lunch will be held on Thursday, February 10, at 1:00 p.m. at The First Post. Please contact Nancy Spataro **by February 5**.

## TECH TIME SERVICES AT LOCAL LIBRARIES

Technology can be scary and frustrating, but there is help in our county! Free resource at our local libraries to help with technology issues or FAQs. Using these resources supports our libraries which are a vital part of our community.

<https://www.yorklibraries.org/library-services-programs/techttime/>

*Michelle Kern*

## BANTER DEADLINE

**February 23** is the deadline for articles for the March *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.

### *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.