



# Branch

# Banter

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JUNE 2022

## FROM THE PODIUM

What a year this has been for AAUW York Branch! As we began to plan for the 2021-2022 year, COVID was still running rampant. But we were determined not to let the pandemic deter us. Meeting on Zoom and in the park, weather permitting, we continued to work toward AAUW's mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through informative and inspirational programming. Not a single Branch meeting had to be cancelled!

Our interest groups also used innovative methods of gathering. New to our roster of interest groups is the Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee. In addition to reading and discussing *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent*, the group invited Dr. Joy Giguere to present to the Branch a program on *The Historical Construction of Race in America*.

The focus of our scholarship program changed this year in recognition of a pressing local need. Four recipients of our new Dual Enrollment Scholarship were able to take courses at local colleges while completing their final year of high school. In addition, we contributed generously to the AAUW National Greatest Needs Fund.

Thank you to all the Board and Branch members who made these achievements possible, particularly those retiring from the Board – Rita Meisenhelder, Margaret Kremer, Amber Seidel, Donna Fulton, and Launa Groft. We welcome to our Board Carol Anderson as Co-President, Carol Heintzelman and Lois Conaway as Program Vice Presidents, Betty Hooker as Secretary, and Bonnie Bluett and Judy Pena as Co-Finance Officers. Next year, it is our fervent hope that we will be able to meet in person.

Have a wonderful summer!

*Nancy Buckley, Co-President*

## JOINT BOARD MEETING – JUNE 14

In-coming and out-going Board members will meet at Nancy Buckley's home on June 14. Nancy will email the agenda and then lead the meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m. Branch members are welcome to attend Board meetings.

## THANK YOU FROM RITA

Thank you to the membership of the York Branch for giving me the opportunity of being your Co-President for the past two years. During this time, I have learned a great deal about the causes, reach, and influence that AAUW has in our country. It was a surprise to me that so many issues that are important to me are being supported by this organization. It has been an honor to represent you at the local and state levels. Sincerely,

*Rita Meisenhelder, out-going Co-President*

## PROGRAM IDEAS

If you have any suggestions for programs for our meetings, please send them to us. Thank you.

*Lois Conaway and Carol Heintzelman, Program Co-VPs*

## FUNDRAISING IDEAS

As the pandemic winds down (or at least goes into a holding pattern), the Fundraising Committee is seeking suggestions for fundraising methods that reach beyond the Branch for support. The ideal fundraiser would be less labor intensive than the Market Faire, would bring in people from the community, and would be more lucrative than this year's projects. If you have any ideas and/or would like to serve on the committee, please call or email me. Many thanks for your support.

*Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Chair*

## AN INVITATION

The ideas which found their way into the Constitution of the United States were discussed in essays which together are known as *The Federalist Papers*. If we ever did study them, most of us have pretty much forgotten what they have to say to us today.

Any of you with an interest in watching a series of Teaching Company lectures about these essays on DVD with me during the coming year, just contact me and we shall arrange an agreeable time to meet.

*Carol Anderson, Co-President*

## PUBLIC POLICY

The last in the series of AAUW Public Policy webinars *Exploring Tough Policy Issues Through An AAUW Lens* will address Title IX and the transgender issue on June 15. The speakers are Amal Bass from the Women's Law Project, who will talk about gender identity under Title IX, and Tessa Juste from GLSEN, who will talk about Why Transgender Rights are Women's Rights.

Did You Know - History Moments: In 1932, AAUW was appointed U.S. delegate to the General Disarmament Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. Also, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 occurs on June 23.

*Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair*

## HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (HESC)

The Higher Education Scholarship Committee is excited to submit the names of the following young women to the York Branch for the fall 2022 Dual Enrollment Scholarships:

- Emma Patterson - Susquehannock High School
- Elisee Okenge (pronounced L-ih-say O-ken-guh) - Dover High School
- Natalie Litvak - Spring Grove High School
- Jewel May - Red Lion High School

The dual enrollment coordinators at York College and Penn State York have been notified, along with contact information for each of the recipients, and the students have been given the contact information for the dual enrollment coordinators.

More information on these young women will be provided in the September *Banter* as plans are finalized over the summer.

*Nancy Spataro & Michelle Kern, HEFC Co-Chairs*

## 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.

## .DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSIVENESS AD HOC COMMITTEE

The Committee's April activities were well received by our members. Dr. Joy Giguere's presentation on *The Historical Construction of Race in America* at our Branch meeting was an eye opening presentation. The April Book Group discussed *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. There was a provocative discussion about the author's portrait of how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system.

Our members also were asked to complete a survey about diversity. The purpose was to inform the Committee about how important this issue is to you and to our Branch. We also anticipated that the survey would help guide us regarding the Committee's next steps. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. The summary of the responses is included in this *Banter*.

Please contact Rita Meisenhelder or Barbara Woodmansee if you are interested in joining the Committee. New members are welcome.

*Barbara Woodmansee & Rita Meisenhelder, DE&I Ad Hoc Co-Chairs*

## Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee Questionnaire

### Summary April/May 2022

#### 1. Thoughts about diversity:

Group of differences; accepting others; race; every individual has opportunities in every setting

#### 2. Most important challenges:

Race; cultural background; ethnicity; sexual orientation; gender; religion; age; physical disabilities

#### 3. What can we do as individuals to embrace diversity?

Listen to people who are different from me

Show acceptance; include people; read books that tell their stories

Recognize our shortfalls; evaluate our hidden thoughts; call out racism and intolerance when we see it

Educate ourselves; listen to others different than we are

Get involved in diverse groups and in our community; be open and friendly to individuals in all settings; try to understand and appreciate differences

Advocate for marginalized; explore acts both legal and personal designed to perpetuate exclusion

#### 4. What can we do as a Branch to positively impact diversity and inclusion in our community?

Include others in our Branch; have handouts available; work on exciting our members about changing minds and perceptions

Invite speakers from other organizations and support their projects

Help to provide awareness of issues and the opportunity for safe discussions

Have diverse speakers on familiar or diverse topics

Partner with community groups focusing on race relations

#### 5. What do you need to be better informed about diversity and inclusion?

Discussions with others different from me and continue to read books by Black authors

Be aware of suggested books and movies

Attend positive programs on diversity and inclusion

Hear about successes or challenges from people who are trying to make changes in the community

Testimony from those other than White Anglo Saxons

Study Groups

Listen to media outlets that care to focus on discrimination and ethnicity

#### 6. Did Dr. Giguere's presentation help you understand the importance of diversity?

Yes. Everyone wants Dr. Giguere to come back for another presentation.

"It especially helped me realize that racism was always part of our culture."

## DAYTIME BOOK GROUP

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

We will not meet in June or July. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 17, at 1 p.m. on Zoom when we will choose the books to be discussed in the upcoming year.

## BRIDGE GROUP

Carol Anderson will host the Wednesday, June 1, Bridge game in her home at 10:00 a.m. Please bring a sandwich for lunch.

Bridge will continue throughout the summer. For information about the group, please call Lois Kulp.

## GAME GATHERING

The Game group will resume play in the fall. Contact Karen Julian for more information.

## LUNCH A MONTH

Our June Lunch will be held on Tuesday, June 7, at 1:00 p.m. at The Conewago Inn. Please RSVP **by June 1** to Kay Roddy. I hope to see you there in June!

There will be no Lunch A Month in July or August. In September, we will resume with a lunch at the Stone Grille. Enjoy your summer!

### *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.