



Branch Banter

DECEMBER 2022

THE IMPORTANCE OF AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY

WHEN: Tuesday, December 13 4:00 p.m.
Business meeting follows program

WHERE: York Alliance Church, 501 Rathton Road, York
▪ Masks optional; please bring your own refreshments if you wish.

PROGRAM: An independent judiciary is central to our democracy and the preservation of public trust in the Rule of Law. Retired Judge John Uhler will explore the genesis of an independent judiciary, its implications on the justice system, and its impact on the judicial ethics.

John Uhler, retired Judge and Counsel at CGA law firm, is a graduate of Bucknell University and the Dickinson School of Law. He served as a Senior Law Clerk in the Federal Court and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. He was elected District Attorney of York County and elected Common Pleas Judge of York County, in which position he was elected President Judge and later a Senior Judge. He served as President of the Board of the York County Bar Foundation and serves on the Board of Crispus Attucks. He is an active member of the York Rotary Club's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Committee.

Guests are always welcome. Come to meet one of York County's "most influential lawyers for 2022," according to the York Sunday News.

Lois Conaway & Carol Heintzelman, Program Co-Vice Presidents

FROM THE PODIUM

Carol and I (on behalf of all your fellow members) wish you a Happy Holiday Season!

Nancy Buckley, Co-President

BOARD MEETING

The December 6 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. Branch members are welcome to attend Board meetings.

AAUW FUND

Thanks to everyone who purchased a Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" shopping pass. A total of \$155.00 was raised with this fundraiser. The money will help support a NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) scholarship.

Jane Long, AAUW Fund Chair

BRANCH AWARDS

York Branch is given the opportunity to present three awards annually through the sponsorship of our state organization, AAUW-PA. The honorees are recognized by AAUW-PA, and members receive a certificate recognizing their accomplishments.

The **Gateway to Equity Award** is given to individuals or organizations that have shown by action and philosophy that they advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, or research. This award is selected by the Branch Board members.

The **Member Making a Difference Award** is given to a member who has made a big difference in something important to the branch within the last year. This person need not be an officer or a committee chair.

Outstanding Woman Award

- She has provided meritorious service to the branch and the community over multiple years.
- She may not be the current president.
- The state allows two nominees.

Other Optional Awards:

York Branch Special Honoree – may be given to someone who has been active for many years who deserves recognition but does not qualify for the other awards.

AAUW-PA Special Honoree – This award is given by the State Board to someone who has been active at both the State and Branch levels or has given extraordinary service to the local branch,

Check our Yearbook for past honorees. Please submit your nominations **in writing by January 15**, and please give examples of the person's accomplishments.

You may send an email or a note via mail to Lois Conaway. Thank you for your suggestions. A committee of past recipients will select the 2023 honorees.

Lois Conaway, Awards 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.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Last month, Michelle Kern wrote an interesting and thought-provoking article for the *Banter* regarding pronouns in current work and social environments. The DE&I Committee met last week and agreed that we would like to get your thoughts on this issue. Bring yours to the next Branch meeting to inform the committee.

Upcoming events that the DE&I Committee is looking forward to are occurring in January. Nicole Shaffer of the Coalition Against Racism will be our January speaker. She will inform us of the Coalition's purpose and actions throughout York County. There may be volunteer opportunities for members of our Branch. Secondly, in conjunction with the Book Group, we invite all Branch members to read a fascinating book, *The Personal Librarian*, in the new year. The Book Group will be discussing it on Wednesday, January 18, at 1:00 p.m. Watch for more information for both these events in the January 2023 *Banter*.

Come join our interesting, enlightening, and fun group discussions. Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 20, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Rita Meisenhelder & Barbara Woodmansee, DE&I Co-Chairs

EDUCATION ISSUES ACTION GROUP

Update on cyber charter school issues:

Betty Hooker and I have done some research, and have found that this past spring, in the budget bill, the Pennsylvania legislature passed measures to make cyber charter schools more accountable, with greater transparency of their spending as well as student achievement, bringing them in line with the Right to Know Act and State Ethics Act, similar to requirements already in place for public school districts. There are still funding fairness issues to be addressed, but at this time, there is no legislation pending, and likely will not be until after January, when the new legislative session begins.

We have decided to join with AAUW-PA in addressing current education issues. At this writing, a court ruling on the funding formula for public schools is imminent. The issue is that the PA Constitution requires that all students receive equal education opportunities. A suit alleges that the current funding, based on property taxes, is punitive to students in districts with less wealth, and therefore does not meet that constitutional requirement.

We also are hoping that more members will join us in a long-term project to publish a booklet featuring current local public-school teachers who make a difference in their students' lives.

Carol Little, EIA Group Chair

BANTER DEADLINE

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

WINTER FUNDRAISERS

This winter, we have selected two options, both of which will help you brighten your homes for the holiday season. Both involve ordering online and delivery to your home.

Amaryllis and Paperwhite Sale

Choose from amaryllis bulbs in a variety of colors and paperwhites.

To view the catalog and place your orders, visit <http://AAUWYork.fpfundraising.com>

Place orders by December 1 for delivery before Christmas.

Holiday Greenery

Lynch Creek Farm grows and processes the greens specifically for the wreaths, centerpieces, and garlands so the items you order will arrive fresh and beautiful. You select the shipping date. See <http://www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/299649> to view the catalog and place your order.

Please share the URLs with family and friends.

Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

We are pleased to announce that three York County senior students are taking Dual Enrollment courses this semester: Elise Okenge at Dover HS and York College; Emma Patterson at Susquehannock HS and York College; Jewel May at Red Lion HS and Penn State York.

Last year, four young women completed their courses. Now our committee is connecting with four more county high schools to seek worthy student scholars for next year's fall semester program.

The Marion Bowman Memorial Scholarships was endowed with \$12,000.00 by her daughter Marya Bowman, who recently moved from the United States to Germany. We are deeply appreciative of this generous donation in Marion's name to our Branch's Scholarship Fund. It has helped us to continue, in spite of the pandemic, to financially assist these local young women in their pursuit of higher education.

Nancy Spataro & Michelle Kern, HESC Co-Chairs, & Martha Fleischer, Committee Member

PUBLIC POLICY

The Dignity of Incarcerated Women bill (HB 1419) provides for better health care and rights for our PA incarcerated women. AAUW-PA will be one of the organizations that has signed on to a letter that is requesting a Democratic member of the Senate to assume responsibility for the introduction and ultimate passage of the bill so it can reach the Governor's desk this year. We are proud to partner with organizations that support the rights of women.

Carol Heintzleman, Public Policy Chair

BOOK GROUP

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

December 21: *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson

If you are interested in joining a discussion, you can request a list of discussion questions.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet Wednesday, December 7, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Anne McFeely. Gayle Brass will host the January session.

New players and subs are invited to join us. For information, call Lois Kulp.

GAMES GROUP

Saturday, December 17, beginning at noon, continuing until we feel like quitting! At the home of Carol & Brad Little.

I will be serving Chicken Normandy-style as the main dish for our covered dish luncheon. Anyone in AAUW is welcome, with or without Significant Others. Please let me know if you would like to come.

LUNCH A MONTH

Join our convivial ladies for lunch on Thursday, December 15, at 1:00 p.m., at historic and beautiful Altland House Grill.

Sign up at the Branch meeting or contact Martha Fleischer via phone or text or email by December 14. If you have any questions please let me know.

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.