



Branch Banter

FEBRUARY 2023

IMPACT OF TITLE IX

PROGRAM: Jen Muston, Head Women's Lacrosse Coach, Assistant Athletic Director at York College, and SWA (senior woman administrator) will share her experiences with Title IX during her career. She has been at York College since the fall of 2007 and has had a very successful record as the Spartan coach and as one of the top coaches in the region. She also has attended a few NCAA Conventions and has been a part of the senior leadership team in YCP Athletics.

Jen previously served as an assistant lacrosse coach at Goucher College where she earned her master's degree in education. She began her coaching career at the University of Maryland Baltimore County following her graduation from UMBC, where she had an outstanding career as a four year starting player and captain her senior year.

We look forward to hearing how she has been affected by Title IX as a student and as a coach.

Lois Conaway & Carol Heintzeman, Program Co-Vice Presidents

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Fundraising Committee has begun planning for a tea party to be held in the Spring of 2023. This promises to be an exciting departure from our traditional Spring Market Faire. The tentative plan is to hold a catered tea featuring entertainment and a basket raffle or silent auction. We are in the process of determining the feasibility of using the Yorktowne Hotel as our venue. Our next meeting will be February 23 at 10 a.m. at Nancy Buckley's house and we welcome anyone who is interested to attend.

Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair

BOARD MEETING

The February 7 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.

FROM THE PODIUM

As storm warnings once again flash across our TV screens, preparing us yet again for snow that may or may not materialize, it is difficult to imagine that the time has come to begin preparations for the next AAUW year. On the local, state, and national levels, we are being called to make decisions that will ensure that AAUW can continue to fulfill its mission.

Recent emails from National called attention to Bylaws changes that have been proposed for our consideration as part of the annual business meeting. Most are simple changes in terminology that do not affect the intent of the existing Bylaws. A more significant change is the abbreviation of our AAUW Mission from “to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy” to “to advance equity for women and girls.” The rationale is that this conforms to the format expected in paperwork filed with the government.

Public Policy Priorities, a comprehensive list of goals focusing on equity for women and girls in education, economic security, equality, individual rights, and social justice, will remain the same. A complete listing of these priorities is available at aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/

National elections, in which every member can participate, take place April 5 – May 17.

York Branch is seeking candidates for the following positions:

- Co-President – 2 year term
- Co-Program Vice President – 2 year term
- Co-Membership Vice President – 2 year term
- Co-Finance Officer – 2 year term

If you would like to be considered for any of these positions, please contact me and I will refer your name to the Nominating Committee.

Nancy Buckley, Co-President

PUBLIC POLICY

The Dobbs decision reaches far beyond the abortion issue. There are coalitions forming to address the possible amendment contained in SB 106 – note: this number will change in the next session. In order for the constitutional amendment to make it to the ballot, it must be passed in a successive session with the exact same language. AAUW-PA will keep us posted on the progress of these coalitions and how AAUW members can get involved. In the meantime, here are some resources:

AAUW National: Where We Stand: Reproductive Rights
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/position-repro/>

Planned Parenthood: Where is Abortion Illegal? / Abortion Limits by State
<https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/abortion-access-tool/US>

Carol Heintzeman, Public Policy Chair

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

As sponsored by the DE&I Committee and in conjunction with the Program Vice Presidents, Nicole Shaffer of the Coalition Against Racism (CRC) was the speaker at our January Branch meeting. She informed us of the Coalition's history, purpose, and actions throughout York County since 2018. Here are highlights of the evening's enlightening presentation:

CRC Mission: To create sustainable change by breaking down systemic racial barriers and promoting healing, equity, and inclusion for all.

CRC Vision: York County is a place where differences are valued and equity prevails.

CRC's Community Agreements:

- Breathe
- Stay engaged
- Experience discomfort
- Speak your truth
- Listen for understanding
- Honor confidentiality
- Expect and accept non-closure
- Centering on BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, & People of Color)

Come join our interesting group discussions. Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 3, at 10.30 a.m. via Zoom.

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

EDUCATION ISSUES ACTION GROUP

This year, 2023, is a municipal election year, and that means school board candidates will be on the ballot. In normal times, this is a low voter turnout situation, with little enthusiasm or controversy. This year, however, some extremist groups have organized with the intention of "packing" local school boards with candidates who will attempt to implement their political agenda with specific policies that reflect their own point of view.

You may ask: I don't have kids in my local schools; why should I care who gets elected to the school board?

Here's why:

When extremists enact policies like book bans or discriminatory regulations, they end up spending taxpayers' money and energy and resources of administrative staff to defend lawsuits instead of focusing on the best education for the students.

The quality of education in a school district affects the *value of your home* or property.

Perhaps most importantly, what children are taught in school affects their ultimate attitudes, their critical thinking ability, their voting patterns as adults, and, consequently, it affects the overall character of our community.

As the primary season gets closer, we will be publishing some things to watch or listen for in the candidates, and, I hope, questions you can ask candidates.

Carol Little, EIA Group Chair

BOOK GROUP

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

February 15: *Travels With George* by Nathaniel Philbrick

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

BRIDGE GROUP

Bridge Group will meet Wednesday, February 1, at 10:00 a.m., at the home of Jenny Sears. Please bring a sandwich. We welcome a new member, Nancy Rexrode, to our group. She recently rejoined the York Branch. For information, call Lois Kulp.

GAMES GROUP

Games Group will be meeting next on Saturday, February 25, at noon at Lois Kulp's home. We enjoy a delicious pot-luck followed by games till 4:00 p.m. Usual group games are Pictionary, Guesstures, and/or the original Trivial Pursuit. If you would like to join us, call Lois.

Anne McFeely, Chair

LUNCH A MONTH

Please join us at The First Post on Thursday, February 23, at 12 noon, for lunch and time to visit. Contact Suzanne Robertson to confirm that you will be attending.

LUNCH A MONTH – MARCH

Please join us for lunch at Iron Horse York on Wednesday, March 22, at 1 p.m. If you are planning to attend, please contact Donna Fulton. Hope to see you there!

BANTER DEADLINE

February 22 is the deadline for articles for the March *Banter*.

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.