



Branch

Banter

APRIL 2023

THE 19TH AMENDMENT

WHEN: Tuesday, April 11 7:00 p.m.

Business meeting follows program

WHERE: York Alliance Church, 501 Rathton Road, York

PROGRAM: June Burk Lloyd, Librarian Emerita at the York County History Center, will speak on *Anna Dill Gamble and the York County Fight for Women Suffrage in Pennsylvania 1914-1915*. This PowerPoint program outlines the great variety of activities in which York County women heartily participated during the nineteen-teens to persuade men, who were the only ones who could vote at the time, to extend that right to women.

June Burk Lloyd researches and writes print and digital articles and books on many aspects of regional history. She holds degrees in History from York College and American Studies from Penn State Harrisburg.

Lois Conaway & Carol Heintzelman, Program Co-Vice Presidents

GET OUT THE VOTE

Municipal Primary Election

May 16, 2023

Last Day to register – May 1

Last Day to request Mail-in and Absentee Ballots – May 9

Check this website for more information:

<http://www.vote.pa.gov//Pages/default.aspx>

The York County Elections and Voter Registration Office opened a new location.

The new office address is: 2401 Pleasant Valley Road

Suite 219 York, PA 17402

The original location in the Administrative Center in York City remains open at:

28 East Market Street B003 York, PA 17401

Both locations can manage your requests, with one exception: the York City office cannot provide reports, walking lists, street lists, etc.

Betty Hooker, Get Out the Vote Chair

FROM THE PODIUM

As we welcome Spring, we look forward to the opportunity to meet in person at Alliance Church. For far too long, when, how, and if we can come together has been foremost in our minds.

At our meeting on April 11, we will hear about the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, the amendment that enables our voices to be heard as we cast our ballots in local, state, and national elections.

It seems highly appropriate that, at the same meeting, we will elect officers for the coming AAUW year. We also will be given detailed instructions for renewing our membership in AAUW electronically.

In short, we will be making our voices heard within our Branch. Perhaps even more importantly, we will have an opportunity to chat with friends we have missed these past few years.

Nancy Buckley, Co-President

BOARD MEETING

The April 4 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.

VOTE – NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS FOR 2023-2025 – VOTE

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates:

Co-President: Vacancy

Co-Membership Vice-Presidents: Martha Fleischer & Joan Beekey

Co-Finance Officers: Bonnie Bluett (2 years) & Judy Pena (1 year)

Secretary: Sue McMillan

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Fundraising Committee is pleased to announce that plans are evolving to hold a fundraising luncheon at the Country Club of York on April 28, 2024. The meal will be catered but we will need your help with a variety of tasks including soliciting sponsors, arranging publicity, ticket sales, etc. A sign-up sheet will be on the table at our Branch meeting.

Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair

BANTER DEADLINE

April 24 is the deadline for articles for the May *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, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

This article is Part 1 of 2 in learning what we can do to end racism in our community. The article was written by the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

EVERYDAY WAYS TO FIGHT RACISM (PART 1)

1. Learn to recognize and understand your own privilege.

One of the first steps to eliminating racial discrimination is learning to recognize and understand your own privilege. Racial privilege plays out across social, political, economic, and cultural environments. Checking your privilege and using your privilege to dismantle systemic racism are two ways to begin this complex process.

However, race is only one aspect of privilege. Religion, gender, sexuality, ability-status, socio-economic status, language, and citizenship status can all affect your level of privilege. Using the privileges that you have to collectively empower others requires first being aware of those privileges and acknowledging their implications.

2. Examine your own biases and consider where they may have originated.

What messages did you receive as a kid about people who are different from you? What was the racial and/or ethnic make-up of your neighborhood, school, or religious community? Why do you think that was the case? These experiences produce and reinforce bias, stereotypes, and prejudice, which can lead to discrimination. Examining our own biases can help us work to ensure equality for all.

We encourage you to check out the PBS documentary, "Race: The Power of Illusion", which tackles the social construct of race in the United States.

3. Validate the experiences and feelings of people of color.

Another way to address bias and recognize privilege is to support the experiences of other people and engage in tough conversations about race and injustice. We cannot be afraid to discuss oppression and discrimination for fear of "getting it wrong." Take action by learning about the ways that racism continues to affect our society. For example, by watching documentaries, such as 13th, or reading books, such as "Americanah" or "Hidden Figures". The best way to understand racial injustice is to listen to people of color.

4. Challenge the "colorblind" ideology.

It is a pervasive myth that we live in a "post-racial" society where people "don't see color." Perpetuating a "colorblind" ideology actually contributes to racism. It is impossible to eliminate racism without first acknowledging race. Being "colorblind" ignores a significant part of a person's identity and dismisses the real injustices that many people face as a result of race. We must see color in order to work together for equity and equality.

The next DEI Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 10:30 AM via Zoom.

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

INVITATION TO SUPPORT A LOCAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FUNDRAISER

The York Women's Association asks for our support for their fundraising Bingo on April 22 at the New Freedom Community Center, from 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Benefits the Children's Aid Society - Lehman Center. \$25.00-\$30.00 tickets and additional information are available on their website <https://www.yorkwomensassociation.com>

Carol Anderson, Co-President

EDUCATION ISSUES ACTION GROUP

Pay attention! It's getting complicated, but it's important!

Recent court ruling ordering the legislature to come up with a fairer way to fund public schools equally across the state: Our governor called the ruling a “call to action” and urged GOP lawmakers against filing an appeal, which would only increase costs and prolong an unfair situation. Shapiro acknowledged that developing a new funding formula will take time, saying his budget proposal “is the first step.”

“It will take all of us — Republicans and Democrats; teachers and administrators; students and families; advocates and community leaders,” Shapiro said. “It will take all of our ideas for not just how many dollars we set aside from the state for public education but how we drive those dollars out to local districts adequately and equitably.”

Currently, Pennsylvania ranks 45th in the nation in percentage of state funding to its public schools.

Level Up funding not increased: This initiative, which is basically a patch, was created in 2021 with strong bipartisan support to address the gap in funding for the state's poorest 100 districts. Under the Governor's proposed budget, it will remain at \$225 million. Advocates such as Education Voters of Pennsylvania are hoping to convince legislators to increase it.

The budget also includes a 2% decrease in funding for the state system of higher education. This leads to increases in student debt, or the exclusion of many students from a college education.

The Education Committee will be drafting letters for you to send to your state legislators and letters to the editors of the local newspapers.

And then there's the school board races: Pay close attention to what the candidates in your district are saying as they begin their campaigns. If you have the opportunity, ask about book bans and what role they envision for board members.

Carol Little, EIA Group Chair

THE TWO MINUTE ACTIVIST

At the March Board meeting, Martha Fleischer and Barbara Woodmansee asked me to check with AAUW National to see if *The Two Minute Activist* was still being published. *The Two Minute Activist* was an online publication that highlighted one of National's issues each month and asked members to contact their Congressional Representatives and Senators in support of the issue. Contact with National seemed to indicate that it was no longer being published as a separate item, but is now included in the email publications of the National Public Policy Committee in order to reduce the number of mailings to members. The staff member indicated that she would check further about this concern and get back to Martha, Barbara and me. At this point, I have not heard back from National AAUW.

Carol Heintzeman, Public Policy Chair

PUBLIC POLICY

Here is a brief update of bills that have been introduced in Congress or that are expected by AAUW will be introduced in the coming months:

1. ERA: The resolutions, S.J. Res 4 in the Senate and H.J. Res. 25 in the House, were reintroduced in Congress to remove the ratification deadline for the ERA. These measures would allow Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia to count towards ratification, and the ERA would finally become the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
2. The Paycheck Fairness Act is expected to be reintroduced in March, most likely around March 14, the "Big Day" representing the overall pay gap for all women.
3. Job Protection Act: Expands the FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act) which celebrated the 30th anniversary of its passage on February 2. The bill reduces the employment period required for employees to become eligible for family and medical leave from 12 months to 90 days and makes the family and medical leave requirements applicable to all employees. (Currently, it only applies to employers with 50 or more employees).

Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair

BOOK GROUP

3rd Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. via Zoom Contact Linda Palmer
April 19: *The Marvelous Lives of Marjorie Post* by Allison Pataki

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet at the home of Carol Little on Wednesday, April 5, at 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Please bring a sandwich for our lunch break. Contact Carol to let her know you are coming. For more information, call Lois Kulp.

GAME GROUP – MAY

Our lunch and Game Group will be held Saturday, May 6, at 12 noon. Our host is Martha Fleischer and husband Tom. We are open to new participants. Please RSVP to Martha.

LUNCH A MONTH

Lunch a Month will meet on Wednesday, April 26, at 1:00 p.m., at the Altland House.. Please contact Betty Hooker if you wish to attend.

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.