



Branch

Banter

SEPTEMBER 2023

WHAT WAS YOUR SUMMER READING?

WHEN: Tuesday, September 12
6:30 p.m. Social Time & Used Book Sale
7:00 p.m. Informal Program followed by Business Meeting

WHERE: York Alliance Church, 501 Rathton Road, York

PROGRAM: Following the book sale, we will take some time for everyone who wishes to share your favorite summer reading. We are not looking for a book review, just a brief description and maybe why you liked the book. If you were otherwise occupied, you are welcome to share something special that you did over the summer.

Come and find out what is planned for the coming year across the many projects and activities in our Branch.

You may provide your own beverage if you wish. Water and light refreshments will be available.

You are encouraged to bring a friend.

Lois Conaway & Carol Heintzeman, Program Co-Vice Presidents

USED BOOK SALE AT SEPTEMBER MEETING!

The Book Group will be conducting the Used Book Sale at the September 12 Branch meeting. **Members may bring their donations of books that other members would be interested in to the York Alliance Church that afternoon between 3 and 3:30 or before the meeting that evening.**

DISPOSABLE UNDERWEAR DRIVE AT THE SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING SEE YOU AT 6:30 P.M. – IN THE PARKING LOT

Many families are struggling to buy disposable underwear for elderly adults during these challenging times. Please help the less fortunate in our community by bringing a donation of adult disposable underwear or wipes to the September Branch meeting. Betty Hooker will be collecting donations in her car (a white Camry sedan) in the parking lot prior to the meeting. The donations will go to Representative Carol Hill-Evans for distribution to the needy.

Betty Hooker

FROM THE PODIUM

This, an experience when nearly simultaneous and discrete events emphasize the same idea, just happened to me. What I heard at the AAUW PA Retreat one day was echoed the next day in church.

The new CEO of AAUW, Gloria Blackwell, and PA Representative Keynote Speaker, Donna Bullock, both made clear that we need to continue to labor in the good fight for equality. Ms. Blackwell reviewed our present status and asked that we honor our legacy with our energy and commitment. Ms. Bullock spoke forcefully of her experience in a legislature of largely white men. She entered office 8 years ago, acting as “the angry black woman.” (Making others uncomfortable was not her problem.) She found, however, that collegiality and finding areas in which white men might have personal interest brought some success. But still, when she proposes legislation to benefit her constituents, she finds no reciprocity; the response is that it is not yet the right time. She told us that largely marginalized black women are tired of carrying the burden of achieving our common goals.

Sunday’s hymn included the line, “Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.”

Carol Anderson, President

BOARD MEETING

The September 5 Board meeting will be conducted virtually using Zoom. Carol will email the agenda prior to the meeting, which will begin at 10:00 a.m. Branch members are welcome to attend Board meetings.

2023-2024 YEARBOOKS

The *2023-2024 Yearbooks*, with vivid magenta covers, will be distributed at the September meeting. *Yearbooks* that are not picked up by the October meeting will be mailed.

Special thanks to Sue McMillan for her proofreading help, for arranging to have the Yearbooks printed at York College, and for stapling the books together.

Betty Hooker, Yearbook Chair

2023-2024 BUDGET – VOTE AT MEETING

We will vote on the *2023-2024* budget at the September meeting. For any questions, contact Bonnie or Judy Pena.

Bonnie Bluett, Co-Finance Officer

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

We will present some recommended procedural changes at the October Branch meeting. They will be included in the October *Banter*.

Nancy Spataro, HESC Chair

MEMBERSHIP

Greetings and 'thank you' to each of you who rejoined or joined our York Branch for the coming year. We currently have 57 members. Of those, six are Lifetime Members who either paid for or were gifted Lifetime membership at the National level some years ago. We also have four Honorary Members who achieved 50 years of AAUW membership! They are now rewarded with free membership at National, State and Branch levels. We expect to have more Honorary members within a few years.

Please keep our organization in mind when you meet old or new friends. Let them know about AAUW's education and equity mission and our friendly York Branch. Invite them to a Branch meeting or an interest group. We can offer half price on National dues for new members who join at our meetings or events. Contact one of us for additional details.

Martha Fleischer & Joan Beekey, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

AAUW FUND

Each year, AAUW invites hundreds of college women from around the United States for three days of leadership training, inspiration and networking at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). NCCWSL was founded more than three decades ago and has attracted over 10,000 student leaders.

This past fiscal year, the York Branch provided a scholarship to a Penn State York student to attend NCCWSL in June, 2023. To help provide funds for a 2024 scholarship, the York Branch will be participating in Boscov's 'Friends Helping Friends' fundraiser. The \$5.00 discount shopping pass entitles the customer to save up to 25% off the lowest sale price. The event will be held Wednesday, October 18, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. This would be a perfect time to purchase some Christmas gifts for your family and friends. Your shopping pass may be purchased at the September 12 or October 10 Branch meeting. All \$5.00 will help support the York Branch NCCWSL scholarship.

Jane Long, AAUW Fund Chair

SPRING LUNCHEON APRIL 28, 2024

April 2024 seems so distant, but there is much to do in preparation for our fundraising luncheon. In the months to come, the Fundraising Committee will need your time and talent to prepare for this gala event. At our recent meeting, we compiled a list of subcommittees that will enable us to divide the responsibilities while enabling every member to contribute to the success of this venture. Please go over this list and email Nancy Buckley with your selection and/or your questions. The more helpers we recruit, the less work for each of us!

Entertainment

Sponsorships and Donations

Printed Materials

Publicity

Decorations

Displays

Ancillary Fundraisers

Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair

AAUW-PA SUMMER RETREAT – July 28th and 29th WOMEN TOGETHER – Fighting on the Front Line

After a pleasant ride, Nancy Buckley and I pulled into the parking area at Gettysburg College right behind Carol Anderson. The day was off to a good start.

We began the day with goodies and a hearty welcome. Long-time AAUW-PA Public Policy Board Member, Barbara Price, was recognized for her service to the Board and to the State.

Then, break-out sessions were held. I chose to attend “Programming for Branch Meetings and a Fundraising Suggestion” which discussed having a plant and flower sale with plants provided by a local business. Then came “Boots on the Ground for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.” The State College Branch described a book group that meets bi-monthly and exclusively discusses books related to DEI.

After a tasty lunch in the Atrium, we heard a first-hand account of working on women-friendly legislation in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from the Honorable Donna Bullock.

Next, our own York Branch President, Carol Anderson, and immediate Past President, Nancy Buckley, joined the Doylestown Branch to present a program on “Scholarships for Minority Women and Women with Financial Need.” The day ended with remarks from Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW Chief Executive Officer.

It was a stimulating day with two good surprises – the parking lot was closer than expected, and the food was better than anticipated (after listening to descriptions from my granddaughter, a 2023 Gettysburg grad)!

Betty Hooker

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

As we enter Fall, after our summer break, the DEI Committee wants to continue its work to enlighten our membership regarding the history and current trends of diversity, equity, and inclusion for all. We know that it is important for us to understand what these issues mean to us personally as well as how they relate to us as AAUW members.

One of the Committee’s projects was to provide the membership with a list of books that could expand our awareness of these issues. A Summer Reading List was published in the June *Banter*. We hope the list provided you with some interesting reading material during the summer. If anyone has a question about a book or has another recommendation, please contact Rita Meisenhelder or Barbara Woodmansee. We always welcome your input.

The DEI Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, October 17, at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Please join us as we continue to learn how diversity, equity, and inclusion affect our community and our lives.

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

BANTER DEADLINE

September 24 is the deadline for articles for the October *Banter*.

PUBLIC POLICY

This year, advocates were challenged by Governor Shapiro's position on school vouchers – Lifeline Scholarships. During the campaign, he vowed to not fund vouchers until the unconstitutional PA school funding system was addressed and schools were fully funded. This campaign pledge was removed from his website and during budget negotiations, his Education Secretary responded to questions from the Senate for his nomination reiterating the Governor's commitment to the vouchers. The Senate revised the program to add many components that the Governor objected to, such as no income limits and lack of reporting, and called the program: the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success (PASS). First, the program was included in gutted bill HB479 and passed almost completely on party lines. However, this bill was soundly defeated by the House Rules Committee and the Democratic House leadership declared that vouchers were dead on arrival. Thanks to advocates and House Democrats (and with a promise from Gov. Shapiro), school vouchers will not be part of the 2023-2024 state budget. Hundreds of phone calls and thousands of emails sent by Pennsylvanians helped stop school vouchers in their tracks.

Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair

BOOK GROUP

3rd Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. via Zoom Contact Linda Palmer
September 20: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
If you are interested in joining a discussion, you can request a list of discussion questions.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet Wednesday, September 6, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Jenny Sears. Please bring a sandwich for lunch.

Hostess for October 6 is Lois Kulp and for November 1, Janet Misiolek.

As a member of the York Branch, you are welcome to join our group at any time. We also invite you to sub as needed.

GAMES GROUP

We will be gathering Saturday, September 23, at 12 noon at Anne McFeely's for lunch and group games. All games are easy and fun. Everyone is welcome to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship. Please call me to RSVP by September 20. I will supply the entree and drinks.

LUNCH A MONTH

Lunch-A-Month for September will be held at Cheddars on Tuesday, September 10, at 1:00 p.m. To make a reservation, please contact Sandy Cooley by September 8.

Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Vision Promise

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that 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.