



Branch Banter

DECEMBER 2023

DECEMBER BRANCH LUNCHEON

Enjoy a holiday time lunch with members and friends. A brief meeting may be held if needed.

PROGRAM: Hannah Knight will share some of her experiences at our National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Hannah is a student at Penn State York majoring in Human Development and Family Studies. There also may be some other guests joining us.

Lois Conaway & Carol Heintzelman, Program Co-Vice Presidents

JANUARY BRANCH MEETING - REMINDER

Reminder: There will be **NO January Branch meeting**. See you on February 13.

FROM THE PODIUM

Having just given thanks for all good gifts and polished off the Thanksgiving turkey, we now look forward to the joy of winter and holiday celebrations.

May we find perfect gifts and plenty of time to wrap, the loveliest tree and the energy to trim it, the most charming cards and the right words to greet friends and family, and in our heart a deep response to the beauty of music and worship.

In all of this perfection, may we find in ourselves a caring spirit so we rejoice in the joy of others and remember the poor, hungry, and disposed.

All the very best wishes for the blessings of the season.

Carol Anderson, President

BOARD MEETING

The December 5 Board meeting will be conducted virtually using Zoom. Carol will email the agenda prior to the meeting, which will begin at 7:00 p.m. Branch members are welcome.

AAUW FUND

Thanks to everyone who purchased a Boscov's 'Friends Helping Friends' shopping pass in October. A total of \$215.00 was raised from this fundraiser and donations. The money will help support a NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) scholarship for a local woman to attend the conference in 2024.

Jane Long, AAUW Fund Chair

EDUCATION ISSUES ACTION GROUP

Some positive results for Education in Pennsylvania

Voters in schools districts across Pennsylvania voted against extremist candidates who had run on divisive culture wars issues like book bans and anti-LGBT policies. Notably, the school boards in Central Bucks, Central York, and Pennridge were flipped by candidates campaigning to make schools more welcoming and inclusive and to reject divisive and extremist policies such as those backed by Moms for Liberty.

Thanks to everyone who voted in support of public education – there is much work to be done to ensure our lawmakers continue to support all our students!

We need to keep up the good work by urging the Basic Education Funding Commission, our legislators, and Governor Shapiro to enact fair funding for all school districts across the state.

- Here is the BEFC website: <https://www.basiceducationfundingcommission.com/>
- Here is the page on the BEFC website where you can submit comments: <https://www.basiceducationfundingcommission.com/Contact/>
- Here is the page where you can submit comments to Governor Shapiro <https://www.governor.pa.gov/contact/>

Carol Little, EIA Group Chair

PUBLIC POLICY

National AAUW submitted comments to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in support of clarifying and strengthening the proposed enforcement on Harassment in the Workplace.

National AAUW joined 17 members and partners of the Postsecondary Collaborative in a letter applauding steps by the U.S. Department of Education to empower students and families to make informed decisions by providing information about program costs and outcomes for educational institutions.

National AAUW joined over 80 organizations in opposing a Senate appropriations bill amendment that would prohibit funding for implementation of Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting. AAUW supports strong implementation of the Executive Order to make voter registration and participation more accessible for Americans.

Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair

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 2024 honorees.

Lois Conaway, Awards Chair

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – CORPORATE / BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS

Our drive to attract advertising for our Spring For Scholarships Luncheon is already having some results. As of this writing, we have had commitments from 3 companies, for a total of \$650. If you deal with a local business you think might benefit from this opportunity, as well as support us, here is the information you can supply to them:

Spring For Scholarships Luncheon, April 28, 2024, at the Country Club of York

Below are the opportunities to help us and to promote your business in our program booklet:

_____ Full page ad (5" w x 8" h) = \$200 _____ ½ page ad (5" w x 4" h) = \$150
_____ ¼ page ad (5" w x 2" h) = \$100 _____ 1/8 page ad (2.5" w x 2" h) = \$ 50 (business card)

If you would like to place an ad, please Carol Little **by December 15** to reserve your ad space. She will supply you with the information you need to submit the ad, and will send you an invoice for your records. Thank you!

Carol Little, Fundraising Committee

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

As a result of our Branch's partnership with Confronting Racism Coalition (CRC), the DEI Committee was connected with Ashley Earle, Assistant Professor at York College. Ashley is the advisor to the Women in Science and Engineering Club and teaches Mechanical Engineering. Ashley approached AAUW York to see how we can partner.

On November 17, 2023 Ashley, three students, and one York College staff met at the York College campus with Carol Anderson, Carol Heintzelman, Rita Meisenhelder, and Barbara Woodmansee. One student attended NCCWSL's May 2023 conference and found it very beneficial. They discussed what AAUW offers and what the students' needs may be. We discussed the challenges the students face as young women as they enter the engineering workplace where women are in the minority. They have already experienced some challenges as they participate in their internships in area businesses.

One student expressed a concern about how she will be able to balance a career and family. We suggested that our Branch members could share their personal experiences regarding that. One student said that she does not have many opportunities to enjoy life off campus. Providing a personal place for students to meet in a relaxing atmosphere may be something else that our Branch may be able to offer to them.

Ashley is interested in York College becoming an AAUW College/University member. She was given information about that and did not feel that the membership cost of \$175 would be an obstacle to pursuing that membership.

The students and Ashley were invited to our December 12 Branch luncheon meeting. Ashley plans to attend and will let us know if any students will also be able to attend.

Discussions between our Branch and York College will continue. There is real potential for our members to become involved in this new partnership. The November 17 meeting was a good first step. Please contact Barbara or Rita if you have any questions or ideas.

Rita Meisenhelder & Barbara Woodmansee, DEI Co-Chairs

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet on Wednesday, December 20, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* by Mitch Albom. Please RSVP to Linda Palmer if you plan to attend.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet at the home of Anne McFeely on Wednesday, December 6, at 10:00 a.m. We will celebrate the holiday season with a luncheon buffet. Instead of a sandwich, please bring a dish to share. Please let Anne know what you are bringing.

New players and subs are welcome to join at any time.

GAMES GROUP

The Games Group will meet Friday, December 8, at 12 noon at Lois Kulp's home. New gamers are welcome. Please RSVP to Lois by December 1 with what you would like to bring.

Mission Statement

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision Promise

Equity for all.

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.