



Branch

Banter

NOVEMBER 2023

THE YORK HISTORY CENTER: COUNTDOWN TO TRANSFORMATION

WHEN: Tuesday, November 14 7:00 p.m.
Social time 6:30 PM Business meeting follows program

WHERE: York Alliance Church, 501 Rathton Road, York

PROGRAM: Countdown to Transformation: From the Historical Society to the History Center with a focus on the exciting changes in how interpreting and sharing history has evolved and our rise to meet audience expectations.

Joan Mummert, President/CEO of the York History Center, will update us on what is happening as the museum, library, and archives move to a new campus. Joan has a wide range of educational and work experiences. She holds an M.S. from Johns Hopkins University in Organizational Development and a B.S. from the University of Indianapolis with a double major in Youth Agency Administration and Physical Education, after initially majoring in history. We look forward to hearing what is in store for us as the History Center embarks on a new chapter in York history. Please invite a friend to attend.

Lois Conaway & Carol Heintzleman, Program Co-Vice Presidents

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE – MEETING

The Committee will be meeting to consider the future: Friday, November 10, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Nancy Spataro. All interested members are invited to join us. Please RSVP to me.

Nancy Spataro, HESC Chair

FROM THE PODIUM

I do not know if what I recently read in a book of fiction and not in a reputable history is true. It does, however, seem reasonably plausible from what we have learned about the American natives, our ancestors with so little regard, all too often with considerable ferocity, displaced. Thus, in this month of our Thanksgiving we might benefit from the wisdom of the Seneca. In their prayer, there is nothing but thanks. They did not believe in asking for anything. “They only expressed gratitude for what had been created and preserved.”

Carol Anderson, President

BOARD MEETING

The November 7 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 to attend Board meetings.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

United We Stand: AAUW National's website states: "In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status." *Adopted by the AAUW Board of Directors, June 1988. Several revisions followed. The latest revision was written in June 2018.*

In recent years, AAUW has embraced the concepts of Diversity (welcoming and representation of different dimensions of diversity), Inclusion (ensuring that all individuals have access to the same opportunities and that they are treated fairly), and Equity (building an environment where everyone's thoughts, ideas, and perspectives matter), and has charged the Branches to foster these ideals in their groups and communities. In doing so, we join businesses, organizations, and groups throughout the country. To be most effective, another one is added: Belonging. Unlike the others, Belonging is a feeling of being accepted as a member of a group, valued, and connected with the company or organization. It encourages a sense of personal investment in the organization.

According to the New York Times article of May 14, 2023, "the question of belonging has become the latest focus in the evolving world of corporate diversity, equity and inclusion programming." In this way, people who are marginalized obtain influence, and others who are not marginalized feel like they are still part of the conversation. As the workforce and organizations become more diverse, Belonging offers each person the freedom to bring their whole, authentic self to participate. There is a place for each one of us. Doing so creates a sense of "we are all in this together." Let's carry on!

Rita Meisenhelder & Barbara Woodmansee, DEI Co-Chairs

BANTER DEADLINE

November 25 is the deadline for articles for the December *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.

EDUCATION ISSUES ACTION GROUP

Vouchers hurt the Public Schools & Taxpayers

The state legislature is trying to get a voucher bill passed before the reform of the unconstitutional way the state funds public schools, relying on property taxes. By making public taxpayer money available to private and religious based schools, vouchers are detrimental to the local public schools.

- Private schools are still out of reach to low-income families. Statistics of the program already in place indicate that very few low-income students are admitted with vouchers.
- Private schools do not have to accept everyone. They exclude on the basis of religion in some cases, and do not have to offer services to special needs students.
- Currently, there is little financial transparency or academic accountability applied to private schools or to scholarship foundations that accept vouchers.

Let Governor Shapiro know why you support public schools and oppose utilizing taxpayer dollars to fund private schools through a voucher program.

Contact him in one (or all) of these ways...

1. Send him a text message @ (717) 788-8990 and post a screen shot of your text to social media, tagging the governor @GovernorShapiro on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram - **Preferred Method**
2. Call his office @ (717) 787-2500
3. Fill out an online form @ governor.pa.gov/contact/

Please individualize your message, using the below prompts as a starting point. Also, include what school district you hail from and support. Start with something like...

“Hi, Governor Shapiro. I live in _____ and I am a parent/student/community member etc. and I don’t want a new school voucher program here in PA.”

Then add one or more of the following:

- "Please be the champion of public schools, which the vast majority of PA students attend."
- "As a taxpayer, I want my funds to support local public schools."
- "As a parent, I want my local public school to be the priority."
- "State tax dollars should not support private and religious schools."
- "You have a constitutional obligation to respond to the court decision and fully fund public schools."

Don't forget to VOTE on November 7 for School Board members!

Carol Little, EIA Group Chair

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Now is the time to contact local businesses, asking them to place an ad in our program booklet for the Spring For Scholarships luncheon on April 28, 2024. Businesses set their budgets for the next year in November.

Please contact businesses or professionals you may patronize: your favorite boutique, spa or salon, PT provider, lawyer, realtor, dentist, retirement community, etc. Ask if they would support local women and girls pursuing higher education with an ad in the program booklet.

Please keep us informed about which businesses you approach, so we don't go after them twice!

Below is a listing of ad opportunities: You can cut this out and take it to them.

Full page ad:	8.5" h x 5/5" w	\$200
½ page ad:	5/5"h x 4/25" w	\$150
¼ page ad:	2" h x 5/5" w	\$100
1/8-page ad:	2"h x 2.5" w	\$50

For just \$25, they can have a name listing in the booklet.

Contact me for more information or to place an ad.

Carol Little, Fundraising Committee

PUBLIC POLICY

Earlier this year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was sued over its approval of mifepristone, part of a safe and effective regimen commonly used in medication abortions. AAUW joined the United States of Women and 140 partners in a People's Brief to demand the courts uphold the law and protect access to mifepristone.

In August, the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights released guidance on "Race and School Programming" to provide information on programs to promote racially inclusive school communities. The move was made in the wake of the Supreme Court's June decision that prohibited the consideration of race in higher education admissions.

On August 25, Rep. Nikema Williams (D-GA-5) introduced a suite of AAUW-supported voting rights bills to ensure "free and fair access to the ballot" for all.

Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet on Wednesday, November 15, at 1:00 p.m. at Olive Garden to discuss *Lady in Waiting* by Anne Glenconner.

Please RSVP to Linda Palmer if you plan to attend.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet Wednesday, November 1, at 10:00 a.m., at the home of Janet Misiolek. Please bring a sandwich for lunch.

We welcome new players and subs at any time. For information, please contact Lois Kulp.

GAMES GROUP – DECEMBER

Games Group will meet Friday, December 8, at 12:00p.m. at Lois Kulp's home.

Please RSVP by December 1 and let Lois know what you will bring to compliment her entrée. Thank you. All welcome for fun!

Anne McFeely

LUNCH A MONTH

The November lunch will be held at Stone Grille and Taproom on St. Charles Way in York at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21. Please respond to Sandra Cooley by November 19.

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.