



Branch

Banter

APRIL 2024

THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY IN YORK COUNTY

WHEN: Tuesday, April 9 7:00 p.m.
Social time 6:30 PM Business meeting follows program

WHERE: York Alliance Church, 501 Rathton Road, York

PROGRAM: Our speaker, Tom Davidson, currently serves as volunteer president for the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association. He is a Pennsylvania native and has served as a volunteer with the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association and as a former volunteer board member with the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor. He has published research in the national *Lincoln Highway Journal* and speaks at community events on York's Lincoln Highway history.

Lois Conaway & Carol Heintzelman, Program Co-Vice Presidents

FROM THE PODIUM

Not often in life does one's experience serve to confirm one's peculiar opinion.

Many years ago, I was employed as a Volunteer Coordinator. As a spur to recruitment, I advanced the idea that what people need is to have something they must do even when they were not inclined to get out of bed; that obligation is needed for both physical and mental health.

I admit to being inclined to look forward to the day when I can hand over the Branch gavel. A retirement for doing my own thing enticingly beckons. However, over the past three months of great sorrow, it has been a saving grace that throughout every day there were inescapable responsibilities of leadership.

Hence, in addition to an expression of deep gratitude for the compassionate support of all of you, I will continue to strongly recommend my peculiar opinion – that signing on to obligation is good for you.

Carol Anderson, President

BOARD MEETING

The April 2 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.

THANK YOU

Paula Jensenius would like to thank all of you who sent cards to her on her 100th birthday. It made a happy day even happier.

VOTE – NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025 – VOTE

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates:

President: Barbara Woodmansee (one-year term)

Co-Program Vice-Presidents: Suzanne Robertson & Darla Stover (one-year terms)

Co-Finance Officer: Carol Little (two-year term)

Jane Long, Suzanne Robertson & Darla Stover, Nominating Committee

GET OUT THE VOTE

The Primary Election is on April 23, 2024

- ❖ Applications for mail-in or absentee ballots must be received at the York County Election Office by **April 16, 2024, by 5 p.m.**
- ❖ Mail-in and absentee ballots **must be received** by the York County Election Office by 8 p.m. on **April 23, 2024**
- ❖ You **must sign and date** the voter's declaration on the outside of the outer return envelope.
- ❖ **If you do not complete the declaration on the return envelope, including your signature and date, your ballot will not be counted.**

The Election Office Has a New Location

Office of Elections and Voter Registration
County of York
2401 Pleasant Valley Rd., Suite 219
York, PA 17402
717-711-9604

More information is available at:

<https://www.vote.pa.gov>

Betty Hooker, Get Out the Vote Chair

BANTER DEADLINE

April 26 is the deadline for articles for the May *Banter*.

EXPLANATION OF SUGGESTED BYLAWS CHANGES

In an attempt to simplify the running of the York Branch, board members are suggesting that the terms of the officers change from the current two-year terms to one-year terms except for Finance Officers who will continue to serve two-year terms that overlap. Other suggested changes are to eliminate the assistant secretary and the administrative officer. Changes in Article XVI and XVII are suggested by the AAUW PA Bylaws Chair.

Betty Hooker, Bylaws and Branch Policy

Changes not requiring Separate Votes – just one vote

Numerous minor changes in the form of the document such as misplaced commas, spacing issues, substitution of “Affiliate” for branch, capitalization of only the national Board of Directors.

Changes Requiring Separate Votes

VIII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 4. Rotation of Officers

- a. ~~Even Numbered Years. One co-president, program vice president/co-vice presidents, one co-finance officer, and assistant secretary shall be elected in even numbered years.~~
- b. ~~Odd Numbered Years. The president or one co-president, membership vice president/co-vice presidents, one co-finance officer and secretary shall be elected in odd numbered years.~~

Every year, a president or co-presidents, program vice president/co-vice presidents, membership vice president/co-vice presidents, two co-finance officers and secretary shall be elected for a one-year terms. A finance officer shall be elected for a two-year term which will over-lap the term of the finance officer elected in the previous year.

Article IX. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

At Deb's Roney's suggestion, I moved the below paragraph from Article X to serve as an introduction to Article IX. I also eliminated the assistant secretary and the “administrative officer” at Deb's suggestion.

The Affiliate shall have a minimum of three separate officers: one responsible for the management of the Affiliate, one responsible for financial affairs, and one responsible for recording and making available upon request the minutes of each noticed Affiliate or multi-Affiliate meeting and board meeting.

Section 1. Officers and Directors.

- a. Elected Officers and Directors.

The elected officers and directors shall be a president or two co-presidents, or official representative(s) vice presidents for program and membership, secretary, assistant secretary, and two co-finance officers. ~~Co-officers may be nominated and elected to fill any office of the primary positions in which case the assistant office is not necessary.~~

XIII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 4. Payment of Dues. ~~Dues are payable on or before July 1. After notification of nonpayment, a member still in arrears after July 31 shall be dropped from membership.~~ ***Dues are payable on or before the membership anniversary date. A member in arrears after 45 days one month following the member's anniversary date shall be dropped from membership.***

This change is necessary because national dues are now collected throughout the year.

XVI. INDEMNIFICATION

The York, Pennsylvania, Branch, of AAUW shall indemnify and save harmless all officers and committees of said ~~Affiliate branch~~ from and against any claims or liabilities (including reasonable attorney fees) and any judgment decree, fine, or penalties imposed on the officer for any act or omission committed or incurred while acting as such, and reimburse the officer for all legal and other expenses reasonably incurred by the officer in defense thereof at such times and upon such terms as provided by governing law; provided that there shall be no obligation to reimburse, partially or wholly, such person for claims or liabilities determined by a court to have constituted willful misconduct or recklessness.

[Here is the Indemnification clause (in its post-proposal form—we expect the technical changes here to pass) for your consideration. It would be good to match PA's: "*Every board or committee member may be indemnified by the Affiliate against all expenses and liabilities, including counsel fees, reasonably incurred or imposed upon such members of the board or committee in connection with any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding in which the board or committee member may become involved by reason of being or having been a member of the Affiliate, or any settlement thereof, unless adjudged therein to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of duties. In the event of a settlement, the indemnification herein shall apply only when the Affiliate board approves such settlement and reimbursement as being in the best interest of the Affiliate. The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in addition to and not exclusive of all other rights to which the member of the board or committee is entitled.*"]

I strongly recommend that you add here or as new Article VIII (and then renumber the following Articles) an Article on how any bylaws changes not mandated by AAUW are to be handled. I've pasted below the proposed wording from the PA bylaws (changes are still indicated). You don't need to accept these as written, but you do need to provide a method for amending your bylaws.

From AAUW PA's Proposed Bylaws:

XVII. Amendments Not Mandated by AAUW

Section 1. ~~Non-AAUW-mandated~~ Amendments Not Mandated by AAUW Member Vote. *Provisions of these bylaws not governed by the bylaws of AAUW may be amended at the Affiliate annual business meeting by a two-thirds vote of those voting, either in person or by other approved methods as described in Article X, Section 2.c of these bylaws, provided that ~~Written notice of the proposed bylaws amendments shall have been sent to members no fewer than ten but no more than sixty days prior to the meeting at least six weeks prior to the meeting.~~ or, if the previous notice has not been given, these bylaws may be amended by unanimous vote of those voting at the Affiliate annual business meeting.*

Section 2. *The board shall establish procedures to provide for member input before the vote.*

Section 3 ~~2.~~ Branch Compliance. *An amendment to the bylaws of the Affiliate shall become effective and binding on all branches within the Affiliate.*

Section 4 ~~3.~~ Final Approval. *The Bylaws of the Affiliate and all subsequent amendments thereto shall be forwarded to the chair of the AAUW Governance Committee for approval.*

Dates amended: 10/89, 10/91, 11/95, 10/96, 3/99, 9/01, 2/04, 10/08, 9/09, 10/10, 9/11, 5/12, 10/13, 8/14, 10/15, 10/16, 5/2022, 12/2023, 3/2024

AAUW FUND

During 2023, the York Branch and the branch members donated almost \$6300 to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. This fund allows AAUW to support research and advocacy work to pass fair pay laws and equity legislation. These donations have entitled the Branch to choose members as Named Gift Honorees for 2023. The York Branch Board of Directors has chosen Nancy Buckley, E. Jean Quickel, Suzanne L. Robertson, in memory of Karen M. Julian, and in memory of Jerline (Jeri) Wood. Thanks to everyone who donated to the Greatest Needs Fund in 2023.

Jane Long, AAUW Fund Chair

SPRING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS LUNCHEON

The Fundraising Committee is looking forward to lunching with our AAUW friends, their guests and community acquaintances on April 28 at the Country Club of York. The doors will open at noon to enable us to peruse the assortment of treasures on the Silent Auction tables, admire the work of local artists (including some from our branch), and chat with our friends before we take our seats for the scrumptious buffet lunch. Following the luncheon, Deborah Butcher will present "Broadway My Way," a selection of favorite tunes from Broadway musicals.

If you have not purchased your tickets (\$60), please do so at the April 9 Branch meeting or email Phyllis Sword. **Ticket sales will close on April 12**, so please remind your non-member friends that they, also, are welcome.

All proceeds will benefit the scholarship program of the York Branch of AAUW. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all 200 seats are filled?

Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

It is time to please renew your AAUW memberships, starting April 1. The Annual Dues Renewal Form is in this *Banter*, with information on how to renew online (encouraged) and to renew by check. If you renew for National online, please be sure that you renew your PA State and York Branch memberships too! Life members also may renew their State and Branch memberships online or by check. The National renewal is based upon the month in which you joined the organization, which is June for the vast majority of our members. **We kindly request that you pay your dues by June 15.**

Seeking newer materials for the Membership table at our April 28 *Spring for Scholarships* luncheon. We are asking that you look through your photos and memorabilia of AAUW-related materials from within the last ten years or so, **and bring them to the April 9 Branch Meeting** for possible display at the luncheon. We hope to encourage some attendees to join!

Martha Fleischer, Co-Membership Chair

NATIONAL BYLAWS MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

By early April, we all should receive an email or letter from National AAUW to vote on a proposed bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. “This will enable us to expand our reach and will open more opportunities to address the needs of all women. and AAUW’s future as an inclusive and forward thinking organization committed to advancing equity for women and girls”. Membership would be open to those who support the AAUW Mission.”

We probably all know someone who cares about higher education and equity for women and girls, but is not eligible to join AAUW because they lack a college degree. If this amendment vote passes, they could become members.

National urges all members to cast a vote, and to vote in favor of the amendment. **Voting is open from April 2 through May 5, 2024.** Note that voting by paper ballot will only be available to those who do not have an email address with AAUW, so please check your inboxes for this important message, and vote.

Martha Fleischer, Co-Membership Chair

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

In recent years, studies conducted by the CDC, Mayo Clinic, and the National Bureau of Economic Research have found a gross discrepancy of maternal mortality rates between White and Black women. Maternal mortality is defined as “when a mother dies due to a pregnancy-related complication during or after her pregnancy.” For Black women, maternal mortality is about *two to three times higher* (some articles indicate three to four) than it is for White women. The CDC reports that two out of three of these deaths are preventable. The findings show that the rate for Black mothers doesn’t improve with socioeconomic status or educational level. In California, the wealthiest Black women are at a higher risk than the least wealthy White woman. Since 2019, multiple regions in the United States have witnessed alarming declines in maternal health care options. These disparities in health care for Black and brown communities are a testament to systemic racism. Under Biden’s and Shapiro’s administrations, recent actions have increased attention and funding in this area. As AAUW women, we need to keep the focus on this injustice. Call or email your legislators and voice your concerns. Who knows? It may be affecting someone you know.

Book Recommendation: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

Even if you read this book years ago, it may speak to you in a new way: of the white assumptions we have made of black culture. Find out for yourself.

Rita Meisenhelder & Barbara Woodmansee. DEI Co-Chairs

EDUCATION ISSUES ACTION GROUP

CYBER CHARTER SCHOOLS – OVER FUNDED AND UNDER PERFORMING

Charter and cyber charter schools are privately managed public schools created by State law in 1997. The law made no distinction between brick-and-mortar charter schools which provide in-person education and cyber charter schools which provide online classes. Obviously, it is more expensive to provide an in-person education. Busing, utilities, classrooms, building maintenance and educational support staff are just a few of the additional costs of in-person instruction.

As a result of the outdated law, cyber charter schools are grossly over-funded. They have money for advertising on TV, sponsorship of minor league sports teams and gift cards for students. They give tickets to families so they can attend sporting events and employ for-profit management companies.

One might think that the excessive funding received by cyber charter schools leads to outstanding educational results, but that is not true. In 2020-2021, only 61% of cyber charter high school students graduated in four years compared with 88% of traditional public high school students.

The good news is that the Pennsylvania Legislature is aware of this issue and is working to correct it. The PA House recently passed Bill 1422 which will end over-funding of cyber charter schools. HB 1422 passed by a 122 to 81 majority in the House. The Bill will be considered by the Senate in the fall. Here is a sample of what HB 1422 does:

- Establishes statewide tuition rate for cyber charter students of \$8,000 which would automatically increase every three years based on the average rate that state-wide school districts raise their property taxes. This will give school boards significantly more money to spend on the 90% of their students enrolled in traditional public schools.
- Limits advertising and sponsorships, imposes fund balance limits on cyber charter schools, and ensures greater transparency of charter school foundations and management companies.
- Establishes weekly wellness checks on students.

The passage of legislation to reform cyber charter schools is long overdue. Stay tuned. We will ask you to contact your Pennsylvania State Senator and ask for his or her support of HB 1422 when it comes up for a vote.

Betty Hooker, Education Issues Action

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.

PUBLIC POLICY

The following items reflect activities of AAUW at the national level:

1. In response to a call from AAUW and coalition partners, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) held a fourth negotiated rulemaking session on student debt relief on February 22 and 23. Before the session, ED released proposed regulations to provide critical relief for borrowers experiencing financial hardship. Final rules are expected in May 2024.
2. AAUW and many education-focused organizations have opposed the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act (H.R.6585). While the bill would allow federal Pell Grants to be used for short-term education and job training programs, it lacks protections from potential abuse by for-profit program providers and risks supporting low-quality programs. AAUW and coalition partners sent a letter to Congress opposing the bill.
3. Congress negotiated a third extension of funding for federal programs through March 8 and 22. AAUW joined coalition partners in a letter urging Congress to reject all policy riders in Fiscal year 24 appropriations bills that would prohibit federal agencies from funding diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility programs.

Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet on Wednesday, April 17, at 1:00 p.m. at Olive Garden to discuss *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson.

Please RSVP to Linda Palmer if you plan to attend. If you are interested in joining a discussion, you can request a list of discussion questions.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet on Wednesday, April 3, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Gayle Brass. Please bring a sandwich for the lunch break. We currently have nine players but subs are always needed. Please contact Lois Kulp for information.

GAMES GROUP

You are invited to a lunch potluck followed by games at Carol Little's home on Friday, April 19, at noon. We look forward to celebrating spring and friends. Please RSVP to Carol.

Mission

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

Vision

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.