



Branch

Banter

SEPTEMBER 2024

FIND OUT WHO I AM: HOW WELL DO WE KNOW EACH OTHER?

WHEN: Tuesday, September 10
6:00 p.m. *Used Book Sale* & Social time
7:00 p.m. Program followed by business meeting

WHERE: York Alliance Church, 501 Rathton Road, York *** see note below

PROGRAM: First meeting of the new year! Many of us are longtime friends, some of us are new friends. But, how well do we know each other? We will be having a fun activity to find out! Come join us!!!

Suzanne Robertson & Darla Stover, Program Co-Vice Presidents

***** NOTE:** Rathton Road is closed east of the church.

Going from Queen Street or Edgar Street onto Rathton, you can get into the church parking lot.

USED BOOK SALE

The Book Group will be conducting the Used Book Sale at the September 10 Branch meeting. Members may bring their book donations to the church that afternoon between 3 and 3:30 p.m. Please limit donations to books that other members would be interested in reading.

Linda Palmer, Book Group Chair

THANK YOU FROM CAROL LITTLE

Heartfelt thanks to all of my friends in AAUW who took the time to send their messages and cards during the illness and death of my husband. Your thoughtfulness and prayers are still much appreciated. Brad was very supportive of any AAUW activities I was involved in over many years, and he was grateful for the hopeful support in his final days.

A special thanks to Barbara Woodmansee for a meal that I could take to Vermont for a gathering following his graveside service. It was a hit!

**DISPOSABLE UNDERWEAR DRIVE AT THE SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING
SEE YOU AT 6:00 P.M. – IN THE PARKING LOT**

Disposable underwear is expensive. Many are struggling to buy food and pay their rent. Purchasing disposable underwear is an additional burden for these hardworking families. 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

2024-2025 YEARBOOKS

The 2024-2025 Yearbooks 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, Joan Beekey and Barbara Woodmansee for their proofreading help.

Betty Hooker, Yearbook Chair

2024-2025 BUDGET – VOTE AT MEETING

We will vote on the 2024-2025 budget (attachments) at the September meeting. For any questions, contact Bonnie or Carol.

Bonnie Bluett and Carol Little, Co-Finance Officers

MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome three new members who have joined our Branch! Barbara Kerr, Lauren Scheib, and Kim Whiteley are listed in the new Yearbook.

We now have 63 members! Thank you for continuing to invite potential members to our meetings to meet us and enjoy our interesting programs.

Joan Beekey & Martha Fleischer, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

After our successful 'Spring for Scholarships Luncheon' in April, the fundraising program for the 2024-2025 year will involve a series of less involved projects. We will begin with the Flower Power Holiday Bulb Sale. Many of us purchased amaryllis and paperwhite bulbs several years ago and were very pleased with the resulting blooms. The little people in my family loved checking the amaryllis bulbs each morning to see how much they had grown! Ordering materials will be distributed as soon as they arrive and the bulbs will arrive in time for holiday giving. We are open to other suggestions. Just call or email me with your ideas.

Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair

FROM THE PODIUM

As we welcome fall, we also welcome a new and exciting year for our Branch. I expect that we will build on our past accomplishments and work together to continue to advocate for gender equity.

Our Branch provides many opportunities to share in its mission. Just a few include networking with college students by participating in a STEM conference on September 21 (more information is included in this *Banter*), helping community members through the 'Comfort Products' Drive, and becoming involved in the 'Get Out the Vote' Drive.

Something new this year is a change in the location and time for four of our Branch meetings. The Board listened to your suggestion that some of our meetings should be held during the day. The September, October, April, and May meetings will be held at the Alliance Church at 6:30 p.m. as we have done in the past. November, December, February, and March meetings will be held at 12:30 p.m. at the Glatfelter Center at SpiriTrust Lutheran. Our Program VPs will provide more information about directions and the excellent programs that they have scheduled for us.

As your new President, I look forward to working with all of you. Remember that our work cannot be completed by just a few. We **all** need to work together to accomplish our goals. If you are asked to help, please consider doing so. We currently need help with Facebook, taking pictures at meetings, and helping to proof the Bylaws. Of course, we cannot forget that there also are many opportunities to participate in the various enjoyable social groups that our Branch offers. Thank you for your commitment to AAUW's vision of 'Equity for All.'

Barbara Woodmansee, President

BOARD MEETING

The September 3 Board meeting will be conducted virtually using Zoom. Barbara will email the agenda prior to the meeting, which will begin at 7:00 p.m. Branch members are welcome.

AN EXCITING NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR BRANCH

On Saturday, September 21, at the Commonwealth Charter Academy in Harrisburg, York College and Harrisburg University will be hosting a regional conference for Women in STEM fields. One of the main goals of this conference is to help regional women network with each other before they graduate. The conference also hopes to make the students aware of organizations that exist beyond college level that can support their growth and help them navigate some of the biases that exist for women.

Our Branch has been asked to participate in this conference because of our relationship with York College. During the conference networking session, 12:15-1:15 PM, we would have an opportunity to provide information about our Branch and AAUW. We also would be available to answer questions about how we transitioned from college to the working world.

This is an excellent opportunity for our Branch to strengthen our community collaborations. If anyone is interested in this community outreach project, please contact Barbara Woodmansee.

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Higher Education Scholarship Committee met on July 16. We met to determine funding for the 2024-2025 budget, discuss applications for scholarships, and plan for the coming year.

We have requested \$5000.00 for two scholarships, one for \$3000.00 for a graduate scholarship and another undergraduate scholarship for \$2000.00. We have selected the following recipients for these funds:

Graduate Scholarship – Sully Pinos, Villanova University - \$3000.00

Ms. Pinos is Executive Director of the BLOOM Business Empowerment Center of the York County Economic Alliance. She will be entering a graduate program at Villanova University in the fall.

Undergraduate Scholarship – Kori Thompson, Stephenson University - \$2000.00

Ms. Thompson is a Dallastown High School graduate pursuing an undergraduate degree in accounting at Stephenson University in Maryland.

Our committee is looking forward to coordinating NCWWSL students in the spring. Plus, York College may be considering becoming an AAUW affiliate.

Rita Meisenhelter, HESC Chair

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 two scholarships for local students to attend the conference. To help provide funds for two 2025 scholarships, the York Branch will be participating in the *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 Tuesday, October 22, 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 10 branch meeting. Every \$5.00 will help support York Branch NCCWSL scholarships.

Jane Long, AAUW Fund Chair

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW priorities at the state and national levels include:

1. Removing Bias from Education – Startling inequalities persist in American education. Gender, economics, race and ethnicity should not limit one's opportunities.
2. Fighting for Fair Pay and Economic Equity – It is time to close the pay gap and for the work world to embrace diversity, equity and inclusion so we can all thrive.
3. Advancing Women in Leadership – Women make up more than half of college graduates and half of the labor force. But we are still not represented at the upper levels. We need equal representation.

Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Since DEI is a current news topic, it is a good time to review what is meant by DEI. Our AAUW York Branch, with the encouragement of AAUW National and AAUW PA, determined that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are important issues that our Branch should address. A DEI Committee was established to provide resources that can be a guide to help answer questions about DEI issues. Below are definitions for you to consider:

Diversity – In essence, diversity means variety, especially the inclusion of different types of people (such as people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization. It also means that recognizing what makes us different is important. If we do not take diversity into consideration, we run the risk of excluding some individuals.

Equity – Freedom from bias or favoritism. Equity is about everyone having equal access to what they need to be successful. As AAUW members, we fight for gender equity to narrow the pay gap for women, champion equal opportunity for women in education, and work together to support laws and policies that enable women's success.

Inclusion – The act or practice of including and accommodating people who historically have been excluded (such as because of their race, gender, sexuality or ability). *Diversity* is being invited to the party and *inclusion* is being asked to dance. Inclusion entails behaviors and actions that make us feel welcomed or not. An example of how we can support inclusion is by properly using an individual's correct pronoun. It is an easy way to show respect.

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact us. The next DEI Committee meeting will be held in October. A meeting notice will be sent with the exact date. New members are welcome.

Barbara Woodmansee & Rita Meisenhelder, DEI Co-Chairs

BANTER DEADLINE

September 26 is the deadline for articles for the October *Banter*.

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet on Wednesday, September 18, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *By Her Own Design* by Piper Huguley.

In case of inclement weather, we will meet via Zoom.

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 resumes playing on Wednesday, September 4, 10:00 a.m., at the home of Lois Kulp.

This AAUW Interest Group is open to all Branch members and you are welcome to join us. We meet the first Wednesday of each month and break for lunch and great fellowship. We are very game friendly, helping each other become better Bridge players while having fun. We currently have nine members and encourage you to sign up for our sub list. For more information, please contact Lois Kulp.

GAMES AND LUNCH GROUP

Attention friends! After a summer hiatus, the Games and Lunch Group will meet at Anne McFeely's. Our potluck lunch will begin at 12 noon on Friday, September 27. The hostess provides the entree' and drinks and the others fill in as needed. We play group games such as Wordle, Pictionary, Debatable, Guesstures, Dominoes, easy card games, or Trivial Pursuit, depending on the mood of the group.

I hope you can join us. We welcome new players. Spouses are welcome also. Looking forward to hearing from you **by September 22**.

Anne McFeely

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.

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.