



Branch

Banter

DECEMBER 2024

FESTIVE CELEBRATORY CHRISTMAS DINNER BUFFET

Members and their guests look forward to enjoying a friendly, fun-filled time we approach this joyous holiday season!

Suzanne Robertson & Darla Stover, Program Co-Vice Presidents

FROM THE PODIUM

As we celebrate this festive time of year, I am sending my warmest wishes that your holiday will be full of peace and joy. During this very busy holiday season, may you find time for some well-deserved relaxation and quality time with family and friends. May this time of giving also remind us of the gift of fellowship we receive from being part of AAUW. Have a wonderful holiday.

Barbara Woodmansee, President

BOARD MEETING

The December 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.

SAD NEWS

Long-time member Marguerite (Marge) Bernstine passed away on October 31, 2024.

Marge showed her strengths of tact and leadership early in life. In high school, Marge was class president, president of the National Honor Society and valedictorian of her class. Marge went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Education from West Chester University and a Masters in Reading from Towson State.

Marge joined the York Branch in 1982. A staunch supporter of the branch, Marge opened her home for the Spring Market Fare in 1984. She was also active in the York County Literacy Council (now the York County Literacy Institute), Luther Memorial Church, the York County Medical Auxiliary, the Women's Club of York and the Garden Club of York.

Marge was a kind and intelligent person with a good sense of humor. We will miss her.

Betty Hooker, Archives Chair

BANTER DEADLINE

December 27 is the deadline for articles for the January *Banter*.

BRANCH 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 in a brief statement**.

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 2025 honorees. Please understand that the Branch is under no obligation to submit all of these awards, but wants to recognize those women who have served our Branch in a significant way.

Lois Conaway, Awards Chair

PUBLIC POLICY

In regard to Pennsylvania Legislative News, the Family Care Act (Paid Leave) and the Pay Equity Bill were not scheduled for a vote in November with the General Assembly only scheduled for two days in the month. This lack of action will require that these bills be re-introduced in the next session starting in January 2025. These bills will be a priority for AAUW-PA public policy work in the next PA Legislative Session.

Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair

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.

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

CORRECTION: The next meeting of the Higher Education Scholarship Committee will be on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 1:00 PM.

Rita Meisenhelter, HESC Chair

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

In 2021, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee of the AAUW York Branch was formed. As a committee, we have provided information in several ways, one of which is through community involvement, most notably with the Confronting Racism Coalition (CRC). This organization of volunteer participants, representing agencies and organizations throughout the Greater York area, was established in response to the racist treatment of four African American women golfers at a local golf course in the Spring of 2018. As you may recall from a Branch program in January 2023, the mission of CRC is to create sustainable change by breaking down systemic racial barriers and promoting healing, equity, and inclusion. As their mission overlaps with AAUW's values, our committee has represented the AAUW York Branch at CRC meetings since our committee's formation.

At a recent meeting, the speaker emphasized that when racism is present, one must identify, investigate, and be vocal against systemic racism. The group reestablished the Quick Response Committee to take immediate action when such occurrences take place. This kind of response was needed in recent days when a York County businessperson went public with a "racist comments" toward other citizens. Subsequently, the CRC responded with an Official Statement on November 12, 2024, calling the behavior "divisive, hateful, racist and totally disrespectful." CRC was a panel participant of community organizations at a local news conference regarding this incident. In addition, CRC was contacted by a mainstream national news outlet for comment. The work of the CRC brings light to the significance of their much-needed presence in helping to recognize and heal the racism that continues in our community.

Rita Meisenhelder & Barbara Woodmansee, DEI Co-Chairs

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet on Wednesday, December 18, at 1:00 p.m. at Olive Garden to discuss *Comfort and Joy* by Kristin Hannah. Please RSVP to Linda Palmer.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet Wednesday, December 4, at 10:00 AM at the home of Anne McFeely. Please bring a sandwich for lunch. Would you like to sub for the group? Please call Lois Kulp.

Mission

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