



# Branch Banter

JUNE 2025

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## FROM THE PODIUM

As my term as president of the AAUW York Branch ends, I want to express my deep appreciation to the Board and the entire membership for their support. It has been a distinct honor to serve as your president. Your support energized me as we faced challenges and celebrated our accomplishments.

Over the year, our Branch continued to strongly advocate to support education. We awarded two scholarships, one graduate and another undergraduate. We continued to enhance our community partnerships and we participated in AAUW public policy initiatives. AAUW recognized our Branch for its activism, for its efforts to share information about our Branch and its activities, and for how we increased our membership.

As I reflect on the York Branch's impact on our community, on women, and girls, I am proud to be part of an organization that will invest in our future generations by advocating for gender equity for women and girls. I know that I will persist in my advocacy just as I am sure our membership will.

Congratulations and best wishes to our new leadership team, ably led by Bonnie Bluett, our new president.

Thank you.

*Barbara Woodmansee, President*

## JOINT BOARD MEETING – JUNE 3

In-coming, out-going and returning Board members will meet on June 3 at 10:00 AM at the Glatfelter Center. Bonnie will email the agenda and lead the meeting. Branch members are welcome to attend.

## AAUW PA 2025 SUMMER RETREAT – REMINDER

**The AAUW PA Summer Retreat will be held on Saturday, June 28, 10 AM–3 PM, at the Wyndham Garden, State College, PA.** A Welcome Reception will be held on Friday, June 27, 6:30-8:00 PM. There is a block of rooms at the Wyndham Garden for those who wish to stay overnight. Consider carpooling if you are interested in attending.

For more information and to register, visit the state website: <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net>  
If you have questions, you can contact a Board member.

## HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

May has been a very busy month for our committee. We united with this year's scholarship winners and selected new scholarship winners for the fall 2025 semester.

It was a wonderful evening. Our Branch members came together for the end of the year dinner, an event for us to see one another and to recognize another year of supporting the mission of AAUW. A highlight of the evening, especially for our committee members, was to finally meet our scholarship winners for the fall semester 2024. Sully Pinos, the Graduate Scholarship winner, and Kori Thompson, our Undergraduate Scholarship winner, spoke about their academic year and the impact it has had on them. They were superb. They were eloquent, appreciative, and dynamic in describing their studies and their hopes in integrating their newly acquired knowledge in helping others in their careers, present or future. After their presentations, Sully invited Kori to join her at her place of business, the York County Economic Alliance, to explore possible opportunities for Kori's future. How wonderful is that?!

Our committee is delighted to announce that we have selected one young woman as the graduate scholarship winner and two young women for the undergraduate. We had four apply for the graduate scholarship and nine students apply for the two Doris Cohen Memorial undergraduate scholarships. The applicants were split between York College and Penn State York. We based the criteria on academics, financial need, and community service (either in the community or on campus). The group was very impressive. We chose the following:

Kali Barnes – Graduate Scholarship

She is studying Public Policy and Administration at York College.

Catherine Kurnik – Doris Cohen Memorial Scholarship

She is majoring in English and History at Penn State York.

Francesca Rodman – Doris Cohen Memorial Scholarship

She is majoring in Human Development and Family Studies/Psychology at Penn State York.

Thank you to Carol Eicher for her generous donation in memory of her mother, Doris Cohen. It is making a difference in students' lives.

*Rita Meisenhelter, Higher Education Scholarship Committee Chair*

## BOOK GROUP

We will not be meeting again until August 20, when we will choose books to discuss in the upcoming year.

## AN INVITATION FROM THE HARRISBURG BRANCH

The Harrisburg Branch of AAUW presents a Mediterranean Coastal Journey. The trip is scheduled for April 25th through May 10th, 2026. The link below will open to view the full itinerary. To open, please scroll to the right where you will see a green block to click on. That will give you access to the information about the trip. This is a land tour, not a cruise. There will be a gathering of interested people for an informational meeting with the travel company representative. The company is Collette. The meeting has not been scheduled yet. Click on the following link: <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1328392> Hope you like what you see.

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

### Carol Bowman

Carol is a Lancaster County native who got a BS in Organizational Management from Eastern University and a Masters in Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Gettysburg. After her retirement as a Lutheran pastor, she continues to preach in Lancaster, York and Cumberland Counties. She is a certified Yoga instructor, and teaches classes in several local senior communities. Her husband, Steven, is a great trumpet player and they have 2 children and 5 grandchildren.

### Lynn Keller

I retired in 2021 from a 49 year Nursing career, starting with a Nurses Aide position at the Lutheran home on Kelly drive. In 1971 I went on to be a Licensed Practical Nurse for 22 years, then to a Registered Nurse for 27 years specializing in Labor and Delivery, Nursery and Neonatal Intensive care. I am a past member of AWHOWN ( Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing). I held numerous certifications to include BLS/ALS, Inpatient Obstetric Nursing, External Fetal Monitoring, Neonatal Resuscitation provider, Mandated Reporter for the Childline and Abuse Registry. In 1999 completed a Massage Therapist Certification however no longer practice.

My interest in becoming a member of AAUW is with 3 granddaughters I recognize the utmost importance in empowering our younger generation of women and girls and the ongoing fight for gender equality in the workplace, sports and elsewhere.

### Debra Kleyhauer

I grew up in Denver, Colorado, and went to college at the CU Boulder where I received a B.S. in Business Administration and an M.P.A. in Public Administration. I met my husband there and after he finished his PhD in Political Science, we moved to Baltimore where he taught. My first job was at the University of Maryland Medical Center and I worked in healthcare administration for my whole career. I retired from WellSpan after 22 years managing the cancer program. I've lived in Farquhar Estates for 25 years and love it.

Retirement is awesome – I like to share time with my animals and friends and travel and I do a lot of DIY around my house and gardens. I also watercolor paint and spend time researching neighborhood and Farquhar history and my own family genealogy and am a voracious fiction reader. A fun find: although both sides of my family have lived in Colorado since the late 1800s, my genealogy research recently revealed that one of my ancestors immigrated from Germany and settled in Windsor township in the 1700s and that I have a bunch of distant Schmid (Smith) cousins in the area!

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Thank You - to those who have already renewed your memberships! If you have not done so yet, never fear. You can still renew by promptly mailing your check to Bonnie Bluett or by logging on to [www.aauw.com](http://www.aauw.com) to renew by credit card. *If you renew by June 30, your name and contact information can be included in the next York Branch Yearbook.*

*Joan Beekey & Martha Fleischer, Membership Co-Vice Presidents*

## NOTABLE BRANCH MEMBER

AAUW Pennsylvania has created a way to honor special long-term members who have served in several leadership roles and have served their branches as well as possibly with the state. Pages titled *Branch Notable Members* appear on the State website:

<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/branch-notable-members/>

Betty Hooker has been a member of AAUW since 1978. She is a graduate of University of Michigan, AB Elementary Education, and received a MEd from Millersville University in Reading and Language Arts.

Betty has served as the President, Secretary, Yearbook Editor, Awards Chair, and Archives Chair for AAUW York. She is currently on the Board as the Bylaws Chair. She was awarded Outstanding Woman three times.

She co-chaired an AAUW York public service project in the 1980's by publishing a book on the history of York County Women titled *Legacies: Remembrances of York County Women*. In 2012-2014, Betty served as Public Policy Co-Chair for AAUW Pennsylvania. She is a frequent attendee at many State as well as national AAUW conferences.

Betty Hooker received Member Making A Difference in 2020, for tirelessly chairing AAUW York's Spring Market Faire tour of kitchens scholarship fundraiser as well as chairing several committees. Betty was involved with the Spring Market Faire scholarship fundraiser since its beginning in 1981. She is always ready to lend a hand mentoring new officers, offering support and answering questions whenever needed.

In 2022, she published a Spring Market Faire Recipe Booklet when we could not hold a tour. This same year, she stepped in to help with Program as a Co-Chair as well as co-chairing our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

Betty has been dedicated to our branch for many years as well as preserving our archives, chairing the collection of comfort products, coordinating the branch's Get Out the Vote initiative, publishing the Branch *Yearbook*, and updating branch bylaws. She is willing to take on a project wherever and whenever needed. She is an inspiration to all AAUW members.

*Lois Conaway, Awards Chair*

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Fundraising Committee has decided to postpone our second *Spring for Scholarship Luncheon* until April, 2027. We have sufficient funds to support our scholarship program until then and the additional time will better enable us to host a successful, enjoyable event. Instead, we will hold two events we are sure will bring pleasure to all:

A Holiday Card Sale will feature the artwork of our members and friends. Are you an artist? If so, we invite you to submit your work to Carol Little. The artwork will be photographed and printed on cardstock for inclusion in a package of cards.

Dine at Isaac's Day will take place in March or April of 2026. Bring your family and friends or join a group of your fellow AAUW members for a delicious meal. Isaac's will donate a percentage of the cost to AAUW-York Branch.

*Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair*

## **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE**

In early April, the federal administration required schools to abolish their equity programs or risk losing federal funding. A superintendent of schools responded in a letter to the administration to explain the negative impact such a policy would have on students.

The educator stated that the student who would be most affected would be 'low-income students, disabled students, and English learners.' The superintendent relayed that 'equity is not a threat. It's the antidote to decades of failure. Equity is what ensures all students have a fair shot. Equity is what makes the nonverbal kindergartner use an AAC (assistive) device. It's what gets the newcomer from the Ukraine the ESL support she needs without being left behind.'

Just imagine not being allowed to use your glasses while taking a written driver's test. No matter how hard you try, it is not possible to read the test. Now imagine a struggling student without any academic support while trying to learn. Another reason for us, AAUW, to support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

*Rita Meisenhelder & Barbara Woodmansee, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Co-Chairs*

## **SUMMER BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS ON DISABILITIES**

- *Don't Ask the Blind Guy for Directions* by John Samuel
- *The Quarry* by Iain Banks
- *The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog* by Bruce D. Perry and Maia Szalavitz

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

As Congress continues to drive forward sweeping cuts to student financial assistance in the federal budget, our voices are critical to support the millions of students whose futures are in jeopardy. The House Education & Workforce Committee's budget reconciliation bill would make harmful changes to Pell Grant eligibility – penalizing those who can least afford it. The proposal raises the threshold for 'full-time' status to 15 credits per term and eliminates Pell Grants entirely for students enrolled less than half-time. These changes would hit student parents hardest. Nearly 60% of student parents already work full time while pursuing their degrees, and childcare costs push their total expenses up to five times higher than their peers without children. Black and Latina mothers – who make up a significant share of Pell recipients – would face impossible choices. To keep their aid, they would need to add classes to already overloaded schedules or risk losing a quarter or more of their grants. For many, that means borrowing more or abandoning their education altogether. Write to your representative and tell Congress to support students in completing their degrees, not rip away that potential.

*Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair*

## **BANTER DEADLINE**

August 26 is the deadline for articles for the September *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.

*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.