



Branch Banter

OCTOBER 2025

“DUTCH” and “JIMMY”: FOND MEMORIES OF TWO PRESIDENTS

WHEN: Tuesday, October 14 1:00 PM
Social time 12:30 PM Business meeting follows program

WHERE: Glatfelter Center, 1802 Folkemer Circle, York

PROGRAM: Our own Gayle Brass, PhD, has been involved in politics for many, many years. She considers herself ‘a public servant’ rather than a politician. While living in N.J., she chaired her congressman’s campaign. Later, she was elected mayor of Colts Neck, N.J., where she served for one year terms in 1985 and again in 1990. While in office, she started ‘Student Government Day’ and recycling. She opened the first office hours for constituents and was very active in helping the blind and handicapped.

Gayle is passionate in following Presidential elections, and is a member of the American Political Items Collectors Association and the CPIC (Carter Political Items Collectors). She has attended 5 *Presidential Inaugurations in Washington D.C.* The first was for Ronald Reagan. Most recently, she attended Jimmy Carter’s 95th Birthday Party. We look forward to hearing about the two Presidents she chose and to seeing her political items collection. She is clearly one of those women who has made a difference in many lives.

Lois Kulp Hickman & Anne McFeely, Program Co-Vice Presidents

2025-2026 YEARBOOKS

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the 2025-2026 *Yearbooks* were not ready for the September meeting. The *Yearbooks*, with seasonal orange covers, will be available at the October meeting. The remaining *Yearbooks* will then be mailed.

Please consider taking *Yearbooks* to pass out to members who are unable to attend the October meeting. In addition to saving the Branch money on postage, you will connect with members who support our mission but are unable to attend meetings.

Betty Hooker, Yearbook Chair

FROM THE PODIUM

I enjoyed seeing many of you at our September Branch meeting and hope to see many more of you at our October Branch meeting, since I know some of you prefer the daytime venues. Our AAUW National staff have been busy sending out alerts about important legislative advocacy issues that you can do with your representatives and senators. Our AAUW Pennsylvania leaders are also doing that with us at the state level and have an exciting statewide advocacy day coming up on November 18 entitled 'Our Health, Our Lobby Day.' Carol Heintzelman will be providing us with more information if you want to participate in this legislative advocacy in Harrisburg.

On a personal note, I have been somewhat quiet the past month because my husband had been battling cancer this past year, and unfortunately, he lost that battle on September 21. I want to thank our York AAUW Board for their patience and support during this difficult month, and I hope to be able to be more present with you in the upcoming days. Thank you for all that you do to support our mission of gender equity for women and girls.

Bonnie Bluett, President

BOARD MEETING

The October 7 Board meeting will be conducted virtually using Zoom at 10:00 AM. Bonnie will email the agenda prior to the meeting. Branch members are welcome.

GET OUT THE VOTE

The Municipal Election is on November 4, 2025. The polls are open from 7AM to 8 PM.

- Last Day to register to vote is October 20, 2025.
- Applications for mail-in or absentee ballots must be received at the York County Election Office **by October 28, 2025, by 5 PM.**
- Mail-in and absentee ballots **must be received** at the York County Election Office by **8 PM on November 4, 2025.**
- **You must sign and date the voter's declaration on the outer return envelope. If you do not complete the declaration on the return envelope of your mail-in or absentee ballot, including your signature and the current date, your ballot will not be counted.**

For problems and issues contact:

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>
and at the League of Women Voters site at: <https://www.vote411.org>**

The Municipal Election gives voters the opportunity to vote for the judges on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, as well as the judges on the Superior Court and the Commonwealth Court. The Pennsylvania Bar Association rates judicial candidates on their website which is located at: <https://www.pabar.org>. **The ratings are in the "JEC Ratings" section of the website.**

Betty Hooker, Get Out the Vote Chair

MEMBERSHIP

Please delete the email address for Linda Hogg in your *Yearbook*.

Martha Fleischer & Jenny Sears, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

WRITE-READ-WRITE

This popular project is returning after a short hiatus due to renewed interest.

Please sign up at our October 14 Branch meeting if you want to participate. If you cannot attend this meeting, please call or email one of us to add your name to the sign-up list no later than October 14. We hope you will join us in this fun project!

Kay Roddy & Martha Fleischer, Write-Read-Write

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Barbara and Lee Woodmansee! They collected the comfort products at the September meeting and then delivered them to Representative Carol Hill-Evans' office. Barbara stepped right in and offered to help me when I needed it. The life-long friendships that the York Branch fosters are a treasured bonus of being a member of AAUW.

Betty Hooker

AAUW FUND

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) unites college women from across the United States for leadership development and networking through workshops and hands-on activities. This past fiscal year, the York Branch provided two scholarships for local students to attend the conference in May, 2025. To help provide funds for 2026 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 on many items. The event will be held Wednesday, October 22, from 8 AM to 11 PM. This would be a great time to purchase some Christmas gifts for your family and friends. **Your shopping pass may be purchased at the October 14 Branch meeting. All \$5.00 collected will help support the York Branch NCCWSL scholarships. Donations to help support the scholarships will also be accepted.**

Jane Long, AAUW Fund 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.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

Our Branch has another opportunity to partner with York College students. Our members are invited to meet with the Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) Club on **October 28, 6 PM**, at the Kinsley Engineering Center. Several of our members have met with the students in the past and have walked away feeling inspired and hopeful for our future generations. The meeting will be informal and provide us with an opportunity to share our life experiences with the students.

If you are interested in attending the WiSE student meeting, please contact Barbara Woodmansee. More information and directions will follow.

Barbara Woodmansee, College/University Partnerships Coordinator

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Fundraising Committee, after considering other possibilities, proposes that York Branch AAUW hold a luncheon in support of our scholarship program in the Spring of 2027. At this point in time, we are requesting your assistance in selecting a venue, a caterer, and entertainment. Many of us are active in other organizations or have been involved in family events that involved one or all of those factors that are so important to hosting a successful event. The committee would like your input as we begin our planning. Please email or call me with your recommendations. We will then investigate availability, cost, etc. Together, we will be able to sponsor another successful event!

Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

As we navigate the issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion, we are challenged to discover how we may work towards furthering these principles. We, as consumers, have strength to do so by supporting companies who have retained these standards. These companies know that emphasizing diversity, equity, and inclusion is crucial for talent acquisition, innovation, and achieving business goals. They are actively defending these initiatives even in the face of shareholder and political pressure, often citing the business case and strategic advantage of a diverse workforce. The following is a partial list of major companies you may want to consider supporting:

Apple	e.l.f. Cosmetics	Taco Bell
Ben & Jerry's	Giant	Trader Joe's
Coca Cola	Proctor & Gamble	Ulta
Costco	Sephora	Wegman's
Delta Air Lines	T J Maxx	Southwest Airlines

For timely and definitive information, it is best to check a company's current website for their equity and inclusion statements.

Our committee will be meeting on Thursday, October 30, at 1:00 PM via Zoom. We welcome anyone interested in joining us to please contact one of the co-chairs.

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

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW is joining our partners from the Campaign for Women's Health in hosting an Advocacy Day in Harrisburg on November 18. The goals of this day will be: (1) Make it clear what our legislative priorities are in the House and Senate; (2) Show the force of our campaign through the collaboration of our partners and their supporters showing up in the Capitol; (3) Host a "rage room" where supporters can directly advocate for your legislative priorities; (4) Legislative meetings connecting organization leaders and advocates with elected officials. The Campaign for Women's Health will provide all the messaging and support you will need in meetings with our lawmakers, as well as having a listing of bills we are endorsing, materials to drop off at offices, and signs to hold for any press events. We hope to schedule at least one opportunity on the steps of the Capitol to share our stories and demands for action with invitations to our state leaders to join us. The registration link has not been released yet, but once it is available, it will be shared with all branches.

Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair

BANTER DEADLINE

October 27 is the deadline for articles for the November *Banter*.

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet on Wednesday, October 15, at 11:45 AM at Olive Garden to discuss *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi.

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 will meet Wednesday, October 1, at 10:00 AM at the home of Joan McInnis. Please bring a sandwich for lunch.

We welcome Joan as the newest member to join the Bridge Group. We also say a fond farewell to longtime member Phyllis Sword, who has moved. All Branch members are invited to play with us, either full time or as a substitute player. Please contact Lois Kulp Hickman for details.

Lois Kulp Hickman

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.