



Branch Banter

NOVEMBER 2025

GLORIOUS SADNESS

WHEN: Tuesday, November 11 1:00 PM
Social time 12:30 PM Business meeting follows program

WHERE: Glatfelter Center, 1802 Folkemer Circle, York

PROGRAM: Norina Bentzel is an adjunct professor at York College, a former teacher and principal, and author of the book *Glorious Sadness*. She was principal of the North Hopewell - Winterstown Elementary School in the Red Lion School District when a mass machete attack happened on February 2, 2001.

She will tell us about how on that fateful day, she and women members of her staff were able to subdue the attacker, preventing further injury and thus saving not only their lives, but the lives of the children in the kindergarten class as well. She will speak to the things she learned about loss, healing from trauma, forgiveness, and the power of human connection. You will not want to miss this one.

Spouses and friends are invited to attend the program.

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

USED BOOK SALE

There will be a used book sale before the November Branch meeting. You can drop off donated books that day at the Glatfelter Center starting at 9:30 A.M. The sale will be held 11:00-12:30. Please limit donated items to those books that others will want to read (no outdated reference books).

Linda Palmer, Book Group

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.

FROM THE PODIUM

As we continue to enjoy our beautiful fall weather, we also have many Branch activities that I would like to encourage you to participate in. At our November Branch meeting, we will be having our Used Book Sale to raise money for our scholarship fund, and you will read more details in this newsletter about the time you can drop off books that you would like to donate. I always enjoy our book sale because I find some good books to read over the winter.

I also would like to encourage everyone to vote on November 4, since our Pennsylvania Supreme Court justices are up for retention and they make many important decisions that affect us. Our state and national AAUW organizations continue to perform critical legislative advocacy on women's issues and send us emails to encourage us to contact our legislators.

As always, you also will find some other fun and educational activities you can participate in, such as our Bridge Group, Games Group, Book Group, Community Outreach with our Colleges, and our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Thank you for all that you do to support our mission of gender equity for women and girls.

Bonnie Bluett, President

BOARD MEETING

The November 4 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.

WRITE-READ-WRITE

Thank you to the members who signed up to participate in this project. At the next Branch meeting on November 11, all those who signed up will receive a letter from a student at Yorkshire Elementary School. The student will tell you about themselves and their interests, and they will mention what type of books they enjoy. Please purchase one paperback book at a cost of under \$10. Their teacher will write their reading level on the envelope as a guide. Bring the book wrapped in holiday paper and your reply letter, written in print only and placed inside the book, for the student, to our Holiday Luncheon on December 9. Remember to put the name of the student on the outside of the wrapped book.

If you have any questions, please contact one of us.

Kay Roddy & Martha Fleischer, Write-Read-Write

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet on Wednesday, November 19, to discuss *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali.

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.

GET OUT THE VOTE

Municipal and school board positions will be on the ballot in November, along with statewide judicial elections. Voters will choose one open position each on the Commonwealth and Superior courts and consider retention of three of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court justices and one judge on the Superior Court and one judge on the Commonwealth Court.

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

- Last Day to register to vote was October 20, 2025.
- Applications for mail-in or absentee ballots must have been 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 p.m. 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

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Higher Education Scholarship Committee met on October 8 to discuss our plan of action for the coming year. We are trying something different this year. We are looking to offer scholarships to high school seniors who plan to go to two- or four-year colleges the following year. We welcome Lauren Scheib to our committee and extend an invitation to any member who would like to join us. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12. If you would like to join us, please notify me. The committee thanks the Board and membership for their generous support of scholarships.

Rita Meisenhelder, Higher Education Scholarship Committee Chair

BANTER DEADLINE

November 24 is the deadline for articles for the December *Banter*.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

As we continue to consider all aspects of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the League of Women Voters has highlighted an important aspect of “DEI” that many of us may not have considered. The League states, ‘For the veterans who were wounded, physically or psychologically, during service, DEI is a crucial tool for workplace understanding and integration. Service-related disabilities or conditions should not prevent someone from being hired or accessing a workplace. DEI encourages accessibility and a greater understanding of how employers can work with employees who may be dealing with common conditions like Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injuries, heart conditions, or movement restrictions.’

Recognizing that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies can have broad implications for some of our vulnerable populations, is important to understand as we explore what Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies really mean.

Book recommendation from AAUW PA’s DEIB Book series: *Don’t Ask the Blind Guy For Directions*, a memoir by John Samuel.

Please consider joining this important committee by contacting one of the co-chairs listed below.

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

PUBLIC POLICY

At the national level, AAUW showed up at the Supreme Court on Wednesday, October 15, as it heard a redistricting case (Louisiana v. Callais) that could weaken the Voting Rights Act (VRA). The case, which challenges the congressional map that Louisiana adopted in 2024, could have significant implications. If the court sides with Louisiana and overturns the map that created the state’s second majority-Black congressional district, the ruling could result in the redistricting of as many as 19 majority-minority House seats in states across the country, according to a report from Fair Fight Action and Black Voters Matter Fund. In arguments, the Court’s conservative majority signaled willingness to weaken or eliminate Section 2 of the VRA, the section challenged in the case. But liberal justices countered that just because race-based redistricting has been successful in increasing equality does not mean that its work is done. ‘...Weakening Section 2 would silence voices already underrepresented in power, particularly those of women whose leadership has long been the backbone of democratic progress.’ (C.R. Terrell, 2025)

Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair

2025-2026 YEARBOOKS

The 2025-2026 Yearbooks were distributed at the October meeting. Kudos to Anne McFeely and Joan Beekey for distributing Yearbooks to the residents of the Village at Sprengle Drive who were unable to attend the meeting.

The remaining Yearbooks were mailed. Please contact me if you have not received your Yearbook, so that I can mail one to you.

Betty Hooker, Yearbook Chair

SHARE AND SHOW JANUARY PROGRAM

Ladies! The January Branch meeting is our time to shine, so please do not let it snow!

- ❖ Tell us what you are most passionate about.
- ❖ Share about your hobby or display your collection. Show off your craft, recite a poem, or tell about an accomplishment you are proud of. Give out a copy of a treasured recipe with a treat.
- ❖ We want to know what makes you tick.

All are invited to participate in *Share and Show*, but you can choose to just enjoy the show as well.

If you would like to participate in any way, please reserve your time and display space with either of us.

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

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet Wednesday, November 5, at 10:00 AM at the home of Anne McFeely. Please bring a sandwich for lunch.

Are you interested in becoming a substitute player or member of the group? Please contact Lois Kulp Hickman.

Lois Kulp Hickman.

GAMES GROUP

The Group will meet at Carol Little's on Saturday, December 13, at 11:00 AM. In a NEW FORMAT, we will all bring finger foods to share as we chat, then play games, and end with desert made by the hostess. We enjoy new participants and welcome all, including spouses. Please RSVP to Carol by December 10.

Anne McFeely

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.