Presidents’ Log

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect upon the many things for which we are grateful. When we look at the talented members who devote their time and energy to branch activities, it is humbling. Women who gather to sort, price and pack books for the book sale, those who organize programs, recruit new members or work behind the scenes to make things happen.

We can all contribute each in our own way to better our branch and community. Our members participated in several programs this month demonstrating our commitment to our local community and global issues. We provided information about our branch at the Community Resources Fair and endorsed the Community Covenant.

At our October 18th program with Dana Brown, we learned that women will help to decide this election – your vote counts which is why our goal is to get this newsletter to you before November 6th. Read more about our cruciverbalist (look that up!) Martha Hummel along with other programs we participated in, such as the Day of Caring and the UN Celebration.

As we move into the next calendar year, we look for opportunities to encourage education and conversation. We are seeking ways to better communicate our programs and activities. Contact us if you would like to be involved. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Candace Davison & Charlene Harrison
Branch Co-Presidents

Women and Politics Program Points to Disparity in Participation Rates

The AAUW State College Branch October 18th program featured an important talk on women and politics with Dana Brown, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Center for Women and Politics (PCWP) at Chatham University. Learn more about PCWP, a non-partisan group, at www.pcwp.org.

While the proportion of eligible women voting now exceeds the proportion of eligible men voting (51% v. 47%), women are far less inclined to run for political office. When they do run, women win at the same rate as men. Pennsylvania ranks 42nd for the proportion of women legislators (17%). In order to increase the participation of women in government, we must address both institutional barriers and cultural (work/life balance) barriers.

UN Dinner Examines Women’s Empowerment

Dr. Brown described the marked difference in PA between the participation of women at the polls and their far more limited role in elected office.


(see UN CELEBRATION, page 3)
Branch Teams with Humphrey Fellows for Day of Caring Project

On October 4th, members of our branch participated in the Centre County United Way Day of Caring, partnering with students from the Penn State Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship program. We painted a shelter apartment in the Centre County Women’s Resource Center’s transitional living program, and had a great time working with the Humphreys Fellows.

Handbook-Directories a Great Resource

The 2012/2013 Branch Handbook-Directories have arrived, and they look great. This publication is a very handy item to have on hand.

Special thanks to co-editors Nancy DeWalle, Suzanne Kerlin and Louise Tukey for their efforts getting this to press. They are much appreciated.

¡Adelante! Book Group News

Our branch book group will meet Thursday, November 8th at Café Lemont at noon. We will discuss The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot.

This absorbing book weaves together the story of Henrietta Lacks, her family, and the amazing medical developments achieved by using her cells which were taken without her knowledge. If you’ve read the book, please come to our discussion. Contact Pat Kephart for more info: pbk11@verizon.net, 234-2524.

COMMUNITY DIVERSITY GROUP

AAUW and the Community Diversity Group have a luncheon series for women of color and diverse backgrounds, which provides networking and educational opportunities. Five luncheons have been held since 2010.

The topic of discussion for our October 16 luncheon was Relationships: Fostering Healthy Ones; Recognizing and Accessing Resources for Unhealthy Ones. Our panelists were Kia Damon, Assistant Lady Lions Basketball Coach (standing in for Coquese Washington, who was unable to attend); Janet Rosenzweig, author of The Sex-Wise Parent; Janet Taylor, Office of Aging; and Michele Hamilton, Senior Shelter Counselor, Centre County Women’s Resource Center. Our moderator was Leslie Laing, Assistant Director of Adult Learner Programs and Services at Penn State. The luncheons are made possible by grants from Penn State’s Equal Opportunity Planning Committee, the Human Resource Association of Centre County, AAUW State College Branch, individual community donors, and donations from the attendees. Learn more about the Community Diversity Group at http://www.communitydiversitygroup.com/.
For the second year, branch member Martha Hummel represented the AAUW State College Branch in the annual Mid-State Literacy Crossword Puzzle Competition, held in the Patton Township Building on October 14th. She made us proud, walking away with top honors in the Senior Division, and also clinching third place in the overall event. Congratulations, Martha!

Proceeds from the event will help the Mid-State Literacy Council keep its doors open for the hundreds of people who rely on MSLC services each year. At this time, the organization is receiving NO state or federal funding. That’s a disturbing reality when one considers statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, showing that 1 in 7 adults cannot read. To learn more about the Mid-State Literacy Council, visit www.mid-stateliteracycouncil.org.

Branch Members Attend AAUW-PA District Meeting

Four members of the AAUW State College Branch attended the AAUW-PA Central District meeting in Millersville on October 20th; they were Talat Azhar, Carol Hodes, Naana Nti and Connie Schroeder. Branches exchanged ideas and discussed the future of AAUW.

A meeting highlight was the presentation by Amanda Holt, a young woman who has challenged the constitutionality of the PA redistricting map. AAUW-PA awarded Amanda a $500 Impact Award at the close of her presentation, and encouraged her to continue to stand up for what she believes in.

There is no occasion for women to consider themselves subordinate or inferior to men.—Ghandi

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Candidates for Election: November 6, 2012

Listed in ballot order, by office sought, then by candidates. Republicans are listed first by law because they have the Governor’s mansion. Note: Libertarians still face a petition challenge. Incumbents are identified as such; for challengers, we have given brief identification including a current office held or party involvement when either is known. Except for the local candidates, we have provided their websites.

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:
--**Mitt Romney/Paul Ryan**, Republicans: Romney was Governor of Massachusetts; Ryan is a sitting Congressman from Wisconsin. [www.MittRomney.com](http://www.MittRomney.com)
--**Barack Obama/Joe Biden**: Democratic
Incumbents. [www.barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com)
--**Jill Stein/Cheri Honkala**, Green Party: Dr. Stein, physician, is an environmental health advocate; Honkala advocates for the poor and homeless. [http://www.jillstein.org](http://www.jillstein.org)
--**Gary Johnson/James P. Gray**, Libertarian: Johnson was Governor of New Mexico; Judge Gray served on the Superior Court, Orange County, CA. [http://www.garyjohnson2012.com](http://www.garyjohnson2012.com)

UNITED STATES SENATOR:
--**Tom Smith**, Armstrong County, Republican: Smith was a farmer who became a coal company executive. [www.TomSmithforSenate.com](http://www.TomSmithforSenate.com)
--**Bob Casey, Jr.**, Lackawanna County, Democrat: Incumbent. [bobcasey.com](http://bobcasey.com)
--**Rayburn Smith**, Clarion County, Libertarian: He is a retired postal worker.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: The Attorney General is the State’s chief law enforcement officer.
--**David Freed**, Cumberland County, Republican: Freed is DA of Cumberland County and a member of the PA Republican State Committee. [davidfreedforag.com](http://davidfreedforag.com)
--**Kathleen Kane**, Lackawanna County, Democrat: As Assistant DA, she prosecuted over 3,000 cases across the range of crime. [www.kathleenkane.com](http://www.kathleenkane.com)
--**Marakay Rogers**, York County, Libertarian. She is an attorney and perennial candidate.

AUDITOR GENERAL: The state’s chief fiscal officer is responsible for improving the performance of government.
--**John Maher**, Allegheny County, Republican: Currently a State Representative from Allegheny County, he is a CPA. [http://cpaforpa.com](http://cpaforpa.com)

--**Eugene DePasquale**, York County, Democrat: Currently State Representative from York, he is past Deputy Secretary of the Dept. of Environmental Protection. [eugene4pa.com](http://eugene4pa.com)
—**Betsy Summers**, Luzerne, Libertarian. Eastern Vice Chair of the PA Libertarian Party, her website features her campaign for Mayor of Wilkes Barre. [http://www.betsysummers.com](http://www.betsysummers.com)

TREASURER: This office safeguards the Commonwealth’s assets.
--**Diana Irey Vaughan**, Washington County, Republican: She is a Washington County Commissioner. [friendswithdiana.com/](http://friendswithdiana.com/)
--**Patricia Fryman**, Venango County, Libertarian: She is Victory Township Auditor and Treasurer of the PA Libertarian Party.

U. S. CONGRESSMAN:
--**Charles Dumas**, Centre County, Democrat: He is a Penn State Theater professor with a law degree. [charlesdumasforcongress.com](http://charlesdumasforcongress.com)

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR: Philipsburg and Rush Township only. For the rest of Centre County, there is no race because Sen. Corman was re-elected to a 4-year term in 2010.
--**Timothy Houser**, Cambria County Republican. He is a funeral home director in Ebensburg.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE: Candidates are running in the old districts you are accustomed to. We have three districts in Centre County.

76th DISTRICT: Northern Centre and all of Clinton counties:
—**Mike Hanna** (incumbent), Lock Haven, Democrat, is running unopposed.

77th DISTRICT: State College Borough except Penn State campus and western and southern Centre County:
—**Ron Reese**, Worth, Republican: He is a farmer.

171st DISTRICT: Bellefonte area and Penns Valley with portions of Mifflin County:
—**Christopher Lee**, Harris Township, Democrat: He is CEO of the Boal Mansion.
Why have we seen so much attention to women voters in this election? Campaigns look to us because we outnumber men, and in every age group, we are more likely to vote than men, up until the age of 75.

Dana Brown, our October speaker, is Executive Director of the PA Centre for Women and Politics and Assistant Professor of Political Science at Chatham University. She explained that the gender gap goes beyond participation into issues positions and political affiliation. This gap became apparent in 1980, and has continued since, as women gain more economic independence, have a different sense of the role of government and are more peace oriented than militarily inclined.

But voting behavior is not the only way women in politics differ from men. We are far less likely to run. Although we are 51% of the population, women hold only 16.8% of the seats in Congress, nationally we are 23.6% of state legislatures, we have 12% of the Governor’s mansions, and 17.4% of the mayors for cities with populations above 30,000.

Pennsylvania, as we are well aware, is behind the curve. We rank 42nd among states for the number of women in our Legislature, with 11 Senators out of 50 and 32 State Representatives out of 203. In our counties, 38 of the 67 have no women on their Boards of Commissioners. Centre County, of course, is one of them.

When women run, we win in the same percentages as men. Why do we hold back when our chances are equally good? We face institutional and cultural barriers. In addition to the obvious family/work balance, we may struggle to get a foot in the door if the institutions and parties are entrenched. For another, we need far more encouragement. Most women are asked to run 7 times before they begin to take themselves seriously in the role.

We often deplore gridlock and wonder why issues we consider central are ignored. These things happen because we are not at the table. Women in office change the agenda by insisting our issues are brought up, we make alliances and are willing to work across the aisle, and we make bills more inclusive because we are more attuned to diverse perspectives. Given our low numbers in office, we are not advancing these qualities as we would like because the critical mass for making these things happen is 30%.

Where do Pennsylvania’s Senate candidates stand on closing the pay gap? Where do they stand on college affordability? Where do the candidates stand on a woman’s right to access affordable contraception without asking her boss’s permission? Are you sure you know their positions?


The Action Fund has thoroughly researched the candidates’ records and public positions to assess where they stand on AAUW’s priority issues.

Dianne Gregg and Mary Dupuis
Public Policy Co-Chairs
Girls on the Run—$2,500
www.gotrhappyvalley.com

Girls on the Run® is a youth development program combining an interactive curriculum and running to inspire self-respect and healthy lifestyles in pre-teen girls. Funding from AAUW includes:

Curriculum—trained seven new coaches and provided a background check, training manual, copy of curriculum, program T-shirt and whistle.

Supplies and Equipment—each session location is provided with supplies and equipment for a 10-week session for 15 girls.

GOTR International renewal fees—paid $500 from AAUW gift to GOTR International for council renewal fee.

Rental fees for program locations—rental of program space at Park Forest Elementary and Mt. Nittany Elementary Schools.

Healthy Snacks—a nutritious snack is provided at each session.

See page 8 to learn about the November 11th GOTR 5K Walk/Run.

Stewards of Children—$5,000

Stewards of Children is a collaboration between YMCA of Centre County, Centre County United Way, Youth Service Bureau, and Centre County Women’s Resource Center. Together, they have taken on the responsibility and commitment to train 5,800 Centre County residents in Stewards of Children. This a prevention training program that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The program is designed for organizations that serve youth and for individuals concerned about the safety of children. It is the only nationally distributed, evidence-based program proven to increase knowledge, improve attitudes, and change child protective behaviors.

This 2.5 hour training is available to any group whether they are directly working with children or not. Currently, over 1,000 Centre County residents have attended the training and over 20 companies have committed to the program. The training is free because of generous contributions such as the AAUW grant. Stewards of Children will help Centre County be the safest possible environment for our children. For details, contact Cameron Frantz at cfrantz@ymcaofcentrecounty.org.

Discovery Space of Central Pennsylvania—$5,500
www.mydiscoveryspace.org

At Discovery Space we have evidence children love to build structures and engage in STEM-related activities. Thanks to an AAUW grant, Discovery Space and KidTech have made this museum-based experience an outreach program. Over several months, Discovery Space and KidTech staff will train college students to work with middle and elementary school students on the Milk Carton Car Challenge, an engineering design challenge. The goal is two-fold: to spark interest in the STEM fields, and to empower females to get in or stay in the game.

Stewards of Children is another activity that engages young minds.

Whom We Help

Earlier this year, these three groups received AAUW State College Branch community grants for the first time. Each of them reflects our mission to advance equity for girls, in its own unique way. We are proud to assist them in their important work.

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Remembering Ruth Meyer

Ruth G. Meyer died on October 17, just shy of 95 years of age.

After receiving a B.S. in Library Science at Case Western Reserve University, "Miss Mingle" served as assistant librarian at the Cleveland Heights, Ohio, high school where Jody Bland was a student. Later, they both moved to State College, joined AAUW and each became a 50-year member, remaining life-long friends.

In 1966 and also 1967 Ruth was a Co-Chair of the Used Book Sales, along with Mary Edith Cowell and Delphine Smith. The sales were held in the front of the G.C. Murphy store on South Allen Street. The sales grossed $682.56 and $929.33, a good amount in those days.

The Meyer's basement was the scene of sorting and pricing books. One day Ruth priced 47 boxes of Fiction books, an all-time high.

Ruth and her husband, "Woody," raised three sons. She directed church choir, taught Sunday School, researched family genealogy and co-edited a 220-page book, The Witnesses, about the history of the German Reformed Churches in central PA. —Louise Tukey, Branch Historian

Welcome, New Members!

Leslie Laing—lal24@psu.edu

Leslie Laing is Assistant Director for Adult Learner Programs and Services for Student Affairs at Penn State. She completed both her bachelor's degree in Humanities with Magna Cum Laude distinction and a master of arts in Higher Ed Administration at Montclair State University, New Jersey.

In her role, she provides referrals, mentorship, advocacy and programming for students who are 24 years or older, parents, veterans and those returning to college after four or more years. Additionally, Ms. Laing is the founder of the Adult Learner Opportunity Fund at Penn State and a standing member on the Commission for Adult Learners. In the community, she is a proud single parent who enjoys teaching Sunday school, Christmas caroling to the elderly and shut-ins, supporting Santa for Seniors and Operation Christmas Child in addition to other philanthropic endeavors. She is also a member of the Community Diversity Group and the current President of the Forum on Black Affairs.

Leslie is proud to become a member of the AAUW State College Branch because advancing equity for women through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research is a critical mission. It aligns with her principles, and she believes we strengthen the community by serving and creating additional avenues for women to change in the world.

Rita Lumpkins—ritalouise@gmail.com

I am excited to join the State College AAUW and look forward to meeting and working with fellow branch members. I particularly wish to add my efforts to those of AAUW members and the Centre Region community to the Book Sale project. As an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Penn State member, I think it especially wonderful that Sale proceeds fund scholarships for returning adult women students along with other fine branch endeavors.

Originally from Massachusetts, I earned a B.A. in Political Science and worked in Public Welfare. I have lived since 1997 in State College, and obtained an M.S. in Library Science at Clarion University. My husband Charles teaches at Penn State and our married son, Charlie, resides in North Carolina.

Have You Heard?

Congratulations to Marjorie Dunaway who became a great grandmother to Emily Bartus, born on September 12 in Glenside, Pa. to Abby and Greg Bartus. Marge recently celebrated her 92nd birthday.

Sympathy to Marjorie Dunaway, whose sister, Barbara Flora, died on September 19 in Presque Isle, Maine, at age 87.

Congratulations to Micki Pharo whose great grandson, Jude K. R. Pharo was born to Justin and Sarah Jo Pharo, of Orlando, Florida, on September 22. He joins brother, Roland, 2 1/2 years old.

Sympathy to the family of Ruth Meyer who died on October 17 at Brookline Village, State College. See related story, above.

Congratulations to Sue and Dave Werner, whose new grandchild, Anna Joy Olshan, was born on September 28 in Washington, D.C. to Sharon Werner and Eric Olshan.
About AAUW

Since its first meeting in 1881, AAUW has been a catalyst for change. Today, with more than 100,000 members and donors, 1,000 branches, and 500 college and university partners, AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW’s voice has long influenced legislative debate on critical social issues. It provides millions of dollars in fellowships, grants and awards to outstanding women from around the globe and for community action projects. AAUW also funds pioneering research on women, girls, and education.

Through leadership programs, women and girls acquire the skills they need to succeed and assume leadership roles in their academic, professional, and personal lives.

AAUW State College Branch
P.O. Box 735
State College, PA 16804
www.aauwstatecollege.org

Used Book Workshop
2100 East College Avenue
(814) 235-6884

Branch Co-presidents:
Candace Davison, ccd2@psu.edu
Charlene Harrison, chh1@psu.edu

To join, renew, or update your membership, contact:
Membership Vice-presidents
Michelle Decker
mgd152@psu.edu
Carol Hodes
carolhodes@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Connie Schroeder
connieschroeder@gmail.com

DIVERSITY STATEMENT
In principle and in practice, 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.

April 13th: Save the Date!
The AAUW-PA Annual Meeting will be held April 13th at Toftrees.
We are excited to announce that the Keynote Speaker will be Christianne Corbett, AAUW Senior Researcher and Co-author of the newly released report, Graduating to a Pay Gap.

View the Keystoner quarterly newsletter of AAUW-PA: http://aauw-pa.aauw.net/connect/keystoner/

Girls on the Run of Happy Valley 5K Run/Walk
Sunday, November 11, 11:30 a.m.
Medlar Field at Lubrano Park
Join us for our first 5K Run/Walk! If you have a daughter who would like to participate, contact Carol Baney, carolbaney@hotmail.com.

Volunteers Needed!
If you can help, contact lmaxwell@gmail.com.

Persistent Pay Gap Affects Women Just One Year Out of College
Women New to the Workforce Are Paid Only 82 Cents to Men’s Dollar

WASHINGTON, 10/24/2012– A new study from AAUW shows just one year out of college, millennial women are paid 82 cents for every dollar paid to their male peers. Women are paid less than men are even when they do the same work and major in the same field. The AAUW report, Graduating to a Pay Gap, also found that 20 percent of women working full time one year after graduation devote more than 15 percent of their earnings to paying back college loans.

"In this election, jobs and the economy are top priorities. For women, it's not just about getting a job; it's about getting fair and honest pay. Graduating to a Pay Gap paints a disturbing picture for college-educated women who are losing out financially, from their first paycheck to their last Social Security check," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman. "We must address this workplace barrier so that our daughters have the same economic opportunities as our sons."

AAUW Director of Research Catherine Hill added, "We hope the new figures will help employers understand the problem and implement measures to pay their workers fair and honest wages."


Attend Branch Board Meetings!
Monday, November 5
Monday, December 3
11:45 a.m.—12:45 p.m.
Board meetings, held at the Used Book Workshop (2100 East College Avenue above Caspian Pools), are open to ALL branch members.

Reaching AAUW

AAUW Member HELPLINE:
800/326-2289 (AAUW)
202/785-7777 (TDD number)
202/872-1425 (FAX)

AAUW E-mail: connect@aauw.org
AAUW website: http://www.aauw.org
AAUW Congressional Action Line:
202/785-7786