



## HELP US FIND A NEW BOOK WORKSHOP HOME!

We recently learned that the lease for our AAUW State College Used Book Workshop – where book donations are processed and stored for our annual Used Book Sale - **expires this June**. The search for a new workshop home is underway!

We need a space totaling about 3,800 square feet that is situated on a level concrete slab with no stairs. Other requirements include a loading dock, air conditioning, and access to a bathroom and a dumpster. Please send suggestions for available spaces to [info@aauwstatecollege.org](mailto:info@aauwstatecollege.org).

## JANUARY 14<sup>th</sup> ALLYSHIP PROGRAM WELL ATTENDED AND RECEIVED



Over 70 people attended the January 14<sup>th</sup> Allyship and Racial Justice webinar featuring a multigenerational panel of women representing various organizations from the State College community. Panelists shared their diversity, equity, and inclusion experiences as well as their experiences in allyship, the challenges in working with allies, and offered some tips in the process. Feedback indicated that the program was well-received and that most of the respondents found the information very useful in helping them understand allyship and racial justice.

### Additional resources shared at the program:

AAUW Diversity, Equity & Inclusion toolkit - <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>; <https://www.whiteallytoolkit.com/>; <https://www.tolerance.org/frameworks/social-justice-standards>; <https://www.tolerance.org/>



## APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR AAUW STATE COLLEGE BRANCH SCHOLARSHIPS

AAUW State College seeks applicants for four undergraduate scholarships to be awarded for the academic year 2021–2022 (Fall 2021 until Summer 2022). An applicant must be a woman who:

- is a Centre County resident - with intent to maintain such residency for the duration of the grant - although she may attend a college or university located outside the county;
- is seeking her first associate or baccalaureate degree on a part- or full-time basis;
- has interrupted her studies for at least two years or delayed higher education for at least two years after graduating from high school, having enrolled in a post-secondary institution;
- has completed at least one quarter of the course work required for the degree (15 credits for an associate degree or 30 credits for a baccalaureate degree);
- demonstrates financial need, academic promise, clarity of educational goals, and service to the community.

References and financial information are required. The awards range from \$3,000 to \$7,000, depending on financial need and the recipient's circumstances. The **Application Deadline is March 1, 2021**. For details, visit <http://www.aauwstatecollege.org/>. For additional information, contact Falene Hamilton: [hfalene@gmail.com](mailto:hfalene@gmail.com) or Suzanne Kerlin: [suziekerlin@gmail.com](mailto:suziekerlin@gmail.com).



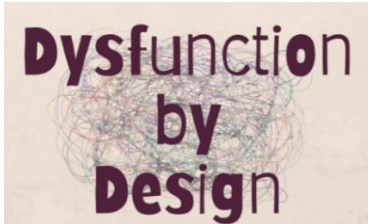
## JUDICIAL VOTING DISTRICTS UNDER CONSIDERATION

Fair Districts opposes HB 38, a bill that would change the way we choose judges. Presently, we vote statewide on judges for the appellate courts. This bill would result in judges being elected by districts established by the legislature, resulting in the likelihood of additional gerrymandering. No other state does this, and most do not even vote for judges.

HB 38 has been reported out of committee by one vote. It now goes to the entire PA House and then to PA Senate. If it passes the Senate by February 17, it will be on the ballot in the May primary. If passed in the May election, it will amend Pennsylvania's constitution. This bill has been proposed and pushed through with no transparency. The Judiciary Committee was given less than 24 hours before a vote (24 hours is required before voting on a bill), and there have been no public hearings and no posting requesting public comment.

It is important we contact our legislators regarding this, especially Representative Benninghoff and Senator Corman. If legislators are adhering to their stated goal of transparency, ask them why they are not doing so relative to this bill. Plus, be sure to express your reaction to the bill.

--Sue Johnston, Fair Districts PA-Centre County liaison



## DYSFUNCTION BY DESIGN - Gerrymandering Webinar

**Thursday, February 4, 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Presentation by Jean Handley, Fair Districts PA Speakers Bureau  
Program Co-Sponsored by AAUW Carlisle and AAUW Harrisburg

This program will help us understand the ramifications of passing HB 38, as well as the impact of sending it to the Pennsylvania Senate and then for vote in the May primary in short order.

This year has forced us all to become more aware of the machinations of our democracy and its imperfections. As advocates, it is even more critical that we understand the gears that drive our Pennsylvania Legislature in order to become more effective at advancing our issues and priorities. The Pennsylvania General Assembly has been called one of the most ineffective in the country. This is evidenced by our gerrymandered districts which entrench incumbents in 'safe' districts, as well as House and Senate rules that ensure the power in Harrisburg lies in the hands of a handful of committee chairs. This allows them to dictate the bills that will come up for a vote in committee and end with majority leadership that dictates the bills that will make it to a full House or Senate vote.

As noted above, currently, there is a push to establish Judicial Voting Districts for appellate court judges, including the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, instead of the current process of electing them at-large. The result would be gerrymandered courts. Fair Districts PA has begun an information campaign to expose these systemic issues. The **ONLY** way to effect change is to increase awareness and motivate voters to let their representatives know that we demand fairness. **Register in advance for this webinar:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fvtgvc56QAyxEkndFenYRw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fvtgvc56QAyxEkndFenYRw)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

--Sue Johnston, AAUW-PA Central District Coordinator



## REPRESENTATION MATTERS A Conversation with People of Color in Public Service

Friday, February 5, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Are you interested in our local government reflecting the diverse community it serves? Join the Centre Women Leadership Coalition of the Community Diversity Group for a hearty and honest conversation on how persons of color serve in predominately white spaces in government. Moderated by AAUW State College member and Spheres of Influence founder **Leslie Laing**, panelists include **Pamela Robb**, Patton Township Board of Supervisors; **Charles Dumas**, former member of the State College Borough Planning Commission; **Prasenjit Mitra**, Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors, and **Shannon Holiday**, Ferguson Township Planning Commission.

Attend, get inspired, and discover strategies and tips for ways to serve in your local government to bring communities together with diverse representation. **The registration deadline is February 1. Register today:** [https://psu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_I0PZ5nLqTxyHwBmlPm6A4w](https://psu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I0PZ5nLqTxyHwBmlPm6A4w). Want to learn more about the Centre Women Leadership Coalition? Contact [centrewomenlead@gmail.com](mailto:centrewomenlead@gmail.com).

## PENN STATE HUMPHREY FELLOWS EVENT SCHEDULED

Mark your calendar for **Thursday, February 25, 6:00 – 7:30 pm**, for *International Perspectives on Women in Society*, a virtual program with the Penn State Humphrey Fellows.

The program is hosted by AAUW State College and co-sponsored with the Penn State Humphrey Fellows, Altrusa International Centre County, the Community Diversity Group, and Soroptimist International of Centre County.



Ms. Mekdes Abera



Dr. May Zin Oo



Dr. Maria Rendon

The program is a panel discussion, moderated by AAUW State College member **Dr. Charlene Harrison**. The panelists will share their perspectives on women in their own country. **Mekdes Abera** is the dean of students at St. Mary's University, Ethiopia. She is interested in international and comparative education, early childhood education, education policy, higher education administration and multiculturalism. **Maria Luisa Rendon** is an administrator at National University of Honduras. Her interests include best practices and models of online management of higher education. **May Zon Oo** is a professor at Mandalay Technological University, Myanmar. She wants to learn more about U.S. higher education administration, university autonomy governance systems and improve communication skills.

**Register to attend today:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlIduirp20iHNDLi-5voA2cWAVTajSiT0s> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



## MOMS DEMAND ACTION LAUNCH GUN SAFETY PROGRAM

[Moms Demand Action](#) is a grass roots, nonpartisan, volunteer movement to prevent gun violence. It started after the horrifying school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in 2012. Our Centre Region group started after the terrible 2018 Parkland shooting.

Everyone is welcome to join in the work of ending gun violence through legislative changes, community education, and collaboration with other community groups. To join the local **Centre Region Moms Demand Action**, email us at [momsdemandaction.cr@gmail.com](mailto:momsdemandaction.cr@gmail.com)

Be SMART, a program of Moms Demand Action, is designed to help parents and adults normalize conversations about gun safety and take responsible actions that can prevent child gun deaths and injuries. Those interested in being part of the local Moms Demand Action Be SMART team is welcome. Learn more: <https://besmartforkids.org/>

Cari Gustafson, Be SMART Lead, Centre Region, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America [BeSmartforKids.cr@gmail.com](mailto:BeSmartforKids.cr@gmail.com); local group email: [momsdemandaction.cr@gmail.com](mailto:momsdemandaction.cr@gmail.com)



## CALLING ALL AAUW ARTISTS!

AAUW's annual Art Contest for members is here, and your work could be among the winning entries! To enter, [submit your photography or a digital photo](#) of your painting, drawing, sculpture, collage, or other form of art through the AAUW website. All entries are accepted, but we encourage you to look through your portfolio for works that speak to AAUW's mission.

AAUW members will select their favorite entries via ranked-choice voting. Winning entries will be featured on a collection of notecards sent to members in the spring. The back of the cards will include the winning artist's biography, a highlight of their local branch affiliation when applicable, and a fact about AAUW.

**The submission deadline is February 3.** For the rules on how to enter your work in the upcoming contest and to and peruse past winners, visit the [AAUW Art Contest page](#).



## WOMEN IN THE NEWS

### Inauguration - Poetry in Motion

National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman dazzled us at the Biden-Harris Inauguration with her recitation of her poem, "The Hill We Climb." For some inspiration, visit:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ll1c-Lbd4Bw&fbclid=IwAR3wSWNLZYyHxHfJ471a8Efo0c3XL-5oc4QafQ8VJrnTmA4BFz09VVYgMA>

**Women in Pennsylvania Politics** – a comprehensive article on the fact that in Pennsylvania, women are very underrepresented in politics: Centre Daily Times, 1-17-2021, Kristin Gjelaj, [State Treasurer Garrity Wants More Sisters in Pa. Politics](#); [Garrity \(Continued\)](#)

**Centre County Women Celebrate Harris as Vice President** – Learn what AAUW State College leadership and others say about Harris becoming VP - Centre Daily Times, 1-21-2021, Marley Parish, [Centre County Women Celebrate Harris' Milestone](#)



Submissions for the next *Branch Bulletin* are due to Connie Schroeder, [connieschroeder@gmail.com](mailto:connieschroeder@gmail.com), on **February 1**, and it will be issued on **February 8**. *Branch Bulletins* are accessible at <https://aauwstatecollege.org/blog/>.