



CELEBRATE SPRING with AAUW STATE COLLEGE NOTE CARDS

Great news! We are celebrating spring by offering these lovely note cards for sale to branch members and anyone else who is interested in having some. They were reproduced from the painting that branch member **Ann Echols** submitted to the 2021 AAUW National Art Contest, and ultimately received top honors for.

The card measures 5" x 7", and is beautifully printed by M&M Printing in Bellefonte. In ordering the cards, we were pleased to keep the business local and with a business where the co-owner is a woman. The card is blank inside, and the back of the card has an attribution to Ann and AAUW State College.

The cards are offered as a **4-pack for \$5.00** and as an **8-pack for \$10.00**. We'd love to have as many cards as possible in circulation now to use as we invite others to join AAUW State College for our new membership year (which starts July 1). To provide potential members with baseline information on our group, download and print the [AAUW STATE COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP FLYER](#), for enclosure in the card. The cards also make a great gift item – think ahead and purchase for others today.

All proceeds from the sale of the cards will support AAUW State College in our mission to advance gender equity for women and girls. The cards are available now. To purchase, contact Connie Schroeder, connieschroeder@gmail.com, (814) 360-4810. The cards are available for pick-up at her home in Harris Acres.



AAUW MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS UNDERWAY

Thank you to all who have taken the opportunity to renew your membership for the 2021-2022. Our membership year commences July 1st.

A personalized AAUW membership renewal was sent to all branch members via email from memberinfo@aauw.org on **April 9th**. **If you have not yet renewed your membership, please locate the email and follow the instructions provided. Avoid long lines at the U.S. Post Office, save postage and a paper check – renew online!** You will receive an email confirmation upon completion. If you prefer to send a check and a printed membership form through the US mail, please contact Cindy Hall, 814-571-6472, cindyhall07@gmail.com.



VOTER'S GUIDE FOR MAY 18th PRIMARY ELECTION

As with many primaries, this one finds most local races with little or no opposition. We will comment only on races where there is a primary race in either the Democratic or Republican Party.

To make this easier for us, the *Centre Daily Times* printed an extensive Voters Guide in the Sunday, April 25 2021 issue. If you can find a copy, or locate it online, it has full descriptions of all the local races in the Centre Region and Bellefonte. We will simply comment on those with opposition in which our members may be interested.

STATE COLLEGE MAYOR:

The two candidates, both Democrats, present differing views of the role of the Mayor. **Jim Leous** who is finishing 12 years as a member of the State College Area School Board, sees the Mayor as the elected official encouraging Borough residents to become involved in issues and to respond to the Borough Council regarding those issues. He has been active in the community for over 20 years. **Ezra Nanes** has run unsuccessfully for office, but has not held one. He believes the Mayor can impact the way the Borough distributes funds and to whom. (The Mayor is an advisory member of the government, with no ability to make law. The Mayor is able to facilitate discussions, but not able to actually make decisions.)

STATE COLLEGE BOROUGH COUNCIL:

There are seven candidates, six Democrats and one Republican, for three positions. **Ronald Filippelli** is an incumbent; **Catherine Dauler** has spent several terms on the council. **Gopal Balachandran** is a law professor at Penn State. **Richard Biever**, owner of Singing Onstage, self-describes himself as a political advocate. **B. Divine Lipscomb** is a current Penn state student with a primary interest in restorative justice. **Kathrine Yeaple** is a community member with a primary interest in mental health and providing services to the community. **Jacob Werner** is primarily concerned with the Borough budget and assuring that funds are spent carefully and taxes are controlled.

STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL BOARD:

There are seven candidates for 4 openings. All candidates cross-filed, both Democrat and Republican. One incumbent is running, **David K. Hutchinson**, who has worked with us in the past on education issues. **Carline Crevecoeur** reached out to the Branch Education Committee. In a meeting with her, we discussed our areas of concern and she voiced support for them. She has since become a branch member. **Jackie Huff** and **Dawn Lorenz** have teaching experience and **Deborah Anderson** and **Michelle Glenn Young** have been active volunteers in SCASD schools.

TOWNSHIP RACES:

The five townships that make up the Centre Region have no contests, except for Halfmoon, which has two Democrats running for one supervisor position. **Danielle del Corso** in Halfmoon is an incumbent supervisor running for reelection. **Rose Ann Hoover**, though listed as a Democrat, has refused to talk with Democrats. She was formerly registered as a Republican.

Please consider these candidates and make your decisions based on our AAUW priorities and areas of concern expressed in the Branch handbook and on our website or the priorities outlined on the AAUW state and national websites.

--Dianne Gregg and Mary Dupuis, Public Policy Co-Chairs



AAUW EDUCATION COMMITTEE: PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

On April 19, the House Education committee voted to pass [House Bill 1013](#) that will require Career Technical Education (CTE) certifications to be included on a student's high school transcript. These certifications include those acquired by passing the "NOCTI" tests taken at Career Technical or Vocational Technical Schools. High school transcripts acknowledge whether a student took an honors

or AP class, but CTE students spend three or four years preparing for their certification without acknowledgement of their success. In 2016-17, 29 percent of CTE students earned at least one certification. The "job-ready" certification verifies specific knowledge in areas important to many occupations. In addition, NOCTI tests are evaluated for rigor by the National College Credit Recommendation Service. All NOCTI tests received a college credit recommendation, which facilitates further education.

Employers value these certifications and may give greater consideration and higher starting pay to candidates who hold them. Last, the House Education committee held an informational meeting on PDE Academic Accountability during COVID on April 26.

--Carol Hodes, AAUW State College Education Sub-Committee



FAIR DISTRICTS (CENTRE) UPDATE

Recently, I participated in a virtual meeting with Representative Rich Irvin. He is a co-sponsor of HB 22, known as LACRA (Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Act). He noted that gerrymandering results in "safe districts" and because of that we tend to elect legislators at the far right and far left. If we draw the legislative and congressional districts so that they meet criteria mandated by LACRA, more moderate legislators will be elected. More moderate legislators are conducive to compromise.

How does this relate to AAUW? AAUW Pennsylvania is supporting three major public policy issues that affect women and girls, Equal Pay, Paid Leave, and Raising the Minimum wage. They are introduced in every session and never receive a vote. With less gerrymandering, we have a chance of electing legislators who listen to our concerns.

HB 22 has been in the State Government Committee since February 26, 2021 with no movement out of committee. That has to happen before it can receive an up or down vote. The chair of the committee is Seth Grove from York County and the Democratic Chair is Margo Davidson from Delaware County.

Please contact Representatives Rich Irvin and Scott Conklin (who are co-sponsors), thank them, and request they contact Representatives Grove and Davidson and request they proceed with voting on HB 22 in the State Government Committee. Representatives Benninghoff and Borowicz have not signed on as co-sponsors. Please contact them and request they do so.

In the Senate, SB 222 (LACRA) has been introduced and was sent to the Senate Government Committee on February 26, 2021. There has been no movement out of committee. Please contact Senator Corman and request he become a co-sponsor and use his influence to move the bill out of committee.

Senator Jake Corman 814-355-0477 or www.senatorcorman.com/contact

Representative Kerry Benninghoff 814-355-1300 or www.kerrybenninghoff.com

Representative Rich Irvin 814-644-2996 or www.repirvin.com

Representative Stephanie Borowicz 570-748-5480 or www.repstephanie.com

Representative Scott Conklin 814-238-5477 or www.pahouse.com/conklin

For more information on LACRA go to <https://www.fairdistrictspa.com> and click on Details under PA Voters Want Fair Districts.

--Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Liaison to Fair Districts Centre County

VOTE TODAY IN AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION: DROP the DEGREE REQUIREMENT

As an AAUW State College branch member, you received an important email on **April 7th** from Shannon Wolfe, AAUW National Managing Director and Chief of Staff. It was about voting in the [AAUW National Election](#), which runs through **May 17th, 5:00 pm**. This year, members' voices will determine our path forward as an organization. An important proposal is a bylaws change to eliminate AAUW's longstanding membership degree requirement. AAUW State College Co-Presidents Cindy Hall and Sally Kalin have gone on record to strongly support the proposal to drop the degree requirement.



The voter information and link provided in the April 7th email is customized for you, so if you have not yet voted, you will need to find that email in order to vote.

This is an important election for AAUW. If you already voted -- THANK YOU. If you have not, please do so prior to May 17th. Your voice matters!

Your voice and your vote are vital. The future of AAUW is in your hands.



USED BOOK WORKSHOP

For the time being, the AAUW State College Used Book Workshop remains **CLOSED for book donations**. We hope to reopen for donations this summer when the new workshop is organized for volunteer book sorting and new donation bins/receptacles are in place. Visit https://aauwstatecollege.org/used_book_sale_donations/ for updates.



BRANCH MEMBER SALUA KAMEROW CLIMBS NEW HEIGHTS

Congrats to Branch member **Salua Kamerow**, who was featured in the March 2, 2021 issue of *For the Record*, a publication of Richmond Law at the University of Richmond School of Law. After completing a Master of Laws degree at Penn State and a master's in translation at New York University, Salua is now a student at Richmond Law, set to graduate next year. She is currently focused on advocating for immigrants in the juvenile justice system, and will be doing an internship this summer with Judge Donald Hahn in State College. The *For the Record* article, *Her Language? Justice* was authored by Richmond Law graduate Cheyenne Varner, Class of 2013.

Read more: <https://lawmagazine.richmond.edu/featurette/article/-/19670/her-language-justice.html>



JOIN AAUW STATE COLLEGE TEAM for MID-STATE LITERACY COUNCIL BEE

Like to spell? Mid-State Literacy (MSLC) is holding the 22nd Annual Ron & Mary Maxwell Community Spelling Bee on **August 4th via Zoom** (6:00 pm). Following a several year tradition we hope to field an AAUW State College

three-person spelling team to participate. The event is sponsored by several local companies, groups and individuals who raise money for MSLC. The 2020 AAUW team of Connie Schroeder, Sally Kalin, and Talat Azhar are retiring but will even donate their Bee Keeper hats to a new AAUW team for this year! It's a fun event which raises vital funds for local Adult Basic Literacy and English Language Students. Learn more about MSLC services at www.midstateliteracycouncil.org.

If interested in spelling, contact Connie Schroeder, connieschroeder@gmail.com.

Did you know: Mid-State Literacy Council helps 200 students each year, two-thirds of whom are women.



PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR LATE JUNE IN-PERSON BRANCH CELEBRATION

Our annual May Awards & Scholarship Banquet has been canceled due to issues related to Covid, but there is good news on the horizon! The Program, Scholarship and Awards committees are working on a June event. It will be a time to celebrate our 2021 branch awardees and scholarship recipients, meet old friends and greet new and prospective members, reflect on the past year's successes, and look ahead to the coming year.

Watch for details in the coming *Branch Bulletins* or visit https://aauwstatecollege.org/calendar_events/ for updates.

ANNA FRICK REMEMBERED

A resident of the Wynwood House in State College, AAUW State College branch member **Anna Frick** died on April 24th. During her retirement she volunteered at the Used Book Workshop as a pricer and in the recycling area. She also volunteered at the Used Book Sale. She will be missed!



Please send submissions for the **May 17th** *Branch Bulletin* to Connie Schroeder, connieschroeder@gmail.com, by **May 10th**. Bulletins are sent electronically to branch members and friends by the date of issue and also are accessible at <https://aauwstatecollege.org/blog/>.