



## REFLECTIONS FROM OUTGOING BRANCH CO-PRESIDENT CINDY HALL

Four-years as Co-President of AAUW State College passed in a blink of an eye (or almost). The turbulence stemming from COVID has been relentless. At the same time, it gave us reason to refocus ourselves and our work, resulting in many moments of pride for our branch.

We were one of a handful of branches to earn all Five Stars from AAUW National in one fell swoop in the early days of COVID. We had accomplished so much as a

branch that our submission was easily achieved despite being, for the most part, locked down.

We developed a three-year strategic plan that was key to our being recognized as a Five-Star Branch by AAUW National. Thanks to Treasurer Ann Echols and her small team.

We redesigned our website and rewrote the far majority of the content to reflect AAUW's and our branch priorities.

We began to accept credit cards at our 2019 Annual Used Book Sale, resulting in increased sales.

We were able to financially skate through without our Annual Used Book Sale in 2020 as well as sell and donate our inventory. At the same time, we had to locate and lease a new Used Book Workshop in a matter of a few months and move the 2021 inventory. The Used Book Sale Committee, led by Dina Liberatore, made all this happen without a playbook.

We moved all of our programming online, partnering with a number of community groups like Community Diversity Group (CDG) to offer Zoom programs. Naana Nti and Nina Cowart and the Program Committee were adept at navigating the technology challenges.

We increased our communications, launching a bi-weekly *Branch Bulletin* with long-time Editor Connie Schroeder at the helm.

Yet, there have been some disappointments—weighing heaviest on my mind is the failure of the AAUW membership to pass the elimination of the postsecondary education requirement in AAUW's Bylaws by the required 65 percent. I, as well as many others, were excited to invite women in our community who had expressed interest in joining us. These women would have proved a valuable asset and it is disheartening that we cannot include them in our ranks.

Our mission is to support and promote women and children. We must evaluate our relationships and interactions with women in our community and each other. Each of us has a role to play in lifting *all* women up. I hope each of us will make a commitment to bring new women into our branch and welcome them as our sisters-in-cause. Together we are a powerful voice for change.

My special thanks to my Co-Presidents during the four years, Sally Kalin and Victoria Sanchez, and congratulations to incoming Co-President Linda Friend.

*--Cindy Hall, Outgoing Branch Co-President*

## **JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup> BRANCH CELEBRATION at NEW WORKSHOP - PLAN to ATTEND!**



Come and celebrate our branch accomplishments together and welcome new members. We will honor our scholarship recipients, recognize branch awardees, and celebrate the successful move into our new Workshop.

The Celebration will be held on **Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm** at our new **Used Book Workshop, 2197 High Tech Road**, State College (opposite the airport and on the road between State of the Art and Cannon Industries).

We expect to be outside enjoying the warm weather. If it rains, we will move into the workshop. A box dinner will be provided along with beverages and dessert. We only ask that **attendees bring their own folding chair**. The new branch notecards (featuring a lovely floral painting by member Ann Echols) will be available for purchase (4-packs for \$5; 8-packs for \$10).

If you have a family member, friend, or colleague who is interested in learning more about AAUW and perhaps becoming a member of our branch, this is a perfect opportunity to invite them to join you.

The event is jointly planned by the Awards, Program, and Scholarship Committees, led by Chriss Schultz (Awards), Naana Nti and Nina Cowart (Programs), and Falene Hamilton and Suzanne Kerlin (Scholarship).

**Reservations are required and are due by June 16<sup>th</sup>** to Suzanne Kerlin. Call or text her at (814) 360-1177 or email: [suziekerlin@gmail.com](mailto:suziekerlin@gmail.com).



## **CONGRATULATIONS TO AAUW STATE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

We congratulate this year's scholarship recipients and wish them the very best as they continue their studies.

We have invited them to join us at our June 23<sup>rd</sup> Branch Celebration and look forward to meeting them then!

*--Suzanne Kerlin and Falene Hamilton, Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs*

## 2021-2022 AAUW State College Branch Scholarship Recipients



**HAFSA KARACA** is a political asylee from Turkey where her university was closed down by the government, thus interrupting her education. An arrest warrant was issued in her name because of her political opinions. She and her family left Turkey for Kazakhstan and then Florida where she attended Seminole State College. Hafsa and her family moved to State College. She took time off from college to work because she was unable to afford Penn State tuition. She is now studying full-time at Penn State for a Bachelor of Science in Biobehavioral Health. Hafsa has a rich history of volunteerism. She volunteers at PAWS and at the AAUW State College Used Book Workshop on Monday nights. Hafsa is receiving the Suzanne McCrae Kerlin Scholarship.



**ROBIN MONTARSI** is attending Penn State on a part-time basis and studying for a Bachelor of Science in Integrated Social Sciences. She was laid off from her job at Penn State due to COVID-19, thus losing the employee discount and her income. She attended Pennsylvania College of Technology in 1991 and interrupted her studies when she married and had her daughter. Over the past three years, Robin has volunteered at Juniper Village, visiting the residents with her dog. Robin is receiving the Simmons-Jansma Project Renew Grant.

### MEMBERSHIP

### RENEW YOUR AAUW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Thank you to all who have renewed your membership for 2021-2022. Our new membership year commences July 1<sup>st</sup>. A personalized AAUW membership renewal was sent to all branch members via email from [memberinfo@aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@aauw.org) on **April 9<sup>th</sup>** and most recently on **May 24<sup>th</sup>**. **If you have not yet renewed your membership, please locate the email and follow the instructions provided.** You will receive an email confirmation upon completion. If you prefer to send a check and a printed membership form through the U.S. mail, please contact Cindy Hall, 814-571-6472, [cindyhall07@gmail.com](mailto:cindyhall07@gmail.com). A printable form is available on our website: <https://aauwstatecollege.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Membership-Form-3-2021.pdf>.



### INVITE

### INVITE YOUR FRIENDS & COLLEAGUES to JOIN AAUW STATE COLLEGE

With our 2021-2022 membership year commencing July 1, now is the time to extend an invitation to friends and colleagues to consider joining us.

As a member of AAUW you also are directly funding AAUW's work to:

- Train millions of women to negotiate for higher salaries and benefits.
- Support state and local fair-pay legislation to ban the use of salary history in hiring, a practice that puts women at a financial disadvantage.
- Develop more women leaders through workshops and conferences.
- Fund the research that is informing national conversations on the gender pay gap, women's student-debt burden, and other key equity issues.

Please share our new membership flyer (either electronically or by printing) with potential members:

[AAUW STATE COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP INFO SHEET](#)



## AAUW OFFERS NEW CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AMBASSADORS

AAUW is excited to announce a new professional development opportunity for early- to mid-career professionals: The Equity Network's [Social Change Ambassadors Certificate program](#).

This seven-week series of virtual learning and networking sessions is intended for individuals who want to make the world a better place by making workplace practices more inclusive and equitable. After completing the program, participants will earn a certificate that they can use on their resume and LinkedIn profile.

Beginning June 22, the curriculum covers:

- Intersectionality 101
- Communicating for Inclusion
- Unconscious Bias and Dominant Culture
- Advocacy & Action
- Leading the New Normal.

Do you know a recent college graduate or a young person early in their career, perhaps aged 21 to 30? Encourage them to seize this opportunity. As an AAUW member and for only \$25, you can sponsor a young professional's journey to becoming a changemaker in his or her career field.

Space is limited. [Register your Social Change Ambassador](#) by **June 21, 2021**, to secure their spot! If you have any questions, email [equity@aauw.org](mailto:equity@aauw.org).



## FAIR DISTRICTS PA - CENTRE UPDATE

As the Legislative Redistricting Committee begins deliberations on how to draw district lines that will be in effect for the next 10 years, we want to be sure it is done with real election integrity. The passage of SB 222 – Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Act (LACRA) will ensure this.

Our state senator, Jake Corman, has not signed on to this bill as a co-sponsor. The bill is stuck in the State Government Committee and will not be voted out until Senator Corman shows interest in the bill.

Please call Senator Corman at 717-787-1377 and ask him to co-sponsor the bill and encourage the State Government Committee to bring it up for a vote. Assure Senator Corman that this bill does not change who draws the maps, just how it is done. It will enforce stricter transparency and criteria measures for both legislative and congressional maps.

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



## STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ONLINE SAFETY

Due to the changes to remote instruction during the pandemic, more children have easier access and an increased comfort level accessing the internet from home computers and other devices. Unfortunately, this exposes children to the dark side of remote communications. The Internet can be used by sexual predators and criminals to make initial contact with children and other vulnerable individuals. With this in mind, legislation is being proposed by Pennsylvania Representative Tina Davis of Bucks County to provide education to our children

to prevent them from falling prey to online predators, identify theft, and other dangers. Legislation is being re-introduced that will require schools to give age-appropriate education about online safety for students in grades K-12. This bill would require a unit of instruction, taught at least once each school year. The recommended topics would include:

1. Safe and responsible use of social networking websites, chat rooms, electronic mail, bulletin boards, instant messaging, and other means of communication on the internet
2. Recognizing, avoiding, and reporting online solicitations of students, their classmates, and their friends by sexual predators.
3. Risks of transmitting personal information on the internet.
4. Recognizing and avoiding unsolicited or deceptive communications received online.
5. Recognizing and reporting online harassment and cyber-bullying.
6. Reporting illegal activities and communications on the internet.
7. Copyright laws on written materials, photographs, music, and video.

This bill would also require online availability of relevant resource materials about staying safe online. Let's hope this legislation is successful this time!

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



## AAUW STATE COLLEGE IS FIELDING A TEAM FOR MID-STATE LITERACY COUNCIL'S AUGUST 4<sup>th</sup> SPELLING BEE

Like to spell? Mid-State Literacy Council (MSLC) is holding the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ron & Mary Maxwell Community Spelling Bee on **August 4<sup>th</sup> via Zoom** (6:00 pm). The event is sponsored by several local companies, groups, and individuals to raise money for MSLC. It's a fun event which provides vital funds for local Adult Basic Literacy and English as a Second Language students.

Great news! **Jackie Esposito**, a new (and returning) AAUW State College member, has volunteered to be one of the three spellers needed to make our team. To join her, contact Jackie, [archivist122@yahoo.com](mailto:archivist122@yahoo.com).



## BRANCH PROGRAM COMMITTEE SEEKS INPUT AND NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As the Program Committee continues to evaluate the needs of our members, we would love to have your input in planning next year's programs. It will help us regain our footing and move forward together after a challenging Covid year.

If you have some ideas for branch programs, opinions on Zoom programs versus in-person programs, or would like to join the Program Committee, please contact Program Co-Vice President Nina Cowart ([ninalee1975@gmail.com](mailto:ninalee1975@gmail.com)) or incoming Co-Vice President Susan Chyczewski ([chyczewski@yahoo.com](mailto:chyczewski@yahoo.com)). We would love to have your input.



## MEMBER NEWS

Condolences to **Lee Gruver**, whose father Bob passed away on May 31st in Foxdale Village, at the age of 100. Bob was the first male member of AAUW State College, and received the Centre County Council for Human Services Volunteer of the Year award in 1993 for his volunteer efforts with the Used Book Sale.

Congratulations to **Louise Tukey**, who celebrates her 70<sup>th</sup> year of membership in AAUW State College this summer. As Branch Historian, she has been busy these days working with fellow member Jackie Esposito sorting and packing up branch archives (42 banker boxes!) to be transferred to the new Used Book Workshop.

Condolences to **Amy Wilson**, whose mother, Adelaide Wilson, died on June 3<sup>rd</sup> in Florida.



Please send submissions for the **June 28<sup>th</sup> Branch Bulletin** to Connie Schroeder, [connieschroeder@gmail.com](mailto:connieschroeder@gmail.com), by **June 21<sup>st</sup>**. After the June 28th issue, the *Bulletin* will be suspended until August 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Bulletins* are sent electronically to branch members and friends by the date of issue and also are accessible at <https://aauwstatecollege.org/blog/>.