

2021 AAUW NATIONAL

ELECTION

## AAUW MEMBERS VOTE TO RETAIN DEGREE REQUIREMENT for MEMBERSHIP

The AAUW National Election concluded this May, and the ballot initiative to eliminate the membership requirement got 63% of the vote, which was just below the two-thirds majority needed to enact a bylaw change.

### **AAUW National Board Chair Julia Brown comments on outcome:**

*“The board-recommended ballot initiative to remove the college-degree membership requirement did not receive the two-thirds, or 66.6%, vote required to enact a bylaws change. The board is heartened that a remarkable 63% voted in favor of making this change, indicating a momentum shift toward a more inclusive membership. This was a significantly higher number than previous votes, which hovered just below 50% to make the change.” While we have many voices, I know we all share the same commitment to AAUW’s mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy, and our vision of achieving equity for all. More than ever, we must embrace our values and continue to strive towards [diversity, equity, and inclusion](#); it’s a journey that will never end.”*

**Ann Pehle, AAUW Pennsylvania President reacted:** “On the AAUW website, you can find a [summary of the results and data](#) on total votes cast by members of branches and national members and interactive maps showing the percentage approval for the Public Policy Priorities and Bylaw Change (hover over a state to reveal the percentage). The bylaw change required 66.6% approval and received 63%. Pennsylvania approval was 64.09%. I am sure many of you share my profound disappointment with the results. I am extremely pleased with your attention to this issue and the effort of you and your Board to inform members of the issue and encourage every branch member to vote. Thank you to Jordan Glover, AAUW Pennsylvania Diversity & Inclusion Chair, for creating many and varied resources. Thank you to branch Boards for your commitment to transparency, informing, and having difficult conversations.”



## 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 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.



### **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 (with a lovely floral painting by member Ann Echols) will be available for purchase there, (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).

## 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 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 this new membership flyer (either electronically or by printing) with potential members:**  
[AAUW STATE COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP INFO SHEET](#)



*In 1959, Jean spoke at an AAUW state conference. She is pictured with past branch president E-Tu Zen Sun. Today, both Jean and E-tu are honorary life members of AAUW State College.*

### CONGRATULATIONS to MEMBER JEAN FORSTER - 100 YEARS YOUNG



*Jean celebrates  
100<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

This month, AAUW State College member Jean Forster, a resident of Foxdale Village, reached her hundredth birthday. Happy Birthday and best wishes, Jean!

Jean has been a member of AAUW State College for a record 76 years, having joined the branch in 1945. She served as branch co-president from 1989-1991.

We caught up with Jean recently and asked about her time in AAUW and what aspects of AAUW have been most important to her.

Jean joined AAUW as a college graduate and felt she should be participating in local organizations and activities and using what she learned to help others. Having lived in several

different countries throughout her married life, Jean has always appreciated AAUW as a women's organization that works internationally. She fondly remembers working with E-tu Sun in programs and through study groups, such as the one on international relations, that helped people understand what is going on in the world. Jean added that she has always felt that more women should become diplomats, as they are able to perceive and conceive in a way that many men can't. As a result, she wishes more women would get involved in politics.



## AAUW STATE COLLEGE FIELDING TEAM for MSLC AUGUST 4<sup>th</sup> SPELLING BEE

Like to spell? Mid-State Literacy (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 who 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).

**Did you know:** Mid-State Literacy Council helps **200** students each year, two-thirds of whom are women. Learn more about MSLC services at [www.midstateliteracycouncil.org](http://www.midstateliteracycouncil.org).



Please send submissions for the **June 14<sup>th</sup> Branch Bulletin** to Connie Schroeder, [connieschroeder@gmail.com](mailto:connieschroeder@gmail.com), by **June 7<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/>.