



**URGENT: FAIR DISTRICTS PA CALL for ACTION
by TUESDAY, JANUARY 18th**

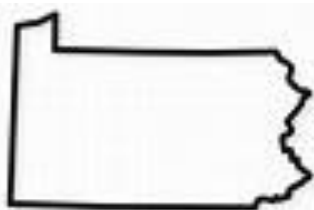
As redistricting progresses, Fair Districts PA members have been testifying and closely monitoring the process. Debbie Trudeau, who is active in Fair Districts PA and from Centre County, encourages the residents of the Centre Region and the State College Area School District to comment on the Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission's (LRC) proposed Senate district for our geographical area, which cuts State College in half. State College is a community of interest and will gain influence if it is not split; therefore, Debbie has helped to design a new district map (the PA Peoples Map) that incorporates State College and Centre County. You can see it at:

https://pennsylvania.redistrictingandyou.org/?districtType=sd&propA=current_20122018&propB=fairdistricts_2021&opacity=1.62&selected=-77.863,40.760#%26map=7.34/41.008/-77.702

To compare it to the LRC map, select the LRC map from the drop-down menu in the upper right corner. Please send your comments on the maps immediately to www.redistricting.state.pa.us/comment. There is a button on the lower left for written testimony. Reference your interest in replacing the proposed LRC map with the PA Peoples Map and explain why you do not want to see our region divided. The last date for comments is January 18.

Remember that once every 10 years, Pennsylvania draws new district maps through the legislative redistricting process following the release of U.S. Census data. The districts now being drawn will serve us for the next decade. For additional information, please email me at sueearlj@comcast.net or call (484) 467-7640.

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



**BACKGROUND on the PROPOSED PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE
and CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING**

The proposed reapportionment of Pennsylvania's legislative maps for the House and Senate is close to being finalized. **They are available for public comment, so if you have opinions, please express them.**

There are some significant differences from the current district maps because our state population has shifted geographically. The two corners, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, have increased in population while the large center has lost population. To keep the same number of districts in the state legislature, rural districts will become geographically larger. The current state Senate seat has moved farther

west and north, placing Senator Corman in a district with another strong Republican, Senator Dush of Jefferson County. [Corman is not running for re-election to the state Senate but is a candidate for governor.] The new maps split State College between this district and one to the west and south that includes Clearfield County.

Our Pennsylvania legislators' districts also will change, but all the current representatives are in safe seats, for them. There is one new seat, which is narrowly Democratic, in the Centre Region (College, Harris, and parts of the Borough of State College, then north and west through Snow Shoe). Despite his expressed concerns, Representative Benninghoff has a secure Republican district. You can see the proposed House and Senate districts on the current draft map at spotlightpa.org/mydistrict. Interestingly, the area around State College is the only place in the large center of the state that has had an increase in population over the past ten years. The new proposed House districts are fairer than the Senate districts. Instead of four representatives [shared with three other counties], we now have three. Both the new district and Representative Conklin's districts are entirely within Centre County and share the Centre Region, while Representative Benninghoff has a significant proportion of Mifflin County in addition to Penns Valley.

As for the congressional map, all bets are off at this time. Since Pennsylvania will lose a seat statewide, the political negotiations are quite intense and no resolution has yet been reached. Where State College fits into that picture is not clear. So, stay tuned while the leaders of both parties discuss where the boundaries will be.

The timetable is under a great deal of pressure. The Secretary of State says all maps must be finalized by January 24 to give counties time to prepare nominating petitions for the start of the circulation period on Feb. 15. At present, the Legislature does not appear to be on track to meet that timetable.

We are watching the process and will continue to update you when and if anything changes. Stay tuned.

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

AAUW STATE COLLEGE'S JANUARY 20th PROGRAM: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES on WOMEN in SOCIETY featuring the Penn State Humphrey Fellows



Ms. Amina Bektache



Ms. Shala Dawoodi



Dr. Nagwa Elnwisy



Dr. Vuyokazi Jamieson

Mark your calendar and plan to attend our annual program with the Penn State Humphrey Fellows, **International Perspectives on Women in Society**. It will be held virtually this year due to Covid, on **Thursday, January 20th, from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.**

Organized and led by AAUW State College, the program is jointly sponsored with Altrusa International Centre County, the Community Diversity Group, Global Connections, Penn State Humphrey Fellows, and Soroptimists International of Centre County. The format of the program will be a panel discussion moderated by AAUW State College member, **Dr. Charlene Harrison**. The Penn State Humphrey Fellow panelists are:

- **Ms. Amina Bektache** is an Educational Consultant and EFL Teacher at Management Business International Institute in Setif, Algeria.
- **Ms. Shahla Davoodi** is an English teacher and trainer at the Ministry of Education in Iran, specializing in Computer-Assisted-Language Learning.
- **Dr. Nagwa Elnwshy** is a researcher and lecturer in the Institute of Biotechnology for Postgraduate Research at Suez Canal University (SCU) Egypt.
- **Ms. Vuyokazi Jamieson** is the Head Librarian at St. Andrew's College, South Africa. She co-chairs a group advocating for the welfare of local public libraries.

Register today: **January 20 Humphrey Program Registration**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to join the meeting.

--Naana Nti, AAUW State College Program Committee



AAUW PENNSYLVANIA HOSTS JANUARY 18th PROGRAM: The STATE of WOMEN in POLITICS

Join AAUW Pennsylvania for an evening of discussion on women in politics with the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Center for Women in Politics at Chatham University and Assistant Professor of Political Science, **Dr. Dana Brown**. She will review the status of women and politics and then host a conversation focusing on your observations and questions about national and Pennsylvania women in politics.

Please forward questions that may require research to answer to aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com. Learn more about the Pennsylvania Center for Women in Politics at Chatham University: <https://www.chatham.edu/pcwp/>

The Zoom event will take place Tuesday, January 18th from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

Registration <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwocuusrj4tH9HqQH-hbkhp8UmpBjfSTjCq>

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

--Sue Johnston, AAUW-PA Central District Coordinator



**BUILDING CONNECTIONS
THROUGH COMMUNITY**

GRADUATE WOMEN IN SCIENCE (GWIS) EMPOWER CONFERENCE PLANNED for FEBRUARY 5th

The Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) State College Chapter Empower Committee is happy to announce registration is now open for the **2022 Empower Conference** which will be on **Saturday, February 5th from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm EST** via

Zoom! Empower (formerly known as Voices) is an annual professional development and networking conference for people in STEM at all career stages: students, post-docs, and professionals. It is funded in part by an AAUW State College STEM grant.

This year, the conference theme is ***Finding Yourself in Science***, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Alexis Gambis. **Registration forms and payment must be received by Feb. 1st at 11:59 PM EST.**

Conference details: <https://sites.psu.edu/gwisstatecollege/>

--Candace Davison, AAUW State College STEM Committee

AAUW STATE COLLEGE AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE JANUARY 28th



Recognizing Our Best

We need YOU to help us recognize our Branch's best by submitting nominations for the awards described below. Nominations should include a brief paragraph on how the person, group, or organization meets the award criteria.

Nominations should be sent to Chriss Schultz, cschultz8g@gmail.com and Suzanne Kerlin, suziekerlin@gmail.com, Awards Committee Co-Chairs, no later than **January 28th**.

Outstanding Woman Award

The Outstanding Woman Award recipient is an AAUW State College member who has given meritorious service to the branch and to the community over multiple years. Awardees for the past five years include: 2017 – *Centennial Committee*; 2018 – *Carol Hodes*; 2019 – *Sue Johnston*; 2020 – *Mary Dupuis*; 2021 – *Cindy Hall* and *Sally Kalin*

Making a Difference Award

This award honors a member who made a big difference in something important to AAUW State College within the past year. The recipient exemplifies the spirit of AAUW and need not be a branch officer or committee chair. Recent recipients include: 2017 – *Cindy Hall*; 2019 – *Michele Crowl*, 2019 – *Star Campbell*; 2020 – *Ann Echols*; 2021 – *Dina Liberatore*

Gateway to Equity Award

The Gateway to Equity Award honors an individual, group, or organization that by action and philosophy has promoted AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, or research. Past recipients include: 2017 – *Penn State University Commission for Women*; 2018 – *Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program*; 2019 – *Interfaith Human Services*; 2020 – *Fair Districts PA Centre County*; 2021 – *Carol Eicher* and the *Community Diversity Group*

Centre County Council for Human Services

The CCCHS Award honors an individual who has devoted outstanding volunteer service to an organization. The recipient will be recognized at the April CCCHS Volunteer of the Year Banquet dinner. Past recipients include: 2017 – *Mike Williams*; 2018 – *Jennifer Karch*; 2019 – *Angie Hay*; 2020 – *Suzanne Kerlin* and *Sherry Crassweller*; 2021 – *Ann Echols*

--Chriss Schultz and Suzanne Kerlin, AAUW State College Awards Co-Chairs



BRANCH UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applications are now being accepted for the AAUW State College Undergraduate Scholarships for Women. Please share this information with female Centre County residents pursuing their undergraduate degrees for the upcoming academic year 2022-2023. Our branch will award 3-4 scholarships based on financial need and circumstances of the recipient. All scholarship funds will be deposited into the student's account at her academic institution.

The scholarship application deadline is March 1, 2022. For additional scholarship information: <https://aauwstatecollege.org/scholarships>

--Maria Schmidt, AAUW State College Scholarship Committee Co-Chair



Undergraduate Scholarships for Women

FOUR \$3,000 - \$7,000* SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Eligibility:

- Applicant seeks first associate or baccalaureate degree on part-time or full-time basis.
- Applicant interrupted college enrollment for at least two years.
- Applicant completed at least 15 credits of an associate degree or 30 credits for a baccalaureate degree.
- Applicant is a Centre County resident** and will maintain residency, even if attending a college or university outside the county.



**APPLICATION DUE DATE
MARCH 1, 2022**

ADVANCING GENDER EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS
THROUGH RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY.

For more information:

<https://aauwstatecollege.org/scholarships>



**Excerpted from the *Centre Daily Times*
'Helping Hands' column
January 5, 2022**

Over the years, we have heard many compelling stories from our awardees about what these scholarships have meant to them. With the ongoing pandemic, family and financial pressures have been tremendous, resulting in many women needing to put their college education on hold to provide support to others, often temporarily or even permanently dashing their personal goals.

Applicants must have interrupted their college enrollment for at least two years; be seeking an associate or baccalaureate degree either on a part-time or full-time basis; and have completed at least 15 credits toward their degree.

*--Cindy Hall, Immediate
Past Branch President*

*Award amounts vary depending on need.

** a resident is defined as living and working in Centre County and not here for the sole purpose of attending Penn state University.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Mary Wolfin

I learned about AAUW State College through the annual Used Book Sale, and after looking further into the mission and vision of the organization, I knew I wanted to be a part of it.

I am passionate about education for women, especially in the STEM fields. I hold a B.A. in Adolescent Math Education, and an M.S. in Literacy Education. I worked as a classroom math teacher for over seven years before transitioning to my current role as a Math Curriculum Designer at IXL Learning. I'm an avid reader, a self-proclaimed math nerd, and I enjoy playing Dungeons & Dragons in my free time. I look forward to the work we will do together!



--Mary Wolfin – marywolfin@gmail.com



HUMPHREY FELLOWS VOLUNTEER at BOOK WORKSHOP

Above left: Branch member and Humphrey Fellow mentor **Star Campbell** (left) with Penn State Humphrey Fellows **Vuyokazi Jamieson** (South Africa), **Shahla Davoodi** (Iran), and **Madina Pulotova** (Tajikistan).

Above right: Shahla (right) helps branch member **Martha Hummel** in the recycling area.

Right: Madina and Vuyokazi price puzzles and games.

Thank you, Penn State Humphrey Fellows!



The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **Monday, January 31st**. Please send submissions for inclusion in that issue by **Monday, January 24th** to *Branch Bulletin* Editor Connie Schroeder, connieschroeder@gmail.com. *Bulletins* are sent electronically to branch members and friends and also are accessible at <https://aauwstatecollege.org/blog/>.