

Advancing equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

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A WOMAN in PUBLIC SAFETY: MEET JUSTINE JOHNSON

Her Stories, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

Wednesday, April 27th, 5:30 via Zoom

Originally, this week's AAUW State College virtual program was to feature three women employed in the public safety fields. Very recently, through circumstances outside of their control, two of the panelists have had to drop out as panelists. We will continue with the program, featuring Justine Johnson, below. It will be moderated by Carolyn Donaldson and will run about 45 minutes.

REGISTER TODAY for this engaging program!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvc-6vqT8sHtBuOidWOudcDbTqeGfQTVmF>



Justine Johnson - DCNR Ranger, Black Moshannon State Park

At a young age, Justine Johnson knew she wanted to be a Park Ranger. Her family spent time in the outdoors traveling, camping, hiking, and fishing every summer. At age twenty, Justine started her career as a Park Patrol Officer at Delaware Seashore State Park. She completed the Park Law Enforcement Training at Slippery Rock University in 2011.

Justine worked as a Protection Ranger for the National Park Service at C&O Canal National Historical Park in Maryland, Yosemite National Park in California, and Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland. Between 2014-2016, Justine worked as a park ranger in several different state parks. In 2017 she transferred to Black Moshannon State Park.

Justine works hard to keep the park and its visitors safe, while providing education on conserving and protecting the natural resources. Justine performs park patrols, medical assists, search and rescues, and enjoys interacting with the public. Next, Justine hopes to become supervisor as a Chief Ranger and to work toward becoming a Field Training Officer and Search and Rescue Manager. Justine resides in Morrisdale with her husband Cory, who is a DCNR Ranger Supervisor at Bald Eagle State Park.



ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES for SCHOOL FUNDING – JOIN US MAY 24th

The in-court testimony for the school funding lawsuit trial was concluded on March 10th after four months, 40 witnesses, and thousands of documents entered into record. Children First and Education Voters PA have

organized two events in Harrisburg to support adequate school funding to enable quality public education, regardless of local wealth. Highlights of the trial are captured in this hour-long video: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_LcaD8UwNQL6bwci4gn9TH4XK15IF1_M/view.

Related to this trial, there are current opportunities to advocate for fair public school funding. A press event took place on **Wednesday, April 13th**: "Toddlers to Tassels: A Rally to Fully and Fairly Fund Education" from 10 am -12 noon on the Capitol steps. Then on **Tuesday, May 24th**, Lobby Day will be held. This day provides AAUW members an opportunity to meet with our legislators and voice support for the Governor's full proposed education budget.

Advocacy Day!

Tuesday, May 24th

Join us in Harrisburg.

Meet with your state lawmakers.

Support the school funding PA students need and deserve!



Join AAUW State College on May 24th for Lobby Day in Harrisburg.

If you are interested in lobbying on May 24th, the staff of Education Voters PA will schedule a meeting for you, provide materials, prepare you for the meeting and provide a box lunch if you would like one. Sign-up details are below.

Please follow the link below to sign-up for Lobby Day and email me if you are interested in attending so we can carpool.

My email is carolhodes@yahoo.com.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKnorsLiS681vDXnYWu9VsN8jkZwu3J-B5H2Kvx9ySz8ydJQ/viewform?link_id=0&can_id=a8282e6ac9bb4ce3a9f5036736cbb492&source=email-icymi-tired-of-extremists-trying-to-ruin-your-local-schools&email_referrer=email_1500873&email_subject=two-opportunities-to-for-advocacy-in-harrisburg

--Carol Hodes, AAUW State College Education Chair

Education Voters of Pennsylvania (EVPA) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization, established in 2007 to promote for a pro-public education agenda in Pennsylvania. **Learn more:** <http://educationvoterspa.org/about/>



MEET 2022 BRANCH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

AAUW State College provides up to four annual scholarships (with a total combined value of up to \$28,000) that are funded by our annual Used Book Sale and generous donations. They assist returning adult women students who live in Centre County. The branch Scholarship Committee reviewed applications and is pleased to announce this year's scholarship recipients below. **Congratulations to all of you! Recipients will be invited to and recognized at our Awards & Scholarship gathering later this spring, date to be announced in the May 9th Bulletin.** We look forward to meeting these inspirational women. Please plan to join us.

--Scholarship Committee: Leslie Laing and María Schmidt, Co-chairs; Mary Adams, Maryann Domitrovitz, Falene Hamilton, and Suzanne Kerlin



Samira Gendy – Simmons-Jansma Project Renew Grant

Samira's mother, a single mother of three, was diagnosed with cancer when Samira was still in high school. Due to becoming her caregiver and the emotional and financial distress, Samira had to drop out of high school during her senior year. After her mother passed away, Samira was homeless for over three years. With the help of Centre Safe (formerly the Centre County Women's Resource Center) Samira became grounded, got a job and her own apartment, and earned her high school diploma through Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School.

In 2019 Samira enrolled at Penn State, where she is World Campus student. She is a Letters, Arts & Science major and has two minors (Human Development and Family Studies & Nutrition). Samira holds a 3.61 cumulative GPA with an anticipated graduation date of December, 2024. She volunteers with Out of The Cold and at St. Vincent de Paul's Thrift Store.



Kiana Leija – Evelyn Marboe Scholarship

With undiagnosed mental health conditions and a lack of adequate guidance and support, Kiana was forced to interrupt her educational endeavors twice. She started at the University of Texas in 2012, dropped and matriculated again in 2015. Still without adequate treatment, Kiana left the University for the second time and moved to Pennsylvania to live at the Himalayan Institute, where she was able to receive appropriate support and care. Her personal experience with mental health issues motivated her to redefine her educational goals.

Kiana was accepted at Penn State in 2019 and is planning to graduate in December, 2022 with a major in Human Development & Family Studies. Kiana holds a 3.76 cumulative GPA. Kiana participated in and helped with the Girl Scouts, and continues to provide support and services at the Himalayan Institute, a non-profit organization.



Kendra Napier-Fonash – Suzanne McCrae Kerlin Scholarship

When Kendra’s parents separated while her father was stationed overseas, her mother returned to Pennsylvania with the children. Kendra’s upbringing was full of emotional distress, lack of self-confidence, and self-esteem issues stemming from parental mental illness. She didn’t see herself as having college potential and was often told she was “too stupid to go to college.” Instead, she became a Certified Nursing Assistant, Patient Care Assistant, and Medical Secretary.

Through perseverance and personal growth, Kendra was admitted to Penn State in the summer 2010 and is pursuing a B.S. in English with an African American and Women’s Studies minor. Her expected graduation date is May, 2023. Kendra helps with AAUW’s book sale.



Tiara Hernandez – AAUW State College Branch Scholarship

Tiara attended Penn State 2012-2016. She was a child of the foster care system. In 2016, Tiara faced financial and academic challenges and was placed on a one-year expulsion with a therapy mandate as a condition to reapply. In the spring of 2017, she secured stable work and found supportive housing in a transitional program for young adults aging out of the New York City foster care system.

In the fall of 2019, Tiara returned to State College, successfully applied to have her expulsion from 2016 lifted, and since then has been diligently paying her debt to a collection agency. Tiara plans to complete a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies with intended graduation date of May, 2023.

Tiara works as a part-time certified peer specialist for Cen-Clear Child Services, and also part-time for Out of the Cold. She has also donated a painting to the ClearWater Conservancy.



**AAUW-PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION: JUNE 3–5
Central Hotel & Conference Center, Harrisburg**

This year’s AAUW Pennsylvania Convention features a wide variety of offerings including wonderful speakers,

presentations from Community Action Grant recipients, Friday night meet and greet, silent auction, a panel discussion, branch presentations, the Gateway to Equity presentation, table talks with members of other branches, and more.



Disruption as Opportunity... It's a Woman's World

We will explore all the opportunities for women as we emerge from the pandemic. We don't want to "get back to normal" because normal wasn't the best for women and girls. The pandemic was a disruptor. We hope to explore what good will emerge from the disruption and how can we leverage change to improve issues impacting women and girls. There will be several opportunities to learn about and meet AAUW members from around Pennsylvania. Among others, speakers will include **Alicia Petross**, Hershey Company Chief Diversity Officer, **Ann Pehle**, AAUW Pennsylvania President, and **Gloria Blackwell**, AAUW National CEO.

Learn more and sign up today! <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/2022-state-convention/>

Every Voice Matters

AAUW members play an important role in shaping the future for women and girls by choosing the organization's leaders and policy priorities.

AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION 2022

It's your AAUW, and your voice counts. Vote now on the national Board of Directors and changes to the AAUW bylaws.

Welcome to the 2022 AAUW National Election. Voting is now open. Members are asked to elect members to the national AAUW Board of Directors and vote on changes to the bylaws that streamline our processes. **Learn more:**

Board of Directors Candidates: [Meet the candidates and learn about the process](#)

Bylaws Amendment on Nominations: [Learn more about the proposed changes](#)

Bylaws Amendment on Ballot Administration: [Learn more about the proposed changes](#)

For information on how to vote: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/faq/>

Between April 6-9, you received an e-mail from AAUW National with your personalized ballot, accessible through your member ID. Please retrieve that e-mail in order to make your vote now. Voting closes at 5:00 p.m. ET on Monday, May 16, 2022.

Questions? Contact Connect at connect@aauw.org or call (800) 326-2289.



Star Campbell volunteered as a cashier at the fall sale. Cashiers are still needed this spring!

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED for AAUW STATE COLLEGE MAY 14-17th USED BOOK SALE

There are plenty of open volunteer positions at our May 14-17th Used Book Sale, and we need you! Check out the schedule below and please sign up today. **The sale runs 9:00 am – 8:00 pm each day, and most shifts are mostly three hours in length.** Areas most needed include:

Move-in Night – We are short some volunteers this year and the job goes much faster for everyone when we have a full schedule.

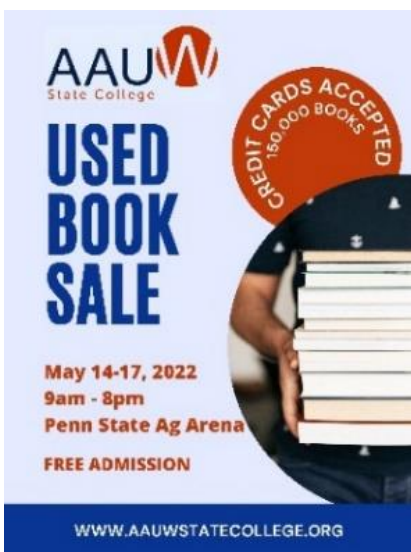
Cashiers – Cashiers will receive training before their shifts and will not need to use their own phones for doing transactions because devices will be provided.

To volunteer for the sale, sign up [HERE](#).

Note: Masks are no longer required to be worn at the Ag Arena, but remain an option for any volunteer or shopper electing to wear one.

Questions? Contact me directly at (812) 325-1028 or estelle.stroup@gmail.com. **The Used Book Sale is our life blood, funding our grants, scholarships, and programs. Thank you!**

--Estelle Call, Used Book Sale Volunteer Scheduler



HELP PROMOTE OUR USED BOOK SALE!

Your help spreading the word about our coming book sale would be terrific. Please share this flyer with friends and colleagues via this link: [AAUW State College Used Book Sale May 14-17](#)

For people who are unfamiliar with our sale, the best thing is to direct them to our website, where the sale is described in full detail:

https://aauwstatecollege.org/used_book_sale_centre_county/

THANK YOU to all Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday Used Book Workshop volunteers – working diligently, on an accelerated timeline, to make our Used Book Sale a reality.

A few of our Tuesday volunteers are pictures below:



Christy Bartley



Angie Hay



Martha Hummel



Kathy Burnham



¡ADELANTE! BOOK CLUB to MEET June 2nd

Our book club is modeled after the AAUW Diversity Outreach for Impact Program, featuring diverse cultures in both fiction and nonfiction offerings.

We meet during the afternoon every other month on the third Thursday of the month, with our next (virtual) meeting taking place on **Thursday, June 2nd at 2:30 pm**. We will discuss *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

The Personal Librarian tells the story of Bella da Costa Greene, J. P. Morgan's personal art curator, archivist, and librarian. She famous for her intellect, style, and wit, but she had to go to great lengths to preserve her carefully crafted white identity in the racist world in which she lived. To participate, contact info@aauwstatecollege.org. **Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84109016353?pwd=MUIkWjVNN0h4R1hXR0hncjF3c3B2QT09>



2022-2023 AAUW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION

AAUW National has created a new member database called the Community Hub that uses our personal email addresses as identifiers rather than our AAUW ID numbers. The new Community Hub will enable members to renew AAUW membership at the national, state, and local levels and more. We encourage branch members

to create a new account with national AAUW by going to aauw.org and selecting Logon on the upper right corner of the webpage. OR, members also can go to my.aauw.org to achieve the same outcome. As State College Branch members prepare to renew their memberships for 2022-2023, please expect a \$5 increase in national AAUW dues from \$62 to \$67. State and local dues will remain the same. Therefore, **please anticipate paying \$85 for 2022-2023 AAUW membership, which includes national, state, and local membership.**

--Charlene Harrison, Membership Co-Vice President

PENN STATE COM 473 CLASS PRESENTS MARKETING IDEAS to AAUW STATE COLLEGE



The 21 Penn State student presenters and Dr. Eddy (in purple dress).

For their capstone project, the seniors in COMM 473: Public Relations Campaigns were asked to apply their professional knowledge to creating membership and marketing campaigns for AAUW State College. The project outline was a collaboration between Cindy Hall and Carolyn Donaldson, our co-VPs for Marketing & Communications, and Assistant Professor Dr. LaShonda Eddy. Five teams provided specialized presentations to a dozen AAUW State College Board members in the new Bellisario Media Center at Penn State.

The students' recommendations included funding and focusing on social media, building partnerships with community and Penn State groups, hiring an intern to work on social media, and engaging members in Branch activities to ensure their retention. The Board members in attendance found the presentations to be creative and inspiring, and plan to use the information as the Branch crafts a new strategic plan in the next months.



The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **Monday, May 9th**. Please send submissions for inclusion in that issue by **Monday, May 2nd** 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/>.

JOIN MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

All branch members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings. The next board meeting will take place

Monday, June 6th, time TBD

To receive the agenda, please notify either Sally Kalin (sallywkalin@gmail.com) or Linda Friend (lx5@psu.edu) several days before the meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85183353133?pwd=amFnekIqSnErRHdvQ3o2RjVGdGdmZz09>

Submit Events to the Branch Website Calendar

Link to submit events for the Branch web calendar:

<https://forms.gle/4XoLCgQnLKjYQFc98>

USED BOOK WORKSHOP
reopens for book donations:

Tuesday, June 14th

9:00 am – 2:30 pm