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Welcome back to all our members and a huge welcome to new members! It is the beginning of another year and we are excited about some amazing programs and planning to come. As Co-President Elect, I look forward to leading the branch with Dr. Grace Hampton, together with the guidance and input from you—our members. We will work with the executive and general board to begin implementing changes deemed high priority in the new 2023-2026 strategic plan.



As with any change, we cannot do this alone. This branch has earned several high accolades that we are all proud of, but if we want to accomplish more, we’ll need *YOU*. Join a committee or fill a chair position. Volunteer at the Used Book Workshop. Come to programs and board meetings. A branch is only as strong as its members, and we know our membership is stronger together.

The co-president elect is a new position, so I am excited to help develop the role this year. We look forward to seeing many of you at board meetings (which are open to all members) and at programs. Here’s to another year of serving our community, upholding AAUW’s mission, and having some fun while doing it!

– *Liz Kopco, AAUW State College Co-President Elect*

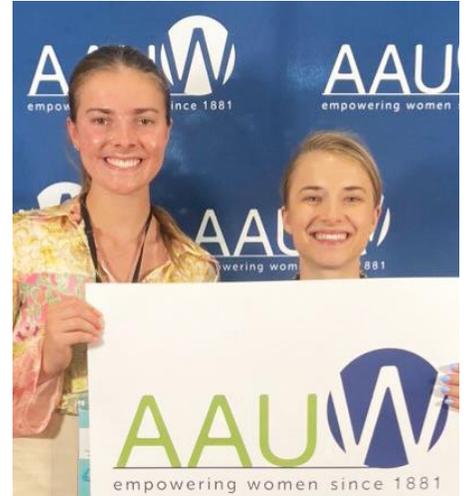
## Four Penn State University Park women attend AAUW-led NCCWSL



*Lauren Mazzatesta and Megan Kelby attended the NCCWLS conference courtesy of a scholarship awarded by AAUW-PA. While interning for branch member Jackie Esposito, they became good friends.*

Earlier this summer, AAUW State College and AAUW-PA each awarded scholarships to two Penn State University Park women students to attend AAUW's NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders), held in College Park, MD. All four women wrote enthusiastically about attending the event. To learn about the event in their own words, visit:

[NCCWSL women share their stories](#)



*Engineering Science & Math majors Julia Raich and Lauren Katch attend NCCWSL due to a scholarship from AAUW State College. Julia is pursuing a B.S. in the Schreyer Honors College and Lauren is a Ph.D. candidate.*

## Branch awards \$5,000 to AAUW Pennsylvania



At their July 2023 meeting the AAUW State College Executive Committee elected to award \$5,000 to [AAUW Pennsylvania](#) for the 2023-2024 FY. AAUW PA provides important support and resources to AAUW branches around the state, including information-sharing and networking through retreats and meetings, relevant webinars pertaining to public policy issues, and funds NCCWSL scholarships.

While the vast majority of dollars that AAUW State College awards stay in Centre County, our combined contributions to AAUW PA and AAUW National for the current year total \$20,000. We are currently updating the Community Outreach page on our website. It will provide a complete picture of our funding initiatives when ready this fall.

### ***Thank you from Cindy Hall, AAUW Pennsylvania President***

Thank you for the wonderful gift to AAUW PA. This will be so helpful over the year as we work to bring informative speakers and increase our advocacy efforts. Our challenges are significant. As you know, we believe in involving students in our programs. With your help, we hope these efforts can be strengthened through continued scholarships for women to attend the NCCWSL leadership conference. Thank you for this tremendous show of support.



*Left, member Carol Hodes joined presenters Connie Schroeder, Sally Kalin, and Naana Nti at the program.*

## Branch participates in Clearwater Conservancy event at Shaver's Creek

On June 14, AAUW State College was invited to join Clearwater Conservancy for their first-ever *Centred Outdoors Wellness Wednesday* event, held at Shaver's Creek with about 25 attendees. We shared some little-known branch

history and closed with a description of our efforts to make our group a more inclusive and diverse organization. Following our presentation we joined the second presenter, Jennifer Tucker (a practicing herbalist), on a short hike where we learned about the properties of many medicinal plants found on the trail. All in all, it was a good time in a gorgeous setting. Thank you to Clearwater for the invitation.

## AAUW State College members show their spirit at the Arts Fest



**Top left:** Jackie and Emily Esposito; **Top middle:** Naana Nti and Carline Crevecoeur; **Top right:** Connie Schroeder and League of Women Voters lead Jan Koch; **Bottom Left:** Chelsea Wall and Shirley Sacks; **Bottom Right:** Jackie Esposito and Amy Miller.

This year, the AAUW State College-staffed Arts Fest info booth was memorable in so many ways.

Branch member Jackie Esposito led the charge, joined by daughter Emily. Jackie and Emily were facing the very recent AAUW loss of their beloved daughter and sister, Bridget Esposito, who had been an avid Arts Fest volunteer. The two found comfort in volunteering together.

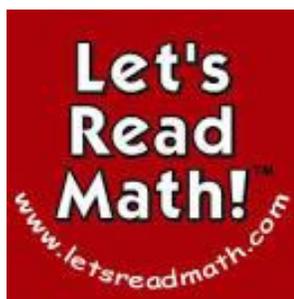
The Arts Fest experienced its first shut-down in recent memory, due to extreme wind and rain on Friday night. Rain-drenched warriors, Naana Nti and Carline Crevecoeur, braved the storm and held down the fort, qualifying for this year's (imaginary!) Perseverance Award from Jackie.

We staffed the table along with members of the League of Women Voters of Centre County. Like us, the League is a non-partisan group. Their central focus is voter education so we were delighted to partner with them. Learn more about LWV: <https://www.lwvcentrecounty.org>

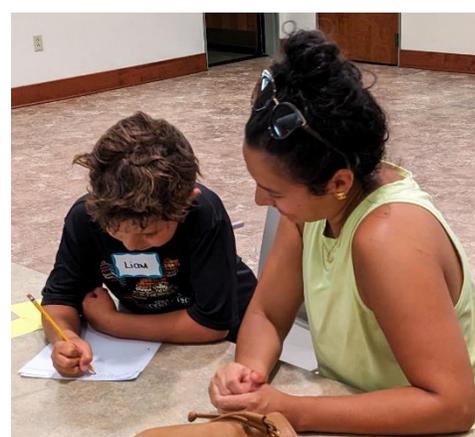
It was wonderful having members of all ages and backgrounds teaming up to volunteers and also to have some new members such as Amy Miller to join us.

Thank you, Jackie, for your tremendous leadership and generous heart, and to all the volunteers who helped out over this fabulous five-day event.

## **Let's Read Math provides summer STEM opportunity for children**

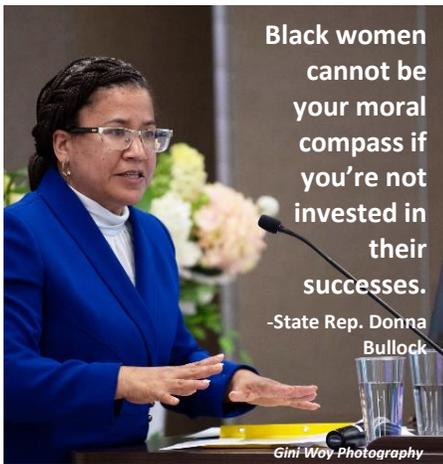


The AAUW STEM committee held their *Let's Read Math* program for elementary-aged children at the Schlow Centre Region Library on July 17, 24, and 31. Sessions ran 30–45 minutes and began with the reading of a children's book, highlighting an interesting math or science concept coupled with an activity. The July 24 session featured the book *Spaghetti and Meatballs for All* by Marilyn Burns. AAUW State College STEM Committee members Candace Davison and Julie Coder led the program.



*The July 24 session taught area, perimeter, and spatial sense. The Let's Read Math summer program targeted elementary-age children.*

*Think left and think right and think low and think high.  
Oh, the things you can think up if only you try! --Dr. Seuss*



## AAUW State College at AAUW PA Gettysburg Retreat

The AAUW PA Summer Retreat, held at Gettysburg July 28-29, was filled with information and inspiration. Sixteen AAUW State College women (pictured below) joined over 75 other AAUW members from around the state to learn from each other and celebrate their successes. Speakers included Pennsylvania House Representative Donna Bullock and AAUW National President Gloria Blackwell. Both provided a valuable perspective and stimulating remarks.

Included among several break-out sessions at the gathering were two from AAUW State College: one on diversity, equity, and inclusion by Naana Nti and Sophie Penney Leach ([DIVERSITY presentation](#)) and a second on STEM by Michele Crowl and Candace Davison ([STEM presentation](#)). Kudos to all on a job well done.

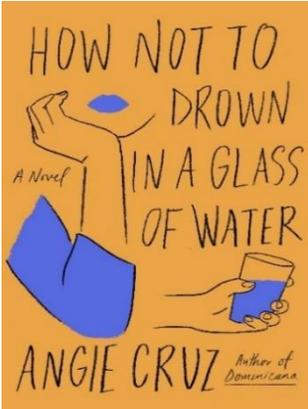
Ten Thousand Villages State College graciously donated [Tagua "Seeds"](#) that had inspirational sayings to all retreat attendees. Thank you, Ten Thousand Villages. We look forward to our Community Shopping Event with you in November.

Special thanks to AAUW PA President Cindy Hall (also a member of AAUW State College) and her team for convening this memorable event. Working together, we continue in our efforts to advance equity for women and girls.



**Front Row:** Sally Kalin, Cindy Hall (AAUW PA President); Gloria Blackwell (AAUW National CEO); Donna Bullock (Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Legislative Black Caucus Chair); Liz Kopco.  
**Back Row:** Connie Schroeder, Ann Echols, Linda Friend, Michele Crowl, Vasundara Varadan, Candace Davison, Sue Johnston, Nancy Weinreb, Carline Crevecoeur, Sophie Penney Leach, Naana Nti, Suzanne Kerlin. **Missing:** Sherry Crassweller.

## ¡ADELANTE! Book Club to meet Thursday, August 24



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

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, August 24 at 2:30 pm.**

The group will discuss *How to not Drown in a Glass of Water: A Novel*, by *Angie Cruz*. As Cara confronts her darkest secrets and regrets, we see a woman full of fight.

New members are welcome and are asked to contact [Adelante Book Group](#) to let us know that you plan to join us. **Zoom Link:** [August 24 Adelante Meeting](#)

--Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Chair

## Membership Matters

### AAUW State College membership renewals

Given recent court cases affecting women and girls, and the ongoing need for support for STEM education, scholarships, and other programs, your AAUW membership is more important and valuable than ever. Most of us have memberships that renew in July so if you haven't renewed yet, please do so today. The easiest way to renew memberships is online: [AAUW Membership Renewal](#).



*Membership programs such as our fall potluck build connections.*

If you joined in 2023 you will need to renew 12 months from when you joined and you should receive a renewal notice when it is time. Branch membership is \$92 for one-year, with \$69 being tax deductible.

If you need to pay by check, make it payable to AAUW-State College Branch, Inc. and mail it to AAUW-State College Branch c/o Membership Renewal, P.O. Box 735, State College, PA 16804.

Please direct membership renewal questions to Membership Co-VP [Carline Crevecoeur](#). Your membership makes a difference, thank you.

--Carline Crevecoeur, Membership VP

## September Gathering & Potluck, Tudek Park, Thursday, September 21



You're invited! Our AAUW State College potluck fall get-together is all set for **Thursday, September 21, 5 – 7:30 pm** so mark your calendar and sign up today! We will be in **Pavilion 1, Tom Tudek Park in Ferguson Township**: [Map to Tudek](#)

Come at 5 pm to socialize and learn about lots of Engagement Opportunities with AAUW – to help us further our mission to pursue gender equity. Bring your favorite dish, salad or dessert to share, that's it. We will provide paper products and beverages. **RSVPs due September 15. Sign-up here to bring your favorite dish: [September 21 Potluck Sign-up](#)**

–Nina Cowart, Program Co-VP

## Education Committee Updates



We just returned from an excellent AAUW PA summer retreat, *Women Together – Fighting on the Front Line*. The following is our front line in education for this fall. One AAUW-Pennsylvania public policy priority is to support a quality system of public education. There are three important issues to watch:

**Cyber Charter School Reform:** House Bill 1422 is a bill that addresses many reforms including funding and oversight. It has passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives with bipartisan support. When the Pennsylvania Senate returns in the fall they will make a decision on this bill. **Details:** [https://edvoterspa.org/charter\\_schools/](https://edvoterspa.org/charter_schools/). Contact your state senator in September to advocate for this bill:

--Senator Wayne Langerholc, (717) 787-5400, or (814) 806-1197

--Senator Chris Dush, (717)787-7084

**State Budget:** This has not passed due to a dispute over school vouchers. Governor Shapiro has promised to sign the bill with a line-item veto of the PASS scholarship program (a voucher program). The Senate dismissed for vacation without passing the bill. As soon as the Senate comes back into session Governor Shapiro can sign the bill, and no vote is necessary as long as the Senate is in session. Per Education Voters of PA, there were hundreds of calls and thousands of emails sent against school vouchers. Thanks those of you who participated.

**School Board Elections in November:** We must pay attention to those running for the SCSAD school board and their views. School boards are being targeted by people with views that are detrimental to public education, such as book banning and curriculum involvement. It is extremely important to vote and urge everyone you know to vote. More on this next month.

–Sue Johnston, Branch Education Chair

# Welcome

## New Members

**Ronda Craig**

[rlc26@psu.edu](mailto:rlc26@psu.edu)



Hello! I'm excited to be a new member of AAUW. I joined during the Used Book Sale which I have enjoyed every year since 2001 when my husband and I moved here with our two children (now adults) from Dallas, Texas. We had met in college while doing summer theatre at Clarion University.

I am the Production Manager for Penn State Centre Stage, the producing arm for the School of Theatre at Penn State. Our daughter graduated from Penn State this spring with her BS in Wildlife and Fisheries and our son is entering his third year at Penn State as a photo journalism major. We Are... A Penn State family. This runs so deep that five years ago I started a Facebook group "We Are... Here For You!" for families of out of state students to ask for help from local parents. It began at Thanksgiving when there was a group of students stranded at the airport. The group now has almost 6,000 members.



**Emilee Fortier** - [ecf5232@psu.edu](mailto:ecf5232@psu.edu)

Hello! My name is Emilee Fortier, and I moved to State College last summer to pursue my PhD in Materials Science and Engineering after finishing my B.S. in Materials Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Since arriving, many of my efforts to contribute to community building have been facilitated through the Science Policy Society at Penn State. I help coordinate STEM outreach at ENVISION, Schlow Centre Region Library, and the Bellefonte Youth Center and am on the organizing board of the Science Policy Symposium. I also contribute to discussions and publications on a broad range of science policy topics for local, state, and federal issues. My favorite way to get involved has been coordinating the Science on Tap event series that brings together Penn State researchers and community scientists to talk about the impact of their projects. I've met so many lovely people and interest groups through these events, and it has really helped to fast-track my awareness of local opportunities and efforts.

I am excited to work with the AAUW community to support the education and empowerment of women and girls, and look forward to learning more about opportunities to get involved.



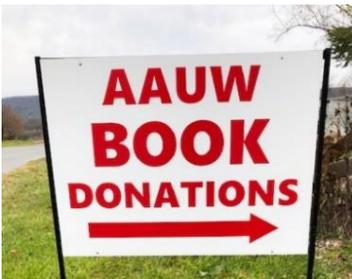
**Tracey Whitehill** - [traceywhitehill@yahoo.com](mailto:traceywhitehill@yahoo.com)

Hi, there! I moved to State College in 1981 to continue my education at Penn State and, as frequently happens, never left. I am originally from western PA, grew up in Turkey City (pop. about 50 now), and graduated from Clarion State College with my associate degree in nursing. I graduated from Penn State with my BSN in 1984 and worked the remainder of my career at Mount Nittany Medical Center until my retirement in 2020.

When our boys were in elementary school, I volunteered in their school library, PTA and with PAWS. We have always had rescued pets, with our max at one time 3 dogs, 4 cats and 2 teenaged boys! My husband and I enjoy traveling, having been to England, Scotland, Italy, France, Greece, Taiwan and most recently, Bermuda. We also enjoy visiting our sons in San Francisco.

I enjoy reading and have attended most AAUW State College book sales since my student days when it was held in the HUB! I can be found most Tuesdays at the workshop, sorting books with the other helpful, hard-working volunteers. I appreciate the opportunity to keep the books from the landfill and supporting women's education from the proceeds of the book sale.

## Book donations are in high gear



The Used Book Workshop, located at 2197 High Tech Road near the University Park Airport, reopened in mid-June. Book donations have been heavy since we re-opened in June.

Summer hours are **6 – 8 pm on Monday evenings, and 9 am – 12 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.**

Details: [Book Donation](#)

After Labor Day, **Tuesday and Wednesday hours will extend to 2:30 pm.** We could really use some help with sorting from 12 noon – 2:30. Helping in this position is a great way to get to know other members and it's fun to be a part of the group. Drop by to meet with one of the Workshop leaders to learn more about it!



*Above: Sorting books is not an exact science, but it always prompts interesting conversations.*



## Centre County Constitution Day, September 23

The Centre County Constitution Day Committee invites AAUW State College members to join in for the 2023 Centre County Constitution Day, planned for **Saturday, September 23 at the American Legion in State College, 11am – 1:30 pm**. Area residents of all political persuasions are welcome to attend and participate in the Democracy roundtables. It is free and includes light refreshments. Learn more and register today: <https://www.constitutiondaycentre.org/>



## Branch Centennial Speaker, March 29, 2024: Lisa Salters

[Lisa Salters](#), ESPN sports broadcaster, will be the AAUW State College Centennial Speaker at the 2024 Penn State Forum on Friday, March 29. A Penn State alumna, Salters has broken glass ceilings both as a woman and as a woman of color in a mostly male-dominated field. Mark your calendar for this exciting event!



## Board Updates

The Executive Board (elected and appointed officers) met on July 17. See meeting notes:

[July meeting notes](#)

All branch members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings. They are held the **second Monday of each month** in the College Township Council Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

**Executive Committee, July 17 meeting: (Seated):** *Carline Crevecoeur, Co-VP Membership; Grace Hampton, Co-President Elect; Liz Kopco, Co-President Elect; Sophie Penney-Leach, Co-VP Membership.*

*(Standing): Sally Kalin, Immediate Past President; Linda Friend, Immediate Past President; Betsy Manlove, Co-VP Programs; Donna Trapp, Co-Chair Used Book Sale; Nina Cowart, Co-VP Programs; Chriss Schultz, Co-Secretary; Connie Schroeder, VP Marketing & Communications, Vasundara Varadan, Treasurer.*

Meetings run from **11:45 am – 12:45 pm**, to accommodate people who need to be back to work by **1:00**. The meeting will also be via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardMeeting>

## Branch Officers 2023-2025\*

### Co-President Elects

Grace Hampton – [gxh2@psu.edu](mailto:gxh2@psu.edu)

Liz Kopco - [lcambro01@gmail.com](mailto:lcambro01@gmail.com)

### Immediate Past Presidents

Linda Friend – [lf5@psu.edu](mailto:lf5@psu.edu)

Sally Kalin – [sallywkalin@gmail.com](mailto:sallywkalin@gmail.com)

### Marketing & Communications VP

Connie Schroeder – [connieschroeder@gmail.com](mailto:connieschroeder@gmail.com)

### Membership VP

Carline Crevecoeur – [crevey@msn.com](mailto:crevey@msn.com)

### Program Co-VPs

Nina Cowart - [ninalee1975@gmail.com](mailto:ninalee1975@gmail.com)

Betsy Manlove - [eemanlove@gmail.com](mailto:eemanlove@gmail.com)

### Co-Secretaries

Chriss Schultz – [cschultz8g@gmail.com](mailto:cschultz8g@gmail.com)

Nancy Weinreb – [neweinreb@comcast.net](mailto:neweinreb@comcast.net)

### Treasurer

Vasundara Varadan – [vvvesm@uark.edu](mailto:vvvesm@uark.edu)

### Diversity & Inclusion Chair

Naana Nti – [naananti500@gmail.com](mailto:naananti500@gmail.com)

### Community Action Grants

Open

### Public Policy

Mary Dupuis – [mdupuis73@gmail.com](mailto:mdupuis73@gmail.com)

Dianne Gregg – [dianne@diannegregg.com](mailto:dianne@diannegregg.com)

### Scholarship

Leslie Laing – [lal24@psu.edu](mailto:lal24@psu.edu)

Maria Schmidt – [mjs125@psu.edu](mailto:mjs125@psu.edu)

### Used Book Sale

Mary Ann Blair – [mablair1001@gmail.com](mailto:mablair1001@gmail.com)

Donna Trapp – [donnatrapp@pennstatefederal.com](mailto:donnatrapp@pennstatefederal.com)

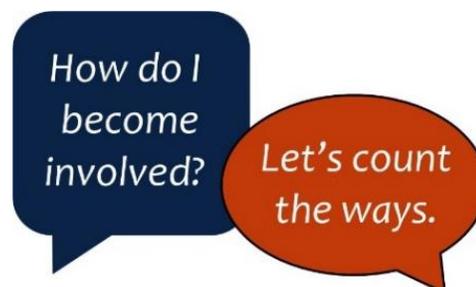
\*Does not include *appointed positions* and *committee chairs*. For complete listing, visit:

[AAUW State College Leadership Team](#)

## Have You Heard?

We have just received word that **Charlene Harrison**, Immediate Past Membership Co-VP and former Branch president, has suffered a stroke and is now at Encompass Health Rehabilitation in Pleasant Gap. We wish her a speedy recovery! Send her a note to 1219 Deerfield Drive, State College, PA 16803.

## Engagement Opportunities for Branch Members!



Whether you are a new member looking for ways to engage with AAUW or a long-time member wanting to re-focus and re-engage, this is for you. To follow is a listing of volunteer engagement opportunities for branch members, including contact information for all of the areas:

### [Engagement Opportunities](#)

Please review it and be in touch with the area lead if you are not already engaged there.



### Branch Bulletin Dates

The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **Monday, September 4**. The submission deadline is **Monday, August 28**. Send

items to *Branch Bulletin* Editor [Connie Schroeder](#). Bulletins are also available at [AAUW State College](#).