

100 YEARS 1916-2016 AAUW CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

STATE COLLEGE



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Photography by Thomas Harris State University



Women Lead the Way



Cover Images

Row 1:

AAUW State College Centennial logo, 2016.

Row 2:

Original AAUW logo, 1882; Harriet Cowell, first Branch president, 1916; Pennsylvania State College Coed Executive Council, 1916 (photo provided by Pennsylvania State University); Lucretia Simmons, Branch leader and first female full professor at Pennsylvania State College, 1918; Clara Phillips, first female member of the Pennsylvania State College Board of Trustees, 1926 (photo provided by Pennsylvania State University).

Row 3:

Ex-GI Nursery School, 1945 (photo provided by Pennsylvania State University); Branch program led by Marian Davison and Dorothy Veon, 1956; Vote for AAUW program planners: Jean Williamson, Ev Marboe, E-tu Zen Sun, Louise Tukey, 1960.

Row 4:

Marjorie Dunaway and Jody Bland preparing for Used Book Sale, 1964; Hellen Hill presenting Branch scholarship to woman student, 1968; Marjorie Dunaway and Trudy Levine at AAUW Pennsylvania convention, 1973; AAUW logo, 1970; PhoneFriend logo, 1983.

Row 5:

AAUW logo, 1982; AAUW logo, 1990; Branch members lobby for pay equity in Washington, DC: Nancy DeWalle, Theresa Lafer, Nancy Weinreb, Dianne Gregg, Jeanne Webber, 2005; Kristin Dreyer and Mary Dupuis, STEM Co-chairs, 2012; Donna Trapp, Used Book Sale Chair, 2015.

Row 6:

Talat Azhar and Naana Nti, Branch Program Committee, 2014; Branch scholarship recipients: Lucy Hall, Michele Miller, Lenna Neff, Elizabeth Timblin, 2015; STEM girls at Branch-funded Discovery Space program, 2014.

Women Lead the Way
AAUW State College Branch
Centennial History
1916 – 2016

A special thank you is extended to Author Jackie Esposito and Branch Historian Louise Tukey. Jackie is a Past President of the AAUW State College Branch, and University Archivist at The Pennsylvania State University. She and Louise worked diligently on the history project. Louise has served as Branch Historian for over fifty years. We commend Louise for her commitment to collecting and organizing the branch archive.

Branch members Talat Azhar, Charlene Harrison, Sally Kalin and Connie Schroeder assisted as the editorial team.

January, 2016

❧ In Appreciation ❧

Thank you to the following branch members who participated in the AAUW State College Centennial Oral History Project in 2014. Quotes from their interviews are included in this history. Complete transcripts of interviews are available at www.aauwsc100years.com.

Jean Forster (1945)

Marjorie Dunaway (1949)

Louise Tukey (1951)

E-tu Zen Sun (1952)

Felicia Lewis (1955)

Mary Dupuis (1966)

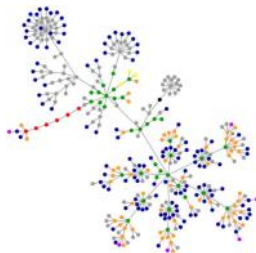
Trudy Levine (1968)

Linda Higginson (1972)

Sally Kalin (1981)

Suzanne Kerlin (1987)

*Year in parenthesis indicates when individuals joined the Branch.



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INTRODUCTION

Arriving at the hundredth anniversary of an organization's existence is a time for reflection about the past, review of the present, and preparation for the future. The women who came together in 1916 to form the State College Branch of AAUW set out to empower women through education and societal change. One hundred years later, the legacy of their actions encircles the entire community. These women established a legacy of caring, action, and responsibility that has significantly changed the character and nature of this once rural county. To their memories and hard work, this volume is dedicated.

In reading this history, you will hear the voices of generations of women who fought long and hard for a university education, for the promotion and value of women's contributions to their community, and for the improvement of their living standards for one and all. They pledged to uphold the mission of AAUW to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. The State College Branch is a shining example of the value of joining together with a single goal of improving oneself and one's society.



FOUNDING OF THE BRANCH, 1916-1921

Marion Talbot, Alice Freeman, Alice Hayes, Ellen Swallow Richards and thirteen other women founded the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (ACA) on January 14, 1882. Members of the first-generation of college-educated women, ACA's founders hoped to promote and raise standards for women's higher education and end the social isolation often faced by women college graduates. ACA membership was limited to graduates of specified, carefully selected, four-year colleges and universities.

In 1921 the ACA merged with the Southern Association of College Women (SACW) to form the American Association of University Women (AAUW). The ACA, SACW and later AAUW were committed to equal access to education and focused on studying issues related to social justice as well as women's educational pursuits. At the time of the merger, the AAUW purchased a property in Washington, D.C. to serve as a *National Clubhouse*. Each branch was asked to make a financial contribution for the purchase. Branch members made personal contributions to meet the Branch quota.



In the early years, the ACA lobbied for women to serve as college trustees, fought discrimination on co-educational campuses, argued for inclusion of scientific and professional curricula for women and encouraged women's careers. The organization provided fellowships for undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral study as well as financed international studies and other global educational pursuits. After World War I, the ACA collaborated with more than eight countries to promote women's education around the world; this led to the creation of the International Federation of College Women (IFCW).

On January 21, 1916 after having given public notice at a meeting of the State College Woman's Club, a group of ten women convened to discuss the possibility of creating an ACA Branch in



1916 - Branch meetings were first held in the Women's Building, erected in 1890 on the Pennsylvania State College campus off Pollock Road near the Mall. It was originally named the "Ladies' Cottage," and was the first all-female residence. A 1962 fire destroyed the building. (Photo provided by The Pennsylvania State University.

State College. The meeting was held at the Pennsylvania State College's (PSC) Woman's Building courtesy of Dean Julia Lovejoy. The group met again on February 18, to write the Constitution for the Central Pennsylvania Branch of Collegiate Alumnae. The purpose of the group was to promote comradeship among college women and further educational interest in the community. Four officer positions were delineated: President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Councilor. Harriet Lyndon Cowell (Mrs. Arthur), the wife of a professor at the

Association of Collegiate Alumnae

GERTRUDE S. MARTIN
Executive Secretary
531 Stewart Avenue
Ithaca, N. Y.



May 29, 1916.

Mrs. Arthur W. Cowell,
State College,
Pennsylvania.

My dear Mrs. Cowell,

This is to notify you that the Central Pennsylvania Branch of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae was accepted at the Council meeting at Chicago on April 22nd and that you are therefore, now a regularly constituted branch of the Association. I should be pleased at your earliest convenience to receive a list of the officers of the Association made out according to the enclosed card.

Let me extend my greeting as the new executive secretary to this newly formed branch and express my hope that your members will find the Association helpful to them and will be an inspiration to the members of the body. I hope you will feel free to call upon me at any time for any assistance that I can give.

Very sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Gertrude S. Martin,

Executive Secretary.

Pennsylvania State College, was elected the group's first President. Membership was open to all alumnae of ACA-approved colleges and universities.

Local dues were set at \$0.50 per member and operational committees were established including Correspondence and Membership.

Regular Branch meetings were scheduled for the last Saturday of each month in the Woman's Building. Each meeting would begin with a business agenda, followed by a program and social. Programs featured descriptions of various women's colleges, presentations by Penn State faculty, and topical discussions. Penn State was not yet ACA-approved so the



1916 - Harriet Cowell served as the first president of the Branch.

Jean Forster

When I was invited to an AAUW meeting, I thought, of course, why not. I am a college graduate and I should be participating in this and learning something from it and perhaps giving them something of what I have learned.

group was forced to focus its earliest organizational lobbying efforts both on convincing ACA to accept Penn State and on Penn State to accept the changes mandated by the ACA.

Designated members whose responsibility was to create an environment for entertainment as well as mingling supervised the socials. In later years, the distinct meeting functions of conducting business, holding a program, and social interaction would be separated into different dates/times.

Initially, the structure served the ACA goals well: to support and encourage women's education and increase socialization among college-educated women. The community, which welcomed these pioneering

women, consisted of the mostly rural town of State College, the Centre County seat located in Bellefonte, and the neighboring farming townships that had since 1855



1920 - The Branch worked to improve the lives of Penn State women students, shown above. (Photo provided by The Pennsylvania State University.)

supported the growth and development of the PSC and had been home to female students since 1873. development of the PSC and had been home to female students since 1873.

As early as March 1916, Branch members began focusing on the priorities of their local community. The first organized discussion/presentation was the proposal for a model school to be developed on the PSC campus, which would afford students the opportunity to work with local children in the equivalent of a day-care center environment.

This 1916 proposal was the precursor of the type of town-gown



1916 - The Branch worked with PSC women students, including members of the Coed Executive Council (above), to learn what needs they faced as students. (Photo provided by The Pennsylvania State University.)

initiative that the Branch would develop, manage, initiate, and expand over its entire hundred-year history.

The roots of activism for and by women were established and

ingrained from the earliest days of the Branch's development.

The Central Pennsylvania Branch was recognized formally on May 13, 1916 when Vida Hunt Francis, General Secretary of ACA, came to State College and spoke with the members and their invited guests on "matters of interest for collegiate women."

The visit spurred members in two directions: move PSC to become an ACA-approved member and develop programs for the high school and college girls to encourage their educational pursuits.

At the September 1916 meeting, a committee was formed to research the question: Are high school girls attending colleges? How many? Where? If not, why not?

At the same meeting, the Branch pursued a recommendation for a



1916 - The Branch worked with PSC women students, including members of the Coed Executive Council (above), to learn what needs they faced as students on campus. (Photo provided by The Pennsylvania State University.)

gymnasium on campus for women students and proposed establishment of a loan fund for girls needing to work to support their PSC costs. In less than a year, the Branch was pursuing an

aggressive agenda of change for both town and gown.

In addition to establishing an educational agenda, Branch members also focused on their own educational enrichment through monthly programmatic discussions.

Topics varied and the speakers were diverse. Among the earliest (1916-1917) were topics reflective of national changes, such as Margaret Sanger's opening of the first birth-control clinic in the U.S. and the election of the first woman to Congress, Jeannette Rankin. Other program topics included vocational opportunities for women, heredity and eugenics, the Americanization of immigrants, work of the National Children's Bureau and women's educational institutions nationwide. Among the noted speakers were



1916 - An early branch program was on the first birth control clinic, opened by Margaret Sanger.

PSC faculty and visiting educators such as Mary Matthews, Dean of Women, Purdue University, who spoke on *The Changing Nature of Women and Clothing*.

At the first meetings in 1916, an Information Committee was appointed to report on “legislative matters.” A legislative Chair was appointed in 1920 and soon members were asked to cooperate with the government’s effort to promote frugality, to volunteer for jury duty, to write letters to their Congressmen on national and international policy issues, support the United States entry into the League of Nations, approve or disapprove national appropriation bills which affected the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the Mother’s Assistance program. Branch members often disagreed about these issues but to their credit they allowed open, freewheeling, and educated discussions to take place within their meetings and throughout the community. After 1920, the Branch co-sponsored these discussions with other organizations such as the Woman’s Club, League of Women Voters, and student organizations on campus.

Supporting War Efforts

When the Branch was founded in 1916, Europe was heavily involved in a military engagement that would soon be known as



1918 - Branch members helped Red Cross roll bandages during World War I at PSC President Sparks' home.



World War I. By early 1917 Branch members were supporting the sale of Liberty Bonds and war relief work, knitting socks for sailors on the *U.S.S.*

Pennsylvania, and coordinating efforts with the local Red Cross. The home economics program developed demonstration classes on war bread creation, food preservation, and homeland safety.

Perhaps the most surprising war-related activity for the Branch was their establishment of a committee to provide oversight on conditions at the Boalsburg military camp. The committee visited the camp regularly and worked with local businesses to provide much-needed supplies and equipment for the duration of the war-effort. Their presence was invaluable.

While the focus on the War shifted some energy to the European battle zones, the Branch also continued its local efforts. A letter from the Branch to PSC President Edwin Sparks indicated a lack



of facilities and space for woman students. Concerns ranged from gender-specific restroom facilities to gymnasium and recreation needs. These efforts would bear fruit the following year when

Marjorie Sime was appointed to teach physical education.

Among Sime's earliest efforts were organized basketball games against other local teams such as Bellefonte and Williamsport. McAllister Hall, a women's residence hall built in 1915, did not alleviate the women's housing shortage, so the Branch worked with campus officials to identify "specially selected families" for girls to live with while taking classes. In 1919, faculty cottages were turned over to girls' housing.

In 1917, the Branch turned its attention to international issues. Members approved funding for a Latin American scholarship, which supported educational opportunities either in the U.S. for a foreign student or for an American student to travel to a Latin American college.

E-tu Zen Sun

I think maybe there still is room for greater interaction between all of the available international visitors and students and the local Branch.

The educational focus also was supported in October when the national expert Harrington Emerson was invited to train Branch members on the concepts and procedures established by the Efficiency Institute of Engineers. His systemized management model fit quite well with Branch members' goal of improving lives. After the war ended, Emerson's training was critical to their future success.

A Season of Firsts

Although World War I would not officially end until November 1918, Branch members began planning to meet post-war community needs. Early in the year, a Programming/Entertainment Committee and a Hospitality and Friendship Committee were formed.

The Branch decided to publish a newsletter that would be distributed three times a year to highlight Branch activities and broaden awareness of Branch efforts within the community.

The Program committee sought to expand access to and appreciation of women's literature. Outreach efforts to involve PSC girls were expanded with a social program of musical selections presented by the girls and a report on post-war employment in "patriotic and permanent positions."

Among other issues the report featured a recommendation for the Branch to purchase vocational training books for PSC and local

libraries. The Branch also submitted a proposal to PSC administrators for a ten-week nursing course.

The Branch's lobbying efforts finally resulted in the approval by ACA of Penn State graduates for membership in September 1918. This accomplishment reflected two major improvements on campus: a stronger response to the curricular and facilities needs of women students and a growth in female faculty and extension positions, particularly the appointment of Dr. Lucretia Simmons as the first woman to hold the rank of full professor.



1927 - Lucretia Simmons served as Branch president from 1927-1929, and was a key leader in the Branch until her death in 1942.



1926 - Board of Trustee member Clara Phillips advocated for the needs of Pennsylvania State College women students. (Photo provided by The Pennsylvania State University.)

It was another eight years before Mrs. Clara Phillips was appointed as the first female member of the Board of Trustees at Penn State. She served seventeen years on the Board (1926-1934 and 1939-1948) and was instrumental in identifying needs women on campus and finding solutions to meet those needs. At her first meeting with branch members on March 15, 1926, Phillips reported on the funding drive and future construction plans for the Grange residence for women. Things were moving forward.

With the appointment of Phillips to the Board, PSC finally was able to

complete the requirements for ACA accreditation. They appointed a female faculty member with a Ph.D. (Lucretia Simmons), appointed a woman to the Board of Trustees (Clara Phillips), and establishing adequate physical education facilities for female students at PSC.

As the end of the war became a reality, Branch members became increasingly militant about social conditions. They collaborated with the local YMCA and the Methodist church to create space for war widows and homeless war families. On February 26, 1919, members protested the Sunday opening of Graham's Candyland. Later in the spring they supported both the St. Louis Resolution to improve working conditions for women and the U.S. Housing Corporation's recommendations for women's residence halls.



This militancy coincided with the national movement for Women's Suffrage and Voting Rights, which would culminate on August 26, 1920 with passage of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote.

Politics and social justice activities did not dominate Branch meetings or agendas through the early years so members still had time for socials. The annual scheduling of a "Stunt Night" was instituted "just for sheer fun," and lasted through 1943. At the February 1920 meeting, Clara Pond, Marguerite Heemans, and Pauline Beery performed the play *Suppressed Desires* which was reported to have been "cleverly done and heartily enjoyed." A focused

Louise Tukey

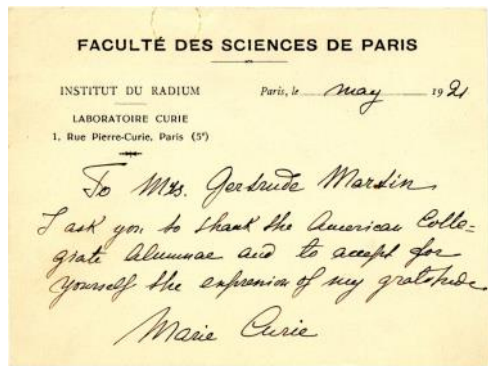
For years the branch held musicales, recitals, bridge and theater parties. We sold calendars, notepaper, playing cards, Branch cookbooks and serrated tomato knives. We were raising money for the fellowship fund.

entertainment was started for senior women students, continuing annually through 1946.

On the more serious side of the Branch's agenda, the Finance Committee established regulations for the Loan Fund in September 1919 "for the benefit of deserving women students of the college." Begun with an initial investment of ten dollars from the treasury and voluntary pledges from members, the Loan Fund was perpetuated by personal contributions and various fund-raising efforts. The Branch also created a plan to develop a cooperative house for college girls. Dean W. Charters of the Carnegie Institute was invited to a January 1921 meeting to discuss the *Reorganization of Education for Women*.

This focus on changing views of women's work was highlighted when both the national organization and the local Branch coordinated their efforts to support Madame Marie Curie's visit to America in March 1921 and her research on radioactivity. The Branch sent a donation of five dollars to Madam Curie so she could purchase radium for the project.

These social, political, financial and historical changes led in 1921 to the merger of ACA with the Southern Association of College Women to form the American Association of University Women (AAUW). At the October 6, 1921 meeting the Branch's name was changed to the Central Pennsylvania Branch, American Association of University Women.



1921—The Branch gift of \$5.00 to help Marie Curie translates to roughly \$60.00 in today's dollars. The 2013 Branch program "Radium Curiosity," was a popular STEM program.

❧ TWO ❧

THE EARLY YEARS, 1922-1939: ACTIVISM AND PUBLIC POLICY

The Central Pennsylvania Branch women faced the New Year, 1922, with renewed energy and vigor. The feeling at home and throughout the nation was enthusiastic and vibrant. The war was over and positive changes made all things seem possible. Women could influence local and national politics with their suffrage voice and they demanded to be heard. In January, the Branch sent letters to Congress supporting the Fess-Capper Bill requiring universal physical education requirements for teachers and nurses and the Fordney-McCumber Tariff Bill, which proposed a duty on foreign books and scientific instruments as well as other legislative initiatives.

The Branch took its lead from the national and state offices but a general membership meeting almost always included a discussion of ways to move legislative initiatives forward. Locally the Branch was action oriented, which included efforts to support Red Cross classes in Braille transcription and mandate improvements throughout State College. Dr. Lucretia Simmons, a Branch leader, recommended that the Branch:

- Try to interest more girls in higher education;
- Do more to hold the hands of high school teachers;
- Speak out more loudly for high standards in our schools;
- Do more to establish a town library;
- Take a greater interest in pre-school age children;
- Do more to improve international relations if we kept in mind our foreign students. Let them see the American home at its best; and
- Support the college education Endowment Fund.

The Lucretia Simmons recommendations were approved broadly by the Branch in 1922 and a copy was forwarded to both state and national leadership. This was the blueprint that outlined major actions and philanthropic and programming guidelines representing strategic goals.

Dr. Simmons understood the responsibility that fell on all women to create a path for future generations.

Her concepts were built upon the resolutions of the April 1922 National AAUW meeting which included a stance against narcotics, supported independent citizenship for married women, advocated for the creation of a federal Department for Education of Women, lobbied for the establishment of a national program of physical education, requested legislation for Federal Employment Service and a reclassification of the Civil Service Merit System, and supported the World Court at the Hague. In addition to its own activist stance, AAUW supported other groups' efforts such as endorsement of the General Federation of Women's Clubs resolution for women to join the diplomatic service.

Activism in Motion

Once the basic strategic plan had been outlined and endorsed, specific initiatives took center stage. In 1923, the Branch supported the Sheppard-Towner Act for the promotion of welfare and hygiene of maternity and infancy. Members also raised

Felicia Lewis

In the 1960s, there still were no women on the authorities, boards and commissions or as township commissioners or in the court house or on municipal councils. We prepared AAUW members to participate at a different level....to go out and volunteer to serve on a board or commission. Within five years we had women who were active on boards and commissions in the borough.

money and provided personal support for the Red Cross during the scarlet fever epidemic.

Locally, the Branch established a program of High School awards to recognize students who had the potential to consider and succeed in higher education. Until its discontinuation in 2014, the High School awards program witnessed many changes over the decades, from monetary recognition to the presentation of books and certificates. Its motivation was always to identify high-achieving students within the local high school population of all five school districts in Centre County and encourage their future goals. Regular programs open to the public, including local high school and college students, also supported the actual awards. One such program was a talk by Mrs. Aurelia Reinhardt, AAUW's National President on November 3, 1923. What better inducement for education than the voices of those women who have achieved?



Sally Kalin

The AAUW lobby corps in Washington for women's rights has done amazing things that people don't always acknowledge, but its national presence is one of the major reasons that I stay involved.

The AAUW State College Branch continued their focus on real-life problems and the activism necessary to find solutions.

In the 1920s, one initiative to improve our local (and national) condition was the study of pre-school and elementary school age children, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. It included a review of historical school texts for accuracy,

impartiality, spirit and representation undertaken by a nationwide committee of university faculty, and a survey of the earning capacities of college women. Action required research if lobbying was to be effective at fomenting change.

Making My Hometown a Better Place

As the “Roaring ‘20s” moved forward, the local Branch supported speakers and programs recognizing National Education Week and continued their fundraising for the national headquarters. By November 1927, the Branch had met its commitment for donations and was notified that it would be recognized in the National Founder’s Book. However, this initiative was not as pivotal locally as the establishment of a study group to recommend the formation of a town library. Mrs. Martin, Miss Vaught, and Mrs. Owens spearheaded the committee to determine the feasibility of creating a local public library. Their efforts, begun in 1927, to form and support local libraries continues to the present day.

The local Branch provides financial support to Schlow Centre Region Library, and many county libraries. In 1963, it also began the practice of presenting a book to Schlow in the name of each outgoing branch president, in recognition of her service to the branch. The program, known as the Past President’s Bookshelf, has continued to contribute toward a unique selection of books at the community library.

Louise Tukey

The local Branch has supported libraries since 1927 and contributed financially since 1956. We promoted the “Save the Library” project in 1960, presented books to the library since 1963 and requested that the vacated Post Office building be used to relocate the Schlow Library in 1965. In addition, we gave \$25,000 in 2005 for the present Schlow building.

Looking inward to improve local communities and residents’ lives became evident in a variety of ways, including programs by Madge Bogart on *Women in Home Economics Extension in Pennsylvania*, Dean Charlotte Ray on *Self-Help for Women College Students* and by Judge M. Ward Fleming on *Changing*

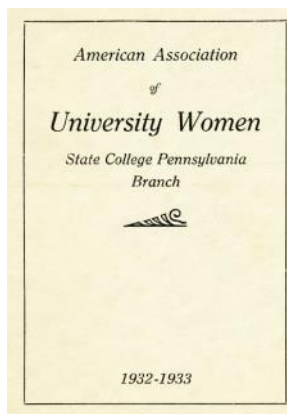
Legal Status for Women. In 1929, the Branch increased its communications with Penn State’s Board of Trustees expressing concern about adequate dormitory facilities, Home Economics laboratories, and physical education for women students. Branch membership neared 100 women and their voices resonated across the valley.



On November 13, 1930 the Branch sponsored a group meeting to listen to the radio broadcast of the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection, which resulted in Branch members’ efforts to provide a wide variety of educational resources to area children.

In 1931, the Branch was renamed *State College, Pennsylvania Branch of the American Association of University Women*, reflecting the growing town and gown population, the increased number of women students, and the changing landscape of central Pennsylvania.

In the intervening years, the Branch had added a Corresponding Secretary, established an annual budget, restructured the dues requirements,



Calendar of Meetings	
October 13	Miss Florence L. Sanville "Are Criminals Human Beings?"
November 10	Professor S. K. Stevens "Some Observations on the Election of 1932"
December 8	Mr. H. Koepf-Baker "The Speech Atypical in Society"
January 12 (Senior Girls Guests)	Mrs. Robert Mills Beach "International Relations"
February 9	Dr. Robert G. Besreuter "Mental Hygiene"
March 9	Mrs. George Diack "The Contribution of the State Teacher's College"
April 20	Professor Franklin Banner "Problems of the Russian Home"
May 8	Annual Dinner and Program

According to the 1932-1933 Branch handbook, annual dues were \$3.00, and the A.A.U.W. Journal was included in the membership. Meetings were held the second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m.

The handbook also stated that "a copy of the pamphlet which contains a list of colleges whose graduates are eligible for membership in the Association has been placed on file for consultation at the College Library."

and identified the need for a Nominating Committee as well as study groups.

The addition of study groups was important. They ranged from International Relations to Book Discussion, Bridge to Education and Human Justice, helping members address major societal changes in the coming decades. The study groups established a level of participation and activism that would place the Branch at the forefront for identifying both needs and services within State

College for many years to come. The imaginations and interests of the members, seemingly at times inexhaustible and undeterred by any measure, would only limit the scope of their work.

Jean Forster

We promoted and expressed the need to try to understand what was going on in the world, and that is why we had study groups and valued those highly.

The Great Depression

The enormous movement toward change and progress would come to an abrupt halt in October 1929 when the stock market crashed. The Great Depression, as it became known, was the longest, deepest, and most widespread global economic crisis in the 20th century. Community organizations such as the local AAUW Branch looked for ways to help. A community safety net, that helped mothers care for their children, protected senior citizens, and offered aid to foreigners displaced by international upheaval was formed. The Great Depression would linger for more than a dozen years, ending only with the active mobilization necessary to enter the Second World War. State College benefitted from the deployment of state and local governmental



resources, and interventions from concerned citizens such as members of the State College Branch.

Economic and Legal Status of Women

By 1933 national legislative proposals centered on securing adequate appropriations for Women's and Children's Bureaus to determine a minimum baseline for support. National AAUW's Education Committee's trailblazing report titled *Are we doing all we can?* led to the formation of both a national and local Committee on the Economic and Legal Status of Women.

The Branch sent letters to Congressmen supporting passage of the Pure Foods and Drug Act, favoring non-partisan emergency relief, arguing against an appropriation bill cutting the funds for the Bureau of Home Economics, and disapproving a cut in appropriations for the Mother's Assistance Fund. Local advocacy efforts were recognized in 1935 when Mary R. Frear received one of thirteen AAUW National Fellowship Crusade awards.



Changes abroad were beginning to be felt at home. In 1936, the Branch supported legislation urging neutrality at the same time it discussed the unfortunate plight of German and Italian Federations of Women and the needs of German-Jewish refugee students in Pennsylvania. Welfare and relief fund drives and the revenues from an exhibition of Pennsylvania female artists, including State College's own Lucy Lederer, were earmarked for refugee support.



The Branch amended its Bylaws to create a Budget Committee, changed the High School awards "to honor the upper ten percent of the Junior Class," and named representatives to the Girl Scout Council and the Safe Driving Training School Committee.



The AAUW women's priority was local needs, the improvement of education, the availability of community resources, and social justice.

Nothing, not a Great Depression nor an impending war, would deter them from their goals and priorities. Women would help to make better lives for children, for other women, and for those in need.

THREE

THE WAR YEARS, 1939-1950

Despite the economic impact of the Depression, the number of women students at Penn State increased dramatically in the 1930s and the university responded with significant changes in housing and athletic facilities. The State College Branch welcomed these developments as an opportunity to work with and for these newly educated women who would one day burgeon the ranks of the national AAUW organization.

By 1939, Branch membership had grown to over 175 members. Members' interests and their desire to improve the conditions of their town and their sisters in womanhood were unrivaled. The Branch sponsored programs such as *Know Your Community* and Dr. Laura Drummond's lively discussion titled *Should Schools Educate for Marriage?*



Early in 1940 the Social Studies Committee investigated the State College water supply. The committee was concerned with the impact of the recent growth in the community and its projected demands on the water supply. Members of the

Branch's Consumer Group adamantly helped secure a minimum wage for laundry workers (an entirely female workforce).

In 1942 members assisted with the coordination of a campaign to purchase and operate a bookmobile to be staffed by community volunteers in 1942. The bookmobile's immense success was credited in large part to the vibrancy and dedication of the volunteer librarians.



Days of Infamy

Unfortunately, all the national and local efforts could not stem the tide of the war. On the home front, patriotic spirit was rampant throughout campus. Dean Charlotte Ray published a brochure directed to the women at Penn State titled *How Can I Help?*

Dr. Julia Gregg Brill, professor of English, formed the Co-dets (Co-eds Organized for Drill and Emergency Training). The Co-dets prepared for emergencies, conducted calisthenics, trained in information techniques and company administration, and learned both the operation and maintenance of motor vehicles.

The State College Branch also swung into action. The International Relations Group organized to address the needs of British refugee children with Dr. Pauline Beery Mack serving as Chair of the State Refugee Committee and Mary Stevenson as local branch chair. The Branch assigned representatives to the State College Council of Defense and co-sponsored with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) a forum on *Faculty Responsibility for Student Welfare*.



In addition, Branch women worked with the Red Cross on fundraising and planning benefits for the home front and abroad. As the war progressed, more programs enrolled women students, like the Curtiss-Wright aeronautic engineering program. Dr. Laura Drummond presented a program called *Women on the Home Front* and encouraged the purchase of war bonds.



Late in 1942, the State College Branch experienced a blow of its own with the death of long-serving member and former President Dr. Lucretia Simmons. Since her arrival on campus, Simmons had been one of the most influential leaders in Branch history. Her clear and concise ideas about women's education, careers, and leadership models formulated the Branch's vision in more ways than members could count.

Funds were dedicated to her memory and a Loan Fund was established to provide support for college girls. The guidelines and purpose of the fund have evolved over the years, from loans to scholarships. The overall message of the Simmons Fund remains; women's education is paramount to their future success, so providing financial assistance is not only an objective but also a requirement of the State College Branch.

Tomorrow will be Different

As the war raged on in Europe and the Pacific, Branch members began preparing for the changes that would occur when the GIs returned, such as reduced access to employment, programs, and services for women.

The Legacy of Lucretia Simmons:

An advocate for women's education, Lucretia initially served as acting Dean of Women, but resigned after one year due to the pressing demands of her teaching schedule. She became the first female full professor at Penn State, and remained a strong mentor for women students.

In addition to the AAUW Branch, Lucretia was active in organizations such as Red Cross, the State College Women's Club, and the Penn State Alumnae Club.

Upon her retirement from the University in 1939, Lucretia Simmons was named Professor Emeritus. In 1948 the University commemorated her contributions by opening Simmons Hall, which housed 534 women. Today, Simmons Hall is the home of hundreds of Schreyer Honors College students.

The Branch established a study group on school problems and conducted a survey on childhood education, which led to the formation of the Emergency Nursery School in 1945. The school educated the youngest of the county's residents, and allowed mothers to take jobs to help their families subsist.



1945 - The Branch established the Ex-GI Nursery School at the close of World War II. Many women both wanted and needed to continue working outside the home. (Photo provided by The Pennsylvania State University.)

Their efforts also led to the formation of a Joint AAUW-PTA (Parent-Teachers' Association) survey of kindergarten needs that resulted in recommendations to local school districts about necessary changes to kindergarten programs, curriculum, teaching standards, and staffing.

A letter was sent to State College Area School District (SCASD) principal, Jo Hays, requesting an assistant school librarian to help the overworked existing librarian. On December 5, 1942, the Branch welcomed Mrs. Gertrude M. Williams, State AAUW President, and listened to her presentation on changes in the Commonwealth that would need oversight in the coming years. Issues such as juvenile justice, welfare for women and children, changes in educational requirements, and extension education mandates were identified. Within a year, the Branch established a Community Development Committee and actively lobbied for legislative support for HR2849, Federal Aid to Education.

By 1945, the Branch was involved in pro-active measures to address the reality of a post-war world.

Members served as representatives on the Committee for the Church-Door Canteen designed to accommodate State College teenagers, the Community Post-War Planning Committee, and the State College Welfare Fund Board. Items on monthly meeting agendas included planning for returning GIs, discussing women's stake in tomorrow's world, and evaluating the horizons in a changing world.

Felicia Lewis

The whole issue of volunteerism and directing it either towards women's issues or more community-wide issues was very important to me.

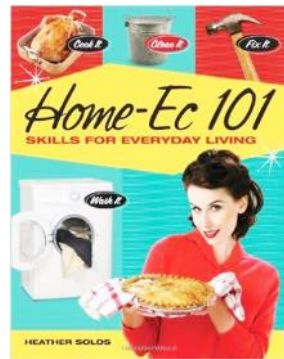
There were lots and lots of women who were eager to achieve an understanding of what community potentials were.

One interesting program topic was using media to educate. The program titled *Responsibility of Radio in Serving the Public* led first to the formation of a study group and several years later to a monthly radio program organized and supervised by Branch members in collaboration with radio station WMAJ and later with WPSX. Radio had become an important medium to use.

The Branch continued its lobbying efforts by supporting a national Equal Rights Amendment; members wrote letters to support HR515, which called for universal military training, and 181 dollars for federal aid for individual support for education. It collaborated with the Quaker community and invited Bliss Forbush to discuss the *Strength and Weaknesses of the Dumbarton Oaks Conference* and the hope for a lasting peace at the end of the war.

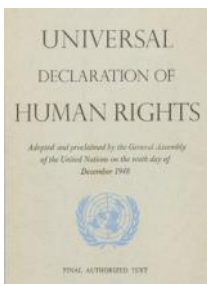
Understanding the need to move beyond economic depression, repressive battles and weaponry, and human injustices, the Branch kept its primary focus on the community. After the war

ended and the G.I. Bill (Servicemen's Readjustment Act) irrevocably altered the nature of higher education at Penn State and across the nation, curricular offerings for women changed with a renewed focus on "female subjects" such as home economics, education, and nursing. The Branch began by collaborating with the school district on the creation and distribution of a Vocational Education Guide.



Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The State College Branch approached its thirtieth anniversary in 1946 facing myriad challenges. How were the members going to deal with Centre County's child welfare needs? What role and practices would be part of the Fair Employment Commission? How were citizens going to learn to live in a global community unlike any other previously witnessed? In March 1946 it



sponsored a program called *Employment for Peace* and in May hosted Mrs. Helen Dwight Reed, AAUW's representative to the San Francisco United Nations Conference, which included Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt as a speaker. Roosevelt would later author *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

People are Change Agents

Another major remnant of the war was discussion on the future uses of atomic energy. State College formed a Citizen's Committee on Atomic Energy and the Branch appointed a representative. The Committee followed national discussions and would review recommendations for many years.



As the State College community grew, the need for social services expanded. In 1947 State College Branch members supported the Centre County Hospital building drive and development of the World Health Organization. At meetings in Harrisburg, it requested legislative support to increase teachers' salaries and followed those meetings by naming representatives to the Youth Center Committee (Mrs. Anna Lewis) and the School Lay Advisory Council (Mrs. Muriel Gibbons).

Post-war campus might not have been very female-friendly as a result of the GI Bill, but the experiences women had gained working and learning during the war were not lost.

Among the most forward thinking and innovative was the Branch's continued interest in the use of media to educate. In 1950 the Branch sponsored a statewide program discussion titled *Radio and TV in Life*. This program actually led to the formation of the local educational television station.



The post WW II era brought narrowed opportunities for women. The GI Bill had impacted the delivery of and access to higher education. The call for equal rights, social justice, and individual dignity would become louder and more enthusiastic during the 1950s and 1960s. Members of the State College Branch explored methods, approaches, and systems to look forward to this brave new world and asked the questions – Why not? Why not us? Why not all women?

FOUR

POST-WAR GROWTH, 1950-1966

The 1950s were the harbinger of many changes in the nation, the Commonwealth, and at Penn State. With change came the need to adopt new and better methods for addressing problems and inventing new tomorrows.

The AAUW State College Branch was equally in flux as the members celebrated their 35th anniversary in 1951. Following a program in December on *Radio and TV in Life*, the Branch continued its advocacy by encouraging the State College Borough Water Authority to add fluorine to the water to improve dental health. The Branch hosted Fuji Nomiyama, Professor of Biblical Literature, Japan Women's College, Tokyo and an AAUW Fellow, for the program *Status of Women in Japan Today*. Branch members established a Graduate School fellowship with the AAUW national organization.

Branch members also were asked to join many committees and task forces throughout the community including the Family Life Education Committee (Elizabeth Peckham), the Foreign High School Student Committee (Margaret Matson), the Friendly Playschool Cooperative (Vnette Halle) and the School Health Council (Marjorie Freund). Everywhere around State College, the Branch and its members were making an impact.

In conjunction with increased enrollment at the university, the town had grown, which resulted in residents' requests for increased governmental services. In May 1952, the Branch distributed its Study of Local Government, which outlined action items for future development. In collaboration with the Women's Club and the Business and Professional Women's group, the Branch hosted Wilma Soss, Federation of Women Shareholders

in American Business, Inc., to speak on *Women and Money in a Man's World*.

The voices of the 120 plus members echoed far and wide throughout the county and the Commonwealth. In 1953, the branch held a joint program with the League of Women Voters outlining the importance of the United Nations.

Almost simultaneous with the establishment of a fundraising unit at Penn State, the Branch analyzed its methods of fundraising and funds distribution for scholarships, awards, and programs. Over the years, fundraisers included selling calendars, tomato knives, and playing cards; some were more successful than others. The focus of overall fundraising goals and administration became centralized and structured.

The Status of Women Study Group sponsored money

Marjorie Dunaway

In the old days, we had some who really didn't know whether equity was going to be good for them or not. Or maybe their husbands had told them it wasn't the thing to do.

E-tu Zen Sun

I think women have come a long, long way since I came to State College in the 1950s and was teaching part-time. I thought I would open a bank account. The gentleman in the bank said, well, we know that your husband's account is here and I think that you should merge your money with your husband's. He didn't want me to open my own personal account. I was so upset because I had all of my degrees from women's colleges in this country and I thought I was just as good as the next person. So I said thank you very much and I walked out.

management programs. The Education group compiled a handbook for parents of junior high school children. Local property tax reform and assessment initiatives were discussed and widely supported.

State College: My Town, My Responsibility

In 1957, the Branch asked a strategic question: *What is the Place*



1956—A program led by Marian Davison and Dorothy Veon was made complete with a cow bell on the table to help keep order.

of AAUW in State College? For forty years the Branch had served the community as a leader in education, equity, social justice, children's healthcare, and foreign relations. Going forward, where should the Branch place its efforts and how should it manage its influence? The results of this organizational soul-searching were reflected in programs, initiatives, fundraising and interest from the community.

Penn State President Milton Eisenhower's efforts to change the name of State College generated fierce loyalty and

personal pride among the residents, and it also moved local organizations, such as AAUW, to support and sponsor community improvement projects and programs.

Radio Spreads the Word

Among the most notable efforts was the introduction of the monthly radio programs originally co-sponsored by WMAJ. The fifteen-minute, monthly programs ran for twenty years and were designed to raise awareness about community issues,

Trudy Levine

We had a travel group, a monthly radio program on WMAJ, legislative and international relations groups, book talk lunches with Schlow Library where we met and heard from local authors.

highlight upcoming educational opportunities and speakers, and elicit feedback from community members about local needs.

Radio gave the Branch a new outlet for its efforts. Publicity increased membership to over 200 women. The Branch and Penn State faculty co-sponsored a radio broadcast of the White House Conference on Education in 1957, which outlined many curricular changes in the elementary and middle schools.

The Child Study Group sponsored a program titled *Primer on Freudian Psychology* and the Local Government Study Group offered programs on *Women in Public Service* and the *Heritage of Freedom*. Study groups provided valuable programming.

In 1958, Dean Grace Henderson organized a study in collaboration with the Status of Women Study Group focused on the *Role of Women in Higher Education*. An outcome of several study group efforts such as the one above was a comprehensive review of local government agencies. It was called *Centre County Child Welfare*.

The 1960s: Where Did All the Flowers Go?

The 1960s opened with optimism and energy. A few Programs

offered were:

Newspapers and Magazines as

Classroom

Teaching Aids,

College Women as

Community Asset

and Vote for AAUW.



1960 - Members working behind the scenes for a 'Vote for AAUW' membership campaign program included Jean Williamson, Ev Marboe, E-tu Zen Sun, Louise Tukey.

The Branch co-sponsored a statewide initiative to identify better

library services in communities. By identifying the interrelationships among education, libraries and literacy, Branch members convinced local authorities to obtain new facilities for Schlow Memorial Library.

As if in anticipation of the impending international unrest, the Branch's International Relations Group redoubled its

efforts with programming such as *Emerging Nations of Asia and Latin America*, *Economic Development in Pakistan*, and *Nationalism: Old and New*.

The group supported the State College Area Hospitality Committee for International Students and Visitors and co-sponsored the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. In future years, America's entry into the Vietnam conflict and changes to Latin American governments including Fidel Castro's coup in Cuba would drive domestic and foreign policy. Branch programming continued to reflect these global events.

While the Branch observed turmoil abroad, local issues continued to demand attention. In 1963 Penn State established the Milton S.



1960 - Since 1962, Branch gifts to the library have exceeded \$155,000. (Photo provided by The Pennsylvania State University.)



Hershey Medical Center with a \$50 million allocation from the Milton S. Hershey Foundation. Several Branch members served on the joint committee to review the admission of women to the medical school.

Nationally, the Branch was charged to review the President's Report on the Status of Women. The calls for equal opportunity for women grew stronger and more pervasive.

In Centre County, Branch members served as representatives to Centre County Home in Bellefonte, the Junior Museum, the Advisory Committee for the State College Area Adult Education Program in Home and Family Living, and the Council on Human Rights. The latter group requested Branch funds to establish an international and interracial residence at Penn State.

Sally Kalin

AAUW doesn't make much use of the word "feminism," but this is it. Feminism is all about equal rights for women, equal pay for women, equal educational opportunities, and having laws and protections in place to help women achieve.



1965 - Branch leaders were adept at planning and leading many branch programs.

Pictured: Lois Peirce, Jody Bland, Marian Davison, and Felicia Lewis.

The program schedule included *New Dimensions in Understanding Change in Family Living, Cyber-cultural Morality, Human Use of Human Beings and Living in a Cybernetic Age.*

Responding to student needs, the Simmons Loan Fund was changed to a scholarship fund.

In 1965, former Branch president Adelaide Kendig ran for School Director. Reflecting old gender perceptions, her campaign flyer (left) focused on male students, promising to give attention to “his special problems” and “his special interests.” Today, such language would not pass muster.

RE-ELECT... Adelaide H. Kendig
AS



SCHOOL DIRECTOR

ADELAIDE H. KENDIG will bring to YOUR School Board
* Eight years of School Board experience
* A parent's concern for every child
* A citizen's commitment

ADELAIDE H. KENDIG deals that YOUR child deserves

- * A balanced school program
- * Highly qualified teachers
- * Attention for his special problems
- * Attention for his special interests

ADELAIDE H. KENDIG deals that YOU deserve

- * Efficient use of your tax dollar
- * Efficient use of existing buildings
- * Efficient operational procedures

VOTE FOR ADELAIDE H. KENDIG
NOVEMBER 2
FOR YOUR SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dr. Jessie Bernard, Penn State Professor of Sociology, donated the royalties from her book *Academic Women* to the AAUW Educational Foundation in recognition of the need for sustained financing to underwrite lobbying efforts and educational programs. Emerging issues included the human condition, education, law and the citizen, and world problems.

E-tu Zen Sun

When I was teaching math at Penn State, one of my male colleagues said he wished we would get more women graduate students, because they come here to get their graduate degree and then they go home and take care of babies, removing competition for jobs. Things were very male-oriented then, but since then there have been a few women department chairs.



1965 - Dr. E-tu Sun with woman history student.



1966 - The 50th anniversary of the Branch was a festive occasion. Some of the guests on hand were Evelyn Marboe, Abbie Cromer, Mary Alice O'Brien, Laura Davis, and Mrs. J. Max Krumrine, daughter of Harriet Cowell, the first Branch president.



E-tu Sun and Marian Davison visit during the fiftieth anniversary party.

Fifty Years of Service

As the Branch prepared to celebrate its golden anniversary, it embraced social justice issues. In 1966 the State College Branch celebrated its 50th anniversary reflecting on its past successful efforts and looking toward the future by identifying roles and responsibilities not yet explored. To commemorate fifty years of service to the community, the Branch designated three gifts that delineated the years of effort within State College, throughout the state, and nationally. The gifts supported national AAUW Educational Fellowships, Schlow Memorial Library, and creation of a second Simmons Graduate Scholarship.

The year's theme was established with the distribution of an *American Family in a Changing World* questionnaire. Programs offered in 1966 included *Mobilizing for Human Dignity*, *The American Family in a Changing World –What Do You Think Family Life will be like in 1970?*, *Aging: Challenges of Senior*

Citizens, Population Explosion, and The Role of the Mother in the Development of Creativity.

On May 17, 1966 the Branch welcomed Dr. Pauline Tompkins, General Director of AAUW. Her presentation, *Think Unthinkable Thoughts* encouraged members to be creative in finding solutions for society's ills. The Branch helped launch several organizations at that time including Centre County Homemaker Services and the Police Academy Institute for Women.



1966 - Branch members paid a visit to the newly founded Policy Academy Institute, which they helped found.

At the high school, the Branch coordinated the Model United Nations program and the 20th anniversary of UN programs.



The branch continues to support Centre County United Nations Association fundraising projects that help women.

2011 - Annual Centre County UNA dinner: Candace Davison, Naana Nti, Connie Schroeder, Micki Pharo, Della Bube' and Joan Ribbons.

EMBRACING CHANGE, 1966-1991

Members now faced two decades of phenomenal historical and social change nationally, locally and personally.

The late 1960s and 1970s witnessed major cultural adjustments that would change the nature of AAUW, recalibrate the role of women, and foster new visions for community service.

In 1967, State College Branch members selected a representative to serve on the Council on Human Affairs at the same time that a Central

Pennsylvania Community Action Agency was established. In the spring, a series of programs on *New Developments on Serving Low-Income Families in Centre County* and a look at *Education: An Antidote to Poverty* highlighted the nature of local changes.

The Branch co-sponsored a Conference on Community Services in May grounded in Alexis de Tocqueville's concept, "What is not yet done, is only what man has not yet attempted to do." This philosophy, a motto for the actions of the State College Branch over the years, was put into motion with a number of initiatives, including a series of five programs aired on WPSX-TV, which argued *Choice: Challenge for Modern Women*.

Marjorie Dunaway

In the 1960's - when the assassinations took place, Washington was burned, and AAUW was terribly concerned. AAUW adopted this focus -- Action for a Unified Society. They urged branches to do action projects, educational projects and projects that would help women. They really wanted us to DO things. And that's when we started the Volunteer Corps and the Family Planning Council.

In 1967, the Branch supported the Centre County Hospital Building Fund, held a summer Program for African women and offered programs including *Responsible Family Planning*, *Values in a Changing World*, and *The Growing Gap between Rich and Poor Nations*. The partnership with WPSX-TV led to the development of a five-part sex education series and programming titled *The Academic Woman*.

Women Taking the Lead

Internal operations in the Branch



Marge Dunaway and Trudy Levine, 1970.

required strong leadership with enough women to step up into positions as they became available.

The Branch also expanded its study groups to include a review of the

politics of public education and society's reflection in the arts. Branch member Helen Wise best exemplified the changing political arena. She was a teacher at State High in 1958; and early in her academic career, she became active in the teachers' union and eventually would be elected President of the National Education Association. Helen was encouraged to run for a seat on

Trudy Levine

In 1969, Marge Dunaway was president, and she asked me to be the recording secretary. I had been in the AAUW maybe a year and didn't really feel like I knew enough to do the job, but Marge was a phenomenal mentor. I was later serving as Membership Vice President when I was asked if I would be president. I was overwhelmed and hesitated, but she inspired me, and sold me on the idea of taking it on and I have never regretted it.

the Penn State Board of Trustees and became the first woman elected to the Board. She served as chair of the Education and Affirmative Action committees, and was influential in advocating for the appointment of the first student trustee in 1971.

Branch member Mimi Barash Coppersmith was elected to the Penn State Board of Trustees in 1977 and elected as the first female chair of the Board in 1991. As chair, Coppersmith was instrumental in many policy changes at Penn State.

Linda Higginson

What I got from AAUW in the early 1970s was the opportunity to be a leader and to practice and hone leadership skills. Seize the leadership opportunities inherent in membership.

The Branch supported the development of the International Hospitality Council, now known as Global Connections, and advocated for community action proposals such as the creation of a family planning clinic, low-cost housing in the county, and child-care for working mothers. The Community Action Agency established four outreach centers in the following central Pennsylvania communities: Port Matilda, Howard, Bellefonte, and Millheim. The Branch's impact was being felt in the surrounding rural areas was growing.

The Branch was able to reflect on its history, and in 1969, established a fellowship in honor of Dr. Rose Cologne for her concept of community volunteerism. One of Rose's most passionate areas of study was the treatment and rehabilitation of juvenile girl offenders, which led to the documentary *Jane Doe: Women and the Girl Offender*.

As the 55th anniversary of the Branch dawned in 1971, some members participated in the National Conference on Health Care held in Washington, D.C. The conference made numerous recommendations for legislative advocacy on behalf of children,

women, and the elderly. The conference also coincided with the distribution in State College of the Day Care Center Task Force Report, which reflected the changing demographics of working mothers and the need for childcare during workday hours.

The Branch coordinated the first meeting of *Protection of Rights of Youth (PRY)* Group. PRY



focused on education and the primacy of children's needs in the changing world of women's work. The PRY Group, a partnership with WPSX-TV producer P.J. O'Connell and the Youth Services Bureau, would create several documentary films as well as lobby for legislative improvements and funding for youth programs and services. These included the creation of Strawberry Fields with support from the Centre County Office of Mental Health.

Additional themes in a two-year program cycle included the *Realities of International Politics, Interaction between Citizen and Government, Talents and Identity of Individuals, Arts and American Heritage, and Woman's Emerging Role*. As the political and social tension of the 1970s grew, the Branch divided its efforts between national and state political advocacy and local community activism.

Title IX: Breaking Boundaries and Opening Doors

America's participation in the Vietnam War prompted riots on college campuses, Penn State among them. Anger erupted in the streets of many U.S. cities, as did demands for implementation of many of the constructs outlined by President Lyndon Johnson in his Great Society initiatives. By the early 1970s, gender equity was a rallying call for change at all levels of government and education.

The 1972 national election campaign would be rancorous, and newly-elected legislators were faced with implementing demands for change that would include the Civil Rights Acts, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, and arguably one of the most significant achievements for women's rights, Title IX (1972).

Mary Dupuis

Locally, I don't see us as visible as we need to be except in terms of the book sale. For example, right now, one of the hot items at the national level is Title IX and they are trying to move Title IX into the high schools. We have a perfect opportunity here to have little study groups go to the various school districts in our area and say, "We are just curious about what you are doing about Title IX and can we talk to you about it?"

Marjorie Dunaway

I was very proud when we established the Family Planning Council. We were a little bit afraid to go ahead because there were some people very much opposed. One of our members had received some threats, but we went ahead and got it going and I remember feeling very good about that.

Title IX became the federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity. Soon after its enactment, Title IX became synonymous with increased athletic opportunities for women collegians. Having established the Women's Recreation Association in 1964, Penn State had become one of the first universities in the country to offer women's intercollegiate athletics competition. Thanks to the leadership and courage of female athletic coaches and administrators, Title IX changed the look and feel of collegiate sports for the future.

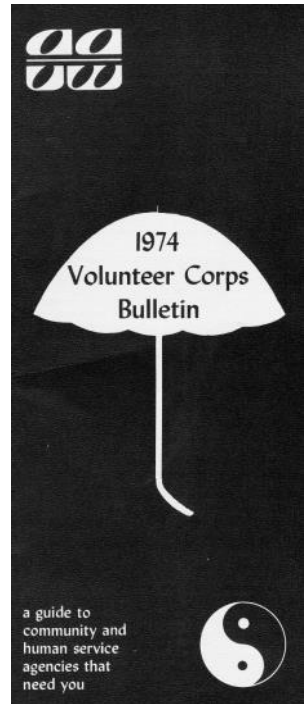
At the 1971 AAUW National Convention in Dallas, delegates passed the resolution in support of women's right to choose. On January 22, 1973, the US Supreme Court rendered its historic decision in Roe

v. Wade, which overturned a Texas interpretation of abortion law and made abortion legal in the United States. The State College Branch supported these efforts toward reproductive freedom and collaborated on the 1973 opening of the Family Planning Council of Central Pennsylvania. These stances and initiatives on the part of State College Branch members resulted in threats, a loss of members and the call for a boycott of the Branch's Used Book Sale by the Catholic Diocese and others.

Along with many legislative changes, the State College Branch continued moving local changes forward including its sponsorship of a Women's Legislative Day Conference, where issues included a Reform of Abortion Law, Pollution Control and Adapted Special Needs Education, the development of a consumer's interest group working with the Organization of Town and Independent Students (OTIS), the formation of a Legal Aid Society, an Alternative Flexible School Task Force and a Centre Area Health Conference.

By 1974, the Volunteer Service (Action) Center was opened and the Dynamic Learning Task Force was established in partnership with the State College Area School District. Local AAUW members were fostering change and their alignment with national efforts for societal shift strengthened their resolve. The Branch supported the opening of the Centre County Women's Resource Center (CCWRC) in 1975; the center remains an integral focus for the Branch to this day. CCWRC was a grassroots

In 1974, the Branch published the Volunteer Corps Bulletin with the Centre County Council of Human Services.





(Left), Mary Dupuis and Nancy Strother, visiting the Centre County Women's Resource Center in 1977. About this time, Mary published a counseling services resource booklet that addressed the needs of women entering the workforce.

effort to provide services for women and children affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse. It has grown from a one-room operation providing services both in State College and Bellefonte to managing the Sylvia Stein Shelter, and providing a wide range of educational offerings. It provides “an environment of support and

encouragement for women who are redefining their lives and exploring opportunities for personal and professional development.” The Centre County Women’s Resource Center continues to be a high priority for the Branch. In 2015, the center received

Branch leaders Ingrid Holtzman, Esther Hardenburg and Felicia Lewis knew how to get things



\$13,500 from the Branch community grants program.

The legislative changes of the early 1970s would create a pathway for the rest of the decade. By mid-1977, the Council of Auxiliaries of Centre County Hospital had been created and financially supported by the Branch.

In 1975, Mary Dupuis was Branch Education Chair and Nancy Desmond was Director of SCASD Community Education. They offered a branch program to educate the community about adult education, based on Nancy's work to involve the school district from childhood through adulthood. The SCASD Adult Education program was rolled back due to budget cuts, but OLLI now offers adult courses.



Mary Dupuis; Robert Ayer, Director of Parks and Recreation; Annette Heasley, PhD student in Community Education; and Nancy Desmond offered a Branch program on Community Education.

The Branch participated in Bicentennial celebrations in 1976.



Branch members marched for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1976 Bicentennial Parade in State College. (Photo provided by The Pennsylvania State University.)

Branch sponsored programs supporting the creative arts were formed, as well as a study group to examine human services in the 21st century.

The Lucretia Simmons Project Renew Grant was restructured and its first recipient was Francis Davids, who used the funds awarded to support a television script about abolitionist women. In the years to follow, the Project Renew Grant would underwrite numerous initiatives to focus on the roles, history, and effectiveness of women.

Mary Dupuis

Around 1970, I received an award from the branch, which I used to buy an electric typewriter to type my dissertation. A year later, Ingrid came to me at a social function and said, “why aren’t you a member of the AAUW? We gave you money!” She was never anything but direct. And so I joined, and have been a member ever since.

The Branch continued to recommend legislative support for juvenile offender reforms and co-sponsored a Youth Services Bureau position paper outlining both needs and services the county should address. Programs included *Redefining Goals of Education*, the *Politics of Food*, *Monitoring Title IX*, *Community Alternatives in Criminal Justice*, and *Household Violence*.

In 1978, the State College Branch participated in the National March for Equal Rights Amendment ratification. Betty Moorhead and Betty Becton, co-authors of *At Ease with the Equal Rights Amendment*, spoke at a February meeting prior to the National March. Women were moving forward to create a better community for women and children.



PhoneFriend

Since the end of World War II, Branch members had voiced their concerns about the child care needs of working women. Early in 1981 the Branch conducted a review called *Community – How is AAUW*

Involved. And also sponsored a program titled *At Home Alone – the Benefits/Dilemmas of After-School Self-Management* and began working with the Task Force on Families to address the needs of school-age children who were home alone until family members returned after work. Several planning meetings led in 1982 to the initiation of PhoneFriend for “latch-key” children.



Linda Higginson

I was a latchkey child, and had a string around my neck and carried the house key under my blouse when I went to school because my mother went back to teaching. Phone Friend meant having a phone conversation with a trained person who was available to take a call from a child who got home from school and was frightened by something.

Volunteers would staff a hotline from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Mondays-Fridays to answer homework questions, calm a child’s nervousness about being home alone, and provide reassurance for children whose mothers worked. PhoneFriend began with Branch financial support and advocacy from the Youth Services Bureau, Mid-State Literacy Council, Women’s Resource Center, and local school districts. The program

received a Public Services grant in its first year and was featured in an article in *Family Circle* magazine. PhoneFriend incorporated its operations in 1984 and received over 400 inquiries annually for its operations manual.

On September 19, 1988, PhoneFriend received the Presidential Citation for Private Sector Initiatives from President Ronald

Reagan. Branch members had identified a need, garnered the resources to address it, and successfully brought a system of services to latch-key children and their working mothers.

Moving On and Up

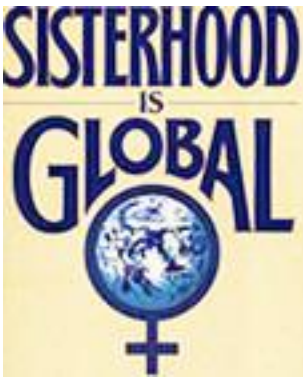
The Branch distributed the influential and useful *Women's Credit*



Handbook in 1982. The Handbook identified financial issues that women should manage for themselves. Members created a study action topic in collaboration with the University's Commission for Women report *Women Returning to Campus*. The Branch identified scholarships for returning women students as a fundraising goal for their most successful annual Used Book Sale. Members helped other community organizations establish and support the creation of a local Food Bank. Utilizing skills adapted from national publications on women's political advocacy, the Branch supported the development of a senior citizen's center building initiative in an era long before senior services were identified as an ongoing need.

Monthly programs included *Empowering Women, Establishing a Peace Coalition, Peace and National Security, and Supporting Habitat for Humanity*. The Branch also developed an on-going series of programs on women's history featuring the book *Pennsylvania Women in History, Our Hidden Heritage – Pennsylvania Women in History* video series, and an ongoing series of WPSX-TV programs on public support for public education. Women's voices were awakened and their narratives would be heard. As the State College Branch celebrated its 70th anniversary in 1986, its accomplishments were substantial.

The focus for the year would be global, featuring programs such as *Schools for the 21st Century: Educating for Global Understanding*, supporting University Student Government's



Sisterhood is Global conference and underwriting a conference on *Public Support for Public Education?* Not only did the Branch look outward, it took stock of internal Branch operations. 1986 marked the 25th anniversary of the Annual Used Book Sale and revisions to the operating procedures for the Branch endowment fund were needed.

The Branch would continue providing funding and volunteer services for numerous enterprises but it was time to assess and establish priorities. Local community ventures such as Family Health Services, Schlow Memorial Library, Mid-State Literacy Council, and the Centre County Women's Resource Center would continue to receive unabated attention.

As the world and the community changed, so did Branch commitments. In 1988 a Long-Range Planning Committee outlined its goals for the next twenty years. Among their ambitions was securing a headquarters for the organization by 2001 that would serve as a center for meetings, programs, the activities related to the Used Book Sale, and an operational nexus.

The Long Range Planning Committee was quite successful in stabilizing the Branch's finances and funds distribution mechanisms, but today, a branch headquarters building remains only a dream.

Suzanne Kerlin

To me communication is probably the biggest thing in our society, all over the world. We must sit down and talk and listen to each other. We don't need to agree, but we at least need to listen, and then come to some compromise.

Commitment to Action

As the Branch looked forward to the 1990s and beyond, two concepts remained central to their planning: Strive for community betterment and support for the needs of women and girls. This dual direction, essentially unchanged since 1916, drove the Branch in very exciting directions. Helen Wise, Secretary to Governor William Casey's Cabinet, reported at a branch meeting in 1988 that it was time for women to get *Out of the Kitchen and Into the Firing Line*. Her rallying cry was heard and followed.

That same year, a State College Day Care Issues Task Force was established to address many of the issues surfacing with the operation of PhoneFriend. In October, the Branch supported a program entitled *Commitment to Action: Women's Work/Women's Worth*, an effort to legislatively mandate pay equity. In addition, support was provided for REACH (Regional Efforts to Aid Homemakers and Single Parents).



The following year, Dr. Ruth Leventhal, Provost and Dean, Penn State Harrisburg, outlined a *Changing World of Work for Women*. Later in 1989 the Branch co-sponsored with

the State College Area School District a conference titled *New Choices for Tomorrow's Women*. Among the conference themes were the following sessions: *Awakening the Future*, *Imaging the Future*, *Exploring the Future*, and *Experiencing the Future*. A Branch member was appointed to the Project Literacy Task Force, and collaboration was established to bring programs developed by the Collaborative on Racism to campus.

As the last decade of the 20th century dawned, AAUW women were already investing time, energy and planning to make the 21st century a model of services, programs, and functions for women. Monthly programs offered in 1990 opened the windows of

opportunity on all levels including *Choices for Women in the Arts* and *Choices for Women in Math and Science*, Representative Ruth Rudy spoke on *Legislation for Women: Where do we Stand?* and *Project 21st Century: Preparing Young Women for the Future*. These programs identified needs in early childhood education, elementary education (especially early introduction of science and math curricula), non-traditional careers and career shadowing programs.



With Penn State's Panhellenic Council, the Branch co-sponsored Women's Awareness Week. The keynote speaker for the event was former Vice Presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, who discussed the future for women in politics and government.

The State College Branch's 75th anniversary in 1991 afforded an opportunity to highlight their vision of the future and the role they would play to create it. Anniversary gifts to the local community



To commemorate their 75th anniversary in 1991, the Branch donated this 1650 Italianate landscape by a Dutch painter to the Palmer Museum.

included funds for Family Health Services to launch a new State College Clinic, investment in a painting for the Palmer Museum of Art collection, and a contribution to the national AAUW Educational Foundation Program to support three initiatives.

EVOLVING DYNAMIC AND OPERATIONAL STABILITY, 1992-2015

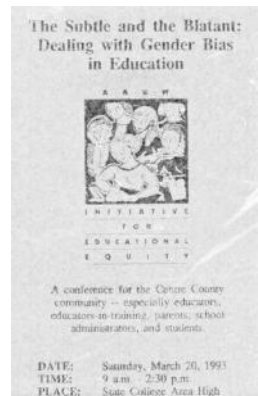
As the country and the State College Branch moved into the 21st century, changes were driven by the impact and uses of technology. The introduction of desktop computers changed how Branch business was conducted and how members communicated with each other.

The State College Branch had to re-group, re-evaluate and re-energize its efforts to move forward. Starting in 2008, the Branch newsletter was offered in both paper and electronic formats. In 2009 the Branch website was upgraded to give a professional face to the organization. In 2012, the Branch developed a Facebook page; and in preparation for the Centennial celebration, the Branch started to use Twitter in 2015. The days of weekly notices and photos of Branch activities in the *Centre Daily Times* have been supplanted by a reliance on electronic communication.

Gender Equity and a Different Future

In 1991, Mary Purcell, President of International Federation of University Women, spoke about the opportunity for women to create changes in their communities, states, countries, and the world. AAUW’s publication of the seminal report *Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America* documented systemic problems of educating girls and demanded curricular changes and the elimination of gender bias across all venues.

The State College Branch co-sponsored a conference called *Gender Bias in Education* in 1993 with the University’s Commission



for Women and Initiative for Educational Equity. In addition to identifying core problems, the conference was solution oriented. Change was now provable by using real-time statistics and testable hypotheses.

During this period, the Branch continued its community initiatives such as participation in the Festival of Cultures, dedicating the Family Health Services Waiting Room, evaluating outcome-based education and identifying a representative for the Centre County Domestic Violence Task Force. Programs included *Yesterday and Today – System Shakers and Barrier Breakers*; *A Worldwide Epidemic Comes Home – The AIDS Project of Centre County*; *Preparing Women for the 21st Century*; *Creative Parenting in Complex Times* and *Contested Values – Tug-a-War in the School Yard* offering lifelong learning and opportunities for activism among many topics.

Dr. Susan Squier became the first Julia Gregg Brill Endowed



Today, Susan Squier is the Brill Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and English at Penn State.

Chair appointee in Women's Studies at Penn State in 1995. This endowed position, partially funded by Branch dollars, reflected the AAUW goal to "promote equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change." She retains this position today.

In addition, the Branch celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the United Nations and the 75th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage at a joint event with the League of Women Voters.

The State College Branch collaborated on local efforts to mark the State College centennial in 1996, supported the initiation of community-based *Take our Daughters to Work* program, lobbied for the Elementary

and Secondary Education Act legislation, coordinated the local Public Issues Forum and underwrote the Strong Families Conference. Each of these efforts reflected the social justice issues at the heart of the Branch's mission and vision.

Women's Voices, Women's Lives

An interesting educational project that the Branch undertook for its 80th anniversary was a co-sponsored oral history program, which partnered local Girl Scouts with Branch members. The girls interviewed members about their personal histories, women's rights, feminism, and local history. They translated these experiences into a formal presentation for Branch members.

Women's history and the memories of women's struggles and triumphs have driven the Branch's outreach to the community. Whether in conjunction with the Borough's centennial in 1996 or other historical events, the narratives of these female forerunners have

provided teachable moments. Programs such as *Presidential Election Results from a Feminist Perspective*, *Women's Athletics into the 21st Century*, *Women at Home and Abroad*, and *Being a Muslim Woman in America – A Discussion* have afforded community audiences the opportunity to reflect on the impact women's lives have had on our national experience.

Suzanne Kerlin

We have started to crack the glass ceiling. I look at my daughters and they aren't nearly as intimidated as I was when I was going through and getting jobs. I look back now and think I took very menial jobs in my field in research as the lab assistant, for instance. My daughters just keep on moving up and up and up don't see any reason why they shouldn't be hired over a male. I was more grateful that I had a job. They are not satisfied with just the job.

The Branch also has worked toward making women's lives better holistically. In 1997, the Branch co-sponsored a gender equity conference entitled *Healthy Perspectives*, which addressed medical issues related to women as they age. Later programs were co-sponsored with Mount Nittany Medical Center, including *Taking Charge of Your Health* (2009) and a 3-part series on women's health issues in 2012.

In 1998, AAUW National issued its groundbreaking *Gender*



Equity Model, which outlined political and business actions leading toward a more reasoned and fair working environment for women. The Branch has always been a strong advocate for women's safety from physical violence through their continued support of the Centre County Women's Resource Center. In 1998 the Branch

sponsored the Center's Clothesline Project, a graphic display telling the stories of abuse victims, and in 2001 the Center received an 85th branch anniversary gift of financial support.

New Era Branch

A brief review of activities in the year 2000 featured much that was familiar to the Branch such as *Women in the Community* profiles featured in *Town & Gown* magazine, a successful Eleanor Roosevelt Walk Fundraiser, the Sister-to-Sister Summit co-sponsored with Kappa Delta Sorority and support for the Boalsburg Civil War Ladies Memorial. AAUW women were everywhere in and around Centre County, making a difference.

The Branch grew to more than 215 members, an all-time high, and the energy was unbridled. Programming focused on personal issues such as *Aging Mothers and Adult Daughters – Mixed Emotions*, *Identity Theft*, and *Title IX – Opening or Closing Doors*.

The Branch focused once again on curricular changes in educational institutions in 2004, this time at the K-5 level with a program titled *Helping All Children Start School Ready to Learn*. This was in part a response to the No Child Left Behind Act, which passed in 2001.

When the Branch's 90th anniversary arrived in 2006, program offerings included *Strategies for Financial Success* and *Preservation in Women's Lives*. The national *Make Every Vote Count* effort was supported financially.

Gateway to Equity Award

The Gateway to Equity Award program was created, recognizing community or university groups whose work is

in some way reflects AAUW's mission.

In 2008, the Branch participated in Centre County Reads outreach events and coordinated programming related to gender equity in education called *Where the Girls Are*.

Work-Life Balance and a Collaborative Focus

In 2009, the Branch sponsored a *Work-Life Balance – Possibility or Pipe Dream?* program. The program brought to light the challenges faced by women trying to manage the pressures of simultaneously raising a family and managing a career. These were pressures that Branch members themselves experienced. The irony was that in finally achieving something women wanted so much— the opportunity to have a career— there was little time left for volunteer activities.

By this time, it was apparent that collaboration with other groups was a powerful means of enhancing participation at Branch programs, and essentially broadening the reach of the Branch in the community. To this end, in 2011 the Branch convened a Coalition for Women's Empowerment, a group of sixteen



2011 - The Coalition for Women's Empowerment met, focusing on meeting joint goals and collaborative opportunities.

women's organizations. The group met several times and found common ground among similarly focused women's organizations, explored partnering opportunities, and recognized the value of jointly promoting programs. While this coalition is not formally organized today, an increased awareness of the value in working together for similar goals remains.

The desire to work together with other community groups was heightened in the aftermath of the Sandusky sexual abuse scandal (2011) and led the Branch to becoming a charter member of the Community Covenant. Branch member and State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham officiated at the *Our Community Day* event where the covenant, which included a local honor code, was signed.



2012—Branch Co-President Candace Davison signed the Community Covenant.

CASE Collaboration

CASE, the Collaboration of the Arts, Social Services, and Education, began fundraising in 2008 for a CASE

Community Center to house non-profit groups and provide them with shared

spaces that would help reduce operating costs and encourage collaborative programming. Branch members and past Presidents Dr. Mary Dupuis and Dianne Gregg became CASE board

members with Mary serving as President of the organization. The Branch recognized the potential of the Used Book Workshop being housed in a CASE building and became a CASE member.

Mary, Dianne, and CASE colleagues continued the search for a building, tenants and financing over the next several years. In

2014, the Branch pledged \$100,000 as a potential investment in a CASE building. As of this writing, many challenges have

prevented CASE from achieving its dream, and the realities of getting a collaborative off the

ground have become painfully apparent. The Branch continues to operate its Used Book Workshop from a rented warehouse-type building at 2100 East College Avenue.



Sally Kalin

AAUW National is concerned that branches are not always spending the money that they raise in the right way, which is to put the money towards activities that support AAUW's mission. For branches that are 501c (3)s, which State College is, the IRS and the states provide permission for branches to fundraise for mission-related projects, or for those related to increasing equity for women.

Fiscal Responsibility

In 2004, concerned about the national AAUW's financial stability, seeking to protect its hard-earned Used Book Sale revenue and desirous of funding in perpetuity its three scholarships, Branch leadership

established the AAUW State College (PA) Branch Scholarship Fund with the Centre County Community Foundation, now the Centre Foundation. The Branch transferred almost \$300,800 to establish the endowment, which funds the Simmons-Jansma Project Renew Grant and the two AAUW Branch Scholarships, one of which has since been renamed the Suzanne McCrae Kerlin Scholarship.

The Branch contributed \$25,000 to the Schlow Centre Region Library Campaign Fund in 2005 and its financial strategies were reconfigured when it became an affiliate member of the Penn State Federal Credit Union. These moves were all part of a major effort spearheaded by former Branch President Sally Kalin to identify strategic planning goals and actions toward the long-term financial and operational viability of the Branch. The first plan, 2004-2007, included filing for 501c(3) status as a non-profit charitable organization.



By 2007 the Branch adopted numerous internal and external adjustments to protect its financial and philanthropic future and to support its long-standing efforts for programming and educational reforms. A revised

Branch Strategic Plan (2008-2011) was unveiled, with a focus on societal change: *Leadership, Organization and Visibility* – the foundation of the Branch since its inception. Internally the Branch appointed a Re-Envisioning Task Force in 2010 to review its structure, fund-raising efforts, and community integration efforts.

Responding to a flood over the holidays at the Centre County Women’s Resource Center office/shelter, the Branch made a \$10,000 emergency award to the CCWRC in January 2011. In 2011-12, three financially focused task forces were created:

Fundraising Futures, Financial and Philanthropic Priorities, and Funds Investment and Management. Their work enabled the Branch to examine its long-term financial security and growth potential. Recommendations included a new financial infrastructure for the Branch and processes to establish and review regular philanthropic priorities and to set long-term financial goals.

STEM Initiatives

The Branch formalized its STEM efforts in 2007 by partnering with the State College Area School District to hold an after-school program for middle school girls, taught by State High teachers, assisted by AAUW volunteers. In 2008, an *Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) in Science, Math and Engineering* program was co-sponsored



2011 - SCASD teacher and Branch member Wendy Watts has been a long-time STEM volunteer.



2014 - The Exciting Endeavors summer camp for girls at Discovery Space was funded in part by AAUW State College.

with Penn State's Women in Science and Engineering (WISE). In 2008, a line item was added to the annual budget for STEM programming.

By 2011, the Branch commitment to STEM programs for young girls was readily apparent. Dr. Mary Dupuis received the

prestigious Penn State WISE Award for her efforts in promoting STEM to girls.



2011 - MATTH is a summer program for elementary-aged students.

STEM team member Candace Davison developed a summer math program for elementary school children called *Mighty Math*, later to become *MATTH* (Magical Adventures for Talented Heroines and Heroes). Kristin Dreyer became co-chair of the committee in 2012. In 2013, the Branch partnered with Discovery Space to offer *Radium Curie-osity*, highlighting the efforts AAUW made supporting Madame Curie's research almost a century earlier.

Today, the Branch supports after-school science programs for middle-school girls in three local school districts (State College, Bellefonte, and Bald Eagle Area), offers scholarships to ScienceU camps at Penn State, awards mini-grants for programs like EYH, and continues to work with many partners on campus and in the community.



Diversity Engagement and Cultural Awareness

The Branch established *¡Adelante!*, a diversity book club

featuring multicultural themes, in 2008. A year later, the Branch and the Community Diversity Group, a coalition of businesses, non-profits and employers, forged a partnership to mentor women from underrepresented groups who lived locally. The two groups received a Penn State grant





2012 - Branch members Carol Eicher and Leslie Laing have promoted diversity through Community Diversity Group.

to fund a Cultural Empowerment for Women series in 2010, and that series continues today with AAUW financial support.

A few years later, an annual Branch program and luncheon was developed with the Hubert H.

Humphrey Fellowship Program at Penn State called *International Perspectives on Women's Equity*. The program, now an annual event, is co-sponsored with other organizations working for women's rights in the community, including Soroptimists, Altrusa, Global Connections, Penn State's Commission for Women, and the Community Diversity Group.

In 2009, the Branch contributed to the Centre County United Nations Association's fundraising dinner and *Global Issues Affecting Lives of Women* program, which featured fundraising for various women-led businesses in third world countries. The Branch has continued its interest in women's international issues through support of the annual dinner, where critical issues such as human trafficking are addressed.

Public Policy Pursuits

AAUW State College Branch has always been vitally interested in public policy matters. With a steady supply of non-partisan public policy information from current Public

E-tu Zen Sun

We are at a stage where we must be sure that all of the candidates for public office who are women are more prepared than anybody else. We have to be solid.



2005 - Branch members Nancy DeWalle, Theresa Lafer, Nancy Weinreb, Dianne Gregg and Jeanne Weber lobbied for pay equity at the AAUW National convention.

Will Women Decide this Election and Why Aren't More of Them in Office? In 2012, Branch member and Title IX consultant Peg Pennepacker provided a compelling program on Title IX.

During this period, the Branch co-sponsored the State College Area School District Tax Reform discussions, the Public Issues Forum entitled *Our Nation's Kids – Is Something Wrong?*, efforts on behalf of *Alternatives in Justice*, a local issues forum on *Centre County's Future – Land Use and Planning*, and partnered for Fair Chance Schools programs.

In 2009, AAUW State College members received the Legacy Award from State College Borough in 2009 for “outstanding contributions to the quality of community life,” and the Golden Eagle Award from Leadership Centre County in 2014. The branch had become a formidable presence locally, a recognized leader in



2009 - Branch Co-Presidents Jeanne Weber and Talat Azhar accepted the Legacy Award.

Policy Co-Chairs Dr. Mary Dupuis and Dianne Gregg through the branch newsletter's public policy column, members are kept informed on public policy events.

Significant public policy programming in recent years included *Women in Politics* (2008), *When Women Vote* (2008), and

the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and a valuable contributor to the national organization.

AAUW-Pennsylvania

With 160+ members, AAUW State College is the largest AAUW branch in Pennsylvania. Historically, the role of the State



College Branch within Pennsylvania has been significant. It was the fourth branch established in Pennsylvania after Pittsburgh (1885), Philadelphia (1886) and Erie (1902). Located near the geographic center of the state, State College has hosted annual meetings of the state organization with some regularity, taking a leadership role in planning such meetings.



Marjorie Dunaway and Trudy Levine represented the Branch at the AAUW-Pennsylvania convention in 1973.

Over the years, several branch members have served on the state board, and from 1974-1978, State College Branch member Marjorie Dunaway very capably served as AAUW -Pennsylvania President. In 2002, Suzanne Kerlin, former Branch President and long-time Used Book Sale chair, was named Susan K. Nenstiel Humanitarian Award recipient at the AAUW-Pennsylvania Convention.

Local Philanthropy: Scholarships and Grants

In 1993, the Board voted that the Simmons Project Renew Grant also would honor the memory of Branch Co-president Vonna Jansma, an ardent supporter of educational opportunities for adult

Sally Kalin

At the start of my second year in office, my co-president Vonna Jansma passed away, so I had to finish the term of office by myself. Vonna had completed college as an adult student, and was a strong supporter of older students. Her family directed memorial gifts to AAUW, so the Branch took those funds, added to them, and created the Simmons-Jansma Scholarship for adult students.

women. She had re-entered academic pursuits after rearing her three children.

The name of the grant was changed to the Simmons-Jansma Project Renew Grant.

In 1994, a second scholarship for returning adult women



students was approved by the board, and a third followed

in 1997. In 2011 the board voted to rename one of the scholarships the Suzanne McCrae Kerlin Scholarship in honor of Suzanne Kerlin, the longest serving past chair of the Used Book Sale and a past Branch President. The Centre Foundation manages the endowment for these three scholarships, and a fourth scholarship, the Evelyn Chostner Marboe AAUW-State College Branch Scholarship, named for a past Branch President, was endowed through Penn State University.

In addition to considering the pool of scholarship applicants attending Penn State, scholarships have been awarded to Centre County residents enrolled at South Hills School of Business & Technology and Lock Haven State University. In 2013, AAUW national extended

Suzanne Kerlin

We are no longer looked at as elitists and I am pleased to say that. First of all, our rules have changed in that we don't need a full degree. We can have an associate's degree and I think it was high time that was changed.



1968 - Helen Hill presenting a scholarship to a returning adult woman student. Since that time, the branch has helped hundreds of women complete college.

membership to women with an associate degree, and the Branch followed suit by awarding scholarships to women who were pursuing associate degrees.

Over the past fifty years, \$271,600 in undergraduate scholarship funds has been awarded to 86 local women.

Supporting AAUW National and Local Nonprofits

In addition to local philanthropy, the Branch has generously supported national AAUW programs and scholarships. Since the inception of the Used Book Sale (1962), the Branch has given over \$677,000 to a variety of national initiatives. Of particular interest to the Branch is the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, which honors an individual or group for contributions in equality and



education in classroom teaching, research. The Branch has been equally supportive of the Legal

Advocacy Fund, which works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and in the workplace.

The Branch also has two endowments with the national organization from which two grants are awarded annually. The Research and Projects Grant sponsors a Community Action or Career Development Grant, and the International Fellowship sponsors a female international graduate student's study in the United States.

Since 1965, the Branch has awarded over \$1,000,000 in support of programs and services delivered by nonprofit community organizations that in some way reflect the AAUW mission.

AAUW State College Branch participates in many community activities, including some that are for the greater good, such as the Centre County United Way Day of Caring, and staffing an information booth at the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts. They raise the visibility of the Branch in the community. Many individual AAUW State College Branch members are seated on local boards and committees.



2013 - Sue Hiester recycled unwanted items during yard clean-up at the Branch Day of Caring project at Stepping Stones.

ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE A COMMUNITY TRADITION (1962-Present)

Louise Tukey

One of the challenges in 1959 was when the branch financial contribution quota was set at \$1,760, or an average \$10 per member, for the new educational center in Washington D.C. We borrowed from the Simmons Loan Fund to meet our quota. Then we founded the Used Book Sale to repay ourselves. We held the first Used Book Sale in 1962 and paid ourselves back in a few years.

The first book sale was held to raise money the Branch owed to the national AAUW organization. The Branch quickly recognized that the book sale could become a good way to fund scholarships and educational programs. The first sale, held on February 1-2, 1962 at the old Bell Telephone Company building on East College Avenue, resulted in a net profit of \$176. A dozen women worked the first sale and books sold for as low as a nickel apiece. The annual AAUW Used Book Sale has grown at a rapid pace since those days to the iconic, local community event it is today with over 250,000 books for sale, over 8,000 purchasers/attendees, over 250 volunteers and sales exceeding \$125,000.



Branch member Louise Tukey has been a tireless presence for the sale, volunteering for it since its inception in 1962. She volunteers weekly at the book workshop, and assists on sale days greeting shoppers and helping where needed.



Members Jody Bland and Ruth Meyer gathered donated books for the 1963 Used Book Sale.

The Used Book Sale took years of hard work and thousands of volunteer hours to grow to its current notable size. The sale moved from the Bell Telephone Building to the First National (People's) Bank, G.C. Murphy's, Faith United Church, and the Wesley Foundation, all in downtown State College. In 1983, the sale moved to the Penn State campus and was housed at the Hetzel Union Ballroom (HUB) Ballroom and Fishbowl for more than sixteen years.



In 1964, members Sandra Ross, Marjorie Dunaway, Mae Patrick, and Jody Bland sorted books in Marjorie's dining room.



In 1972, members Jean Kerr and Eleanor Schempf sorted books in high style: high boots, high stools and high hair!

The sale is successful for three reasons: generous book donations from the community, almost year-round efforts from a dedicated cadre of Branch volunteers who sort and price books weekly, and hundreds of volunteers necessary to work the actual four-day sale.

The Branch initiated the Used Book Sale in response to a levy placed on it by national AAUW to build its educational center in Washington, D.C.

In 1999 the sale moved to its present location at the Penn State Snider Ag Arena. The sale is a mammoth volunteer commitment. Donated books are culled and sorted into 33 subject categories. They are then priced and stored until the four-day sale. In recent years, local and state environmental groups have recognized the Branch's recycling efforts. In 2014 alone, over ten tons of paper was recycled from books that were unsalable due to their age and/or condition.



In 1989, book sale Co-Chair Nellie Boyle (with Jean Pellegrin looking on) moved books at the Aaron Drive workshop.

Suzanne Kerlin

I love the book sale. It's been a very integral part of my life, including the people I volunteer with, the customers and the people who donate books. Book donors may come at the wrong time and leave the wrong sort of books, but they are wonderful. It's a community effort.

At another time in Branch history, the policy was to send 65% of Used Book Sale proceeds to the national AAUW Educational Foundation in support of the International Scholarship that the Branch sought to endow. Once that scholarship endowment was established, Branch bylaws were changed to read that a minimum of 65% of gross Used Book Sale receipts were to be awarded to nonprofit charitable organizations. In 2013, the 65% reference was removed from the Branch bylaws and policies. This change came in response to the sizable financial commitments being made to support the Branch's own scholarships, its STEM programming and other projects in addition to its community grants and donations to national AAUW funds.

Clearly, Branch leaders have revisited the subject of who benefits from the Used Book Sale proceeds as times changed and community needs change with them.

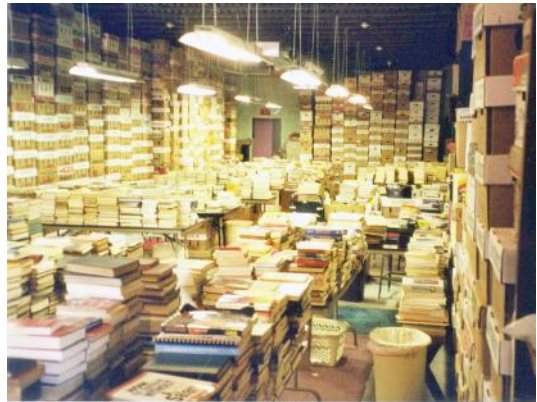
Funds currently raised through the Used Book Sale support Branch priorities, which comprise local scholarships,

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2012—Suzanne Kerlin co-chaired the book sale for eleven years, including the last five with Sherry Crassweller. Working together, they got the job done.

community grants program, funding sent to national AAUW for research and the Legal Advocacy Fund, and covering Used Book Sale and Branch operations. In 2001, the sale passed the threshold of raising more than \$100,000, and even with reading habits shifting to e-readers over the past several years, net proceeds have continued to be in the six digits.



2000 - The Sparks Street book workshop was an impressive space..



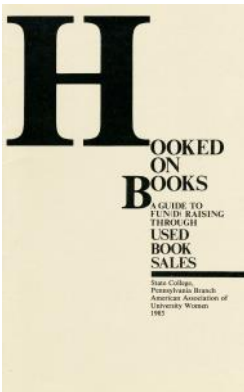
2012 - Nancy DeWalle and others have learned over the years that moving book boxes is better than joining a gym.

In 2015, four local scholarships ranging from \$5,000 to \$7,000 were awarded to returning adult women students, and more than \$60,000 was awarded in grants to the programs and/or services of local nonprofit community groups that supported the Branch mission. In 1965, the community grants program commenced.

Community organizations receiving funding for programs relating to equity for women and girls from the Branch now fall into one of several categories including libraries; women, child, elder care; healthcare; youth; literacy; arts, media and culture; leadership, and more.



2015—The Used Book Sale continues to attract thousands of dedicated shoppers each year, in spite of some shifts in reading habits. It is the economic engine for funding Branch scholarships and grants.



Over the life of the book sale, prominent organizations whose proposals have received funding include Schlow Centre Region Library, Centre County Women’s Resource Center, Centre Volunteers in Medicine, and the State College Area School District. The scope and nature of the grants often supplement national and local funding sources such as the United Way. Grant proposals are formally reviewed by a

committee of Branch volunteers who ensure that the need is justified and that requests align with the AAUW mission.

In 1983, Branch book sale leaders literally wrote the book on fundraising through used book sales. Titled *Hooked on Books*, the sixteen-page booklet was a primer for other groups considering a used book sale as a fundraiser. The last two recommendations in the booklet discuss distribution of the proceeds and the role of the State College Branch fellowships and endowments.

The book sale runs like a well-oiled machine focused on a singular outcome: The generation of funds to support the Branch's overall mission. The largesse afforded the Branch due to the sale has raised the organization's visibility immeasurably. Dollars raised from the book sale support the AAUW mission "to promote equity for women and girls."

The sale has opened and will continue to open a multitude of doors for equity for women and girls. The 50th anniversary of the Used Book Sale was celebrated in 2011. One of the single most successful local philanthropic activities, the Used Book Sale has become a life-source of its own, still vibrant and healthy despite the advent of e-books and e-readers.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

As the AAUW State College Branch celebrates its Centennial year, it continues to support both the national AAUW mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, research, and philanthropy and many initiatives of the national organization. It also engages in many local initiatives such as its scholarship program for Centre County female residents, its STEM programming throughout Centre County, and more.

Branch members will continue to reevaluate their activities in relation to Branch philanthropic priorities and to the revenue generating potential of the Used Book Sale. For example, certain book categories are no longer so successful at the Used Book Sale as they once were, due in part due to the use of e-books and e-readers. These and other trends will continue and warrant close scrutiny by Branch members and leaders.

As its most senior members step away from active involvement, recruiting newer and somewhat younger members and future leaders are imperatives to sustain the Branch. Going forward, will new Branch members be as dedicated to volunteering countless hours in support of the Used Book Sale as previous generations? Will members start some new and innovative projects? How can we better meet the needs of this community? Answering these questions will drive future Branch directions.

Trudy Levine

We used to have many more programs and study action groups, but over the years more and more women have entered the workforce, and as a result they don't have the time for as many volunteer endeavors.

For the past two years, considerable time, effort, and energy have been devoted to the Branch's membership in CASE and the search for suitable space to establish a multi-tenant nonprofit center. As the costs of leased space continue to increase and as the Used Book Sale continues to be impacted by technology advances, further decisions about space for the Used Book Sale will need to be made.

International, national, state and local events will continue to influence Branch programming, philanthropic priorities, and the focus of other activities. Meanwhile, books get donated, culled, sorted and priced; STEM partnerships and programs are delivered; a bi-monthly newsletter is published; the *¡Adelante!* Book Club meets; email blasts are sent to members; and the ongoing work of the branch continues.

Getting Back to Our Roots

In the fall of 2014, a student-initiated and AAUW affiliated organization reformed at Penn State. A similar Penn State registered student organization had existed in the early 2000s but had gone inactive due to its adviser's/Branch member's out-of-state move and dwindling membership. The student members of AAUW of Penn State are an enthusiastic group of undergraduate women who are interested in promoting AAUW issues such as pay equity and sexual harassment to other Penn State students. During its first year and a half of existence, AAUW of Penn State staffed voter registration tables on campus, participated in a "Women's Empowerment Week," assisted with

Linda Higginson

There is an opportunity for AAUW to have much stronger ties with Penn State, to connect with groups like the Center for Women Students, the Commission for Women, and the Women's Studies department. AAUW would bring strengths to any of these groups, and would get much in return.

several STEM events for young girls, participated in \$tart \$mart salary negotiation workshops, and more.

The existence of AAUW of Penn State, a registered Penn State student organization, provides the Branch with another collaborator and a potential partner for program delivery and more. In 1916, the branch advocated on behalf of Penn State women students for their rights.



Jordan Glover started AAUW of Penn State in 2015.



2015 - The Penn State student group provides a great opportunity for spreading AAUW's message.

In Closing

Imagine what State College, Centre County, and Pennsylvania would be like if the AAUW State College Branch women had not taken the initiative, risk, and opportunity to build a better community.

As those who have benefitted from their efforts, we pay tribute to the commitment, energies, and vision of local AAUW members who came before us.

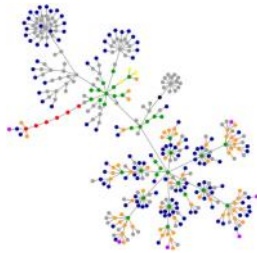
Mary Dupuis

I have a good male friend who says we are in a post-feminist world and then he laughs because he knows perfectly well that everything that we were fighting for in 1980 is still on the table.

Sally Kalin

One thing that AAUW constantly has to battle is that some people never want to change. The world surrounding AAUW has changed a great deal. We can't rest on our laurels, and must keep looking forward.

We also seek to rise to the occasion, to leave things in better condition than when we arrived on the scene, and to contribute to an improved future for women and girls by using the tools of past, which have been thoughtful questioning, vigorous investigation, wise counsel, active engagement, willingness to take risks, an interest in partnering with others, and more!



APPENDIX A

BRANCH PRESIDENTS

1916-1917	Harriet Lyndon Cowell
1917-1918	Emma Yarnell Vorse
1918-1919	Carolyn Buckhout Edwards (acting)
1919-1921	Dr. Helen Deuss Hill
1921-1922	Viola M. Tomhave
1922-1925	Louise B. Moss
1925-1927	Marguerite Heeman Newman
1927-1929	Dr. Lucretia Van Tuyl Simmons
1929-1931	Mary Drummond Dengler
1931-1933	Dr. Jean D. Amberson
1933-1935	Winifred Toles Hurrell
1935-1937	Helen Karns Champlin
1937-1939	Anna Fox Martin
1939-1941	Helen Kalbfus Frear
1941-1943	Abbie Henby Cromer
1943-1945	Mabel E. Kirk
1945-1947	Laura Mansfield Davis
1947-1949	Edith Huntington Anderson
1949-1951	Mary Alice Zarger O'Brien
1951-1953	Dr. Pearl H. Guest
1953-1955	Evelyn M. Hensel
1955-1957	Adelaide Hagerty Kendig
1957-1959	Dr. Dorothy H Veon
1959-1961	Dr. E-tu Zen Sun
1961-1963	Louise Young Tukey
1963-1965	Ann Graybill Cook
1965-1967	Evelyn Chostner Marboe
1967-1969	Dr. Marian B. Davison
1969-1971	Marjorie Weick Dunaway
1971-1973	Ingrid Pearson Holtzman

1973-1975	Trudy Foner Levine
1975-1977	Sarah Ratcliff Godbey
1977-1979	Elizabeth Kevin Vogely
1979-1981	Jane McCormick Lewis
1981-1985	Dr. Linda C. Higginson
1985-1987	Nancy Lewis Strother
1987-1990	Dr. Mary M. Dupuis
1989-1991	Jean Brown Forster
1990-1991	Gail A. Alberini-Emmett
1991-1992	Vonna McMillen Jansma
1991-1993	Sally Wayman Kalin
1993-1995	Nellie Girvin Boyle Suzanne McCrae Kerlin
1995-1997	Suzanne McCrae Kerlin
1997-1999	Jackie Resiert Esposito Cynthia Sue Ingold
1999-2001	Suzanne McCrae Kerlin Dr. Anne Kusenet Nelsen
2001-2002	Beth Ann Christopolous Dianne Taylor Gregg Chriss Alynda Schultz
2002-2003	Dianne Taylor Gregg Chriss Alynda Schultz
2003-2005	Dianne Taylor Gregg Nancy Rosenblum Weinreb
2005-2007	Jeanne Bullers Weber Nancy Rosenbloom Weinreb
2007-2009	Dr. Talat Azhar Jeanne Bullers Weber
2009	Christina M. Ombres
2009-2011	Dr. Talat Azhar
2010-2011	Candace Rusnak Davison
2011-2013	Candace Rusnak Davison

2013-2015 Dr. Charlene Hager Harrison
Dr. Charlene Hager Harrison
Dr. Billie S. Willits
2015-2016 Dr. Billie S. Willits
Allison Franklin

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This history was prepared for informational and entertainment purposes. While best efforts have been used in preparing it, we assume no liabilities of any kind with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents.



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