

Table of Contents

Women of Color Transform Suffragism: Feb. 29 Program.....1

Virtual Writing Improv.....2

Primary Election in Pa.....2

Freedom to Read Event.....3

Basic Education Funding3

Feb. 8 Webinar on public education funding.....4

STEM Updates4

Diversity Corner..... 5

Read Between the Wines.....7

Book Workshop/Sale8

Have You Heard.....9

AAUW PA Convention.....10

Penn State Forum.....10

Links to Membership.....11

Member Survey.....11

Leader Notes.....11

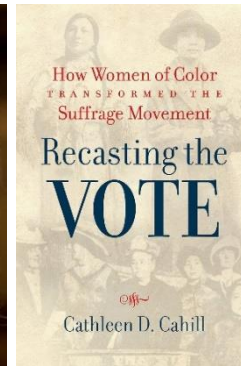
Engage with Branch Leaders.....12

Communication Updates.....12

Branch Bulletin Dates.....12

How women of color transformed the suffrage movement

**Thursday, February 29, 6:30-7:30 pm
Schlow Centre Region Library
Community Room**



February is Black History Month, and we pay tribute by sharing a story about women of color who fought to achieve the right to vote in America. The program features Dr. Cathleen Cahill, Penn

State Professor of History and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Dr. Cahill will focus primarily on her book, *Recasting the Vote: How Women of Color Transformed the Suffrage Movement* (2020).

The book describes the powerful stories of a multiracial group of activists who propelled the national suffrage movement toward a more inclusive vision of equal rights—both before and after the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

PLEASE RSVP to [Betsy Manlove](#) by **February 26**. In case of inclement weather, the program will be held virtually. Registered participants will receive a Zoom link to the program. **Flyer to Share:** [Recasting the Vote flyer](#)

--Betsy Manlove, AAUW State College Program VP



Virtual Writing Improv to run Wed., February 7

Be inspired to stretch your creative muscles during a writing improv exercise! Join us for a Zoom program on **February 7, 6-7 pm**, led by [J.L. Delozier](https://www.jldelozier.com/), a physician and award-winning author. Delozier lives in Pennsylvania with her husband and feline twins. Learn more about her: <https://www.jldelozier.com/>

The program will begin with an introduction to writing improv and will include a 10-minute writing exercise using a prompt. Those interested in sharing their work will be invited to do so. If the participants are interested in Delozier's writing process, getting published, self-publishing versus a traditional publisher, and

whether to use an agent, those areas can be covered. To attend, RSVP to [Susan Chyczewski](#) by **February 5** for the Zoom link. Apologies for the very short deadline!

Join a group of writers: [Nittany Valley Writers Network](#)



Your 2024 Ballot: offices & this year's primary election calendar

In presidential election years, Pennsylvania votes a month earlier than usual. **Our Primary election day, April 23**, falls on a Jewish holiday, so if you are observant you may want to vote by mail.

Nominating petitions to get candidates' names placed on the ballot will circulate up through February 13. Candidates are always grateful for your signatures. If you feel strongly in support of a candidate, you might want to ask that campaign for their petition—even 4-5 signatures would be welcome.

We are voting for federal and state level officers: President, U.S. Senator (Sen. Casey's seat); Congressman, Pennsylvania Senate, and Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Democrats also vote for delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

Centre County is divided into two Pennsylvania districts, following the most recent redistricting. The former Jake Corman district has been split into central, eastern, and western. The central seat is now held by Senator Cris Dush of Jefferson County. Southwestern Centre is in a separate district represented by Senator Wayne Langerholc Jr. of Cambria County.

Centre County has three state representatives. State College is split between Rep. Scott Conklin, Philipsburg, and Rep. Paul Takac, College Township. Both their districts are entirely within the county. Kerry Benninghoff, Bellefonte, has most of Penns Valley and Mifflin County.

No campaign is a sure thing until candidates successfully file their petitions and the accompanying paperwork. We will let you know who they are after the petition deadline has passed.

--Dianne Gregg and Mary Dupuis, AAUW State College Public Policy Co-Chairs



Education Committee plans *Freedom to Read* panel discussion and Trivia Bowl for March 26

The branch Education Committee is planning a Freedom to Read Panel and Trivia Bowl for **Tuesday, March 26, 6:00-7:30 pm** in the Downsborough Community Room at Schlow Centre Region Library. The goal of this program is to encourage reading and build awareness about maintaining access to reading material and interest in literacy.

The program will include a panel discussion by experts who support AAUW's commitment to intellectual freedom and literacy.

We will also have a roundtable discussion and a Freedom to Read Trivia Bowl. Refreshments will be available. Additional program details will be shared in the March *Branch Bulletin*.

Register to attend: [Sue Johnston](#) by **Friday, March 22**.

--Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Education Committee Chair

Basic Education Funding Commission updates



The Basic Education Funding Commission (BEFC) is a bipartisan commission tasked with developing recommendations for Pennsylvania's school funding system. The goal is to meet the state constitutional responsibility of providing adequate and equitable funding for public education. This was a result of a ruling by the Commonwealth Court in February 2023, which stated that the administration and Legislature are failing to provide each student with a high-quality public education.

The full report of the BEFC is available here: [BEFC Majority Report – Approved 1-11-2024](#). It is long but worth your time to read the executive summary. Learn more about the Basic Education Funding Commission: <https://basiceducationfundingcommission.com/>

The next step is to call or write Governor Shapiro (<https://www.governor.pa.gov/contact/>) and encourage him to introduce this plan into his 2024-25 budget proposal and discourage implementation of a new school voucher program before public schools are fully funded in compliance with the Commonwealth Court order. The state has limited funding for education,

and vouchers take away tax dollars that are available for public schools. Branch members and SCASD school board directors Jackie Huff and Donna Smith, a BASD board member, wrote an excellent article in the January 24 issue of the *Centre Daily Times*, titled [Shapiro must step up, be a champion for public schools](#). They provide excellent reasons for the increased funding.

--Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Education Committee Chair

Join Education Voters of PA for February 8 webinar on proposed 2024-2025 Pennsylvania public education budget



EDUCATION VOTERS
of Pennsylvania

On **Thursday, February 8 at 7:00 pm**, join Education Voters of PA. for a deep dive into what Governor Shapiro's funding proposal could mean for our public schools. Will he propose a major investment in state funding that could take a significant step toward constitutional funding for public schools? What about funding additional vouchers for discriminatory private and religious schools? Could we see charter school funding reforms included in his proposal?

Register today: [February 8 webinar on public education budget Proposal](#)

Branch-funded STEM event updates



Making "slime" was a fun part of Bellefonte Family STEAM Night.

The STEM Committee strives to support the education of women and girls throughout Centre County in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Recently, through its partnership with Discovery Space, the STEM Committee provided a program called STEMPOWERED. For 16 weeks, three groups of girls in grades 5-6 from Bellefonte Elementary, Penns Valley Elementary, and Penns Valley Intermediate schools went on field trips to various research laboratories at Penn State to meet female faculty and graduate students and to learn about their various career paths. Some of the students also visited the Frost Entomology Museum, the Penn State Equine Center, and Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. Both school districts provided transportation for the field trips to express support for our efforts.

In November, we provided a mini-grant to the Bellefonte Area School District to purchase children's books focused on science. The heroine or the author of 90% of these books were women. The books were awarded as prizes at the Bellefonte Family STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) Night, on November 8, which was also National STEM

Day. The two-hour event featured science activities and demonstrations by Penn State students and teachers from the school district.

This month, we helped fund the [EMPOWER Conference](#) hosted by Penn State's Graduate Women in Science (GWIS). This all-day conference on campus welcomed individuals working, studying, and interested in STEM at all career stages. EMPOWER, an annual professional and personal development event, featured keynote speaker Wawa Gatheru. Gatheru is an Environmental Justice Warrior, and Black Girl Environmentalist Founder. Several AAUW members were in attendance.

The AAUW STEM Committee is also sponsoring two upcoming events: [ENVISION: STEM Career Day Supporting Young Women](#) and the [AAUW State College Merit-Based STEM Scholarships](#) to Science-U. ENVISION, scheduled for **Saturday, February 24**, is a day-long event inviting girls and young women in grades 6-12 to the University Park campus for hands-on STEM activities, talks, and networking. Thanks to the scholarship program, approximately a dozen Centre County girls will have the opportunity to attend a week-long [Science-U summer science camp](#) of their choice, free of charge. Many girls from the Penns Valley school district have participated in the scholarship program this year, and we look forward to several more girls and young women from other school districts attending ENVISION and Science-U.

--Carol-Beth Book, AAUW State College STEM Co-Chair

DIVERSITY CORNER



Pictured: Naana Nti, program organizer; Odgerel Batsaikhan, Humphrey Fellow from Mongolia; Ninoska Leiva, Humphrey Fellow from Chile, and Carolyn Donaldson, moderator.

Branch-led January 25 Humphrey program well-received

The AAUW-State College-led Humphrey Fellows Lunch, ***International Perspectives on Women in Society***, was held on January 25.

Panelists included Dr. Odgerel Batsaikhan, Vice Director of Otgontenger University in Mongolia, and Ninoska Leiva, a professor at the University of Chile and the University of Santiago de Chile.

Both panelists shared interesting stories, at times inspirational, about their countries. Branch member Sophie Penney Leach commented, “The program was moving and insightful. It left me deeply grateful that I live in the United States and yet at the same time, wondering if or how we as AAUW members can help make a difference in the lives of women in other parts of the world. While we still have a long road to go toward equity in the United States, hearing that only 40% of women in Chile work outside the home and they pay 30% more for insurance because they can have children leads one to wonder how you can serve as an advocate for change elsewhere because we are all sisters no matter our location.”

The event was co-sponsored by Altrusa International Centre County, Community Diversity Group, Global Connections, Soroptimist Centre County, and Ten Thousand Villages State College. Thank you to branch program organizer Naana Nti for her hard work behind the scenes, and to Carolyn Donaldson for a fine job as moderator.



February is Black History Month

Penn State University Park has several events planned to celebrate Black History Month. To learn more, visit:

[Penn State UP Black History Month Schedule](#)

In addition, the Penn State School of Music is hosting an African American Music Festival February 7-10. Details: [Penn State African Music Festival](#)



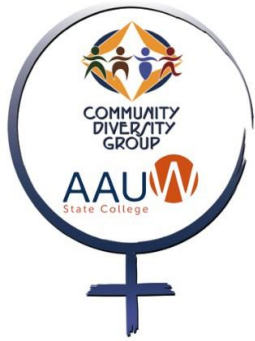
Group organizers for the NDORH event: *Genevieve De Los Santos, State College Borough; Sandra Del Pilar, Racial Equity Advisory Commission; Naana Nti, AAUW State College and Community Diversity Group; Chiluvya Zulu, State College Borough DEI Director, Sophie Penney, AAUW State College.*

February 2 *National Day of Racial Healing* marked by open conversations

The first annual State College [National Day of Racial Healing](#), originally planned for January 16, was rescheduled for February 2. New to State College, the event was co-sponsored by AAUW State College, the Community Diversity Group, the State College Borough, and the Borough’s Racial Equity Advisory Commission. Over seventy people attended.

The event was very well received. A follow-up event will take place on **April 12**, when strategies to help break down racial barriers will be identified. Details will be forthcoming.

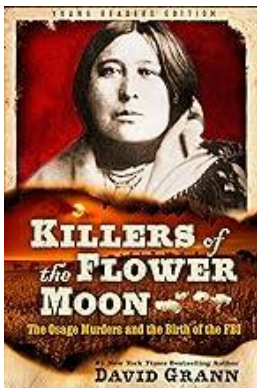
Cultural Empowerment for Women Luncheon program set for Tuesday, March 12



The next Cultural Empowerment for Women Luncheon, co-sponsored by AAUW State College and the Community Diversity Group, is scheduled for March 12, at the **Penn Stater Conference Center, 11:30 am-2:00 pm.**

Following a lunch buffet, a diverse panel of local women will discuss their personal and professional experiences with mentorship. They will offer tips and strategies on how attendees can foster mentorship connections by mentoring others or seeking out mentorship opportunities and making the most of them. **Dr. Amy Trithart**, Chief Human Resource and Chief Ancillary Services Officer, Mount Nittany Health, will serve as moderator. Panelists include **Dr. Lauren Griggs**, Assistant Teaching Professor, Director of the Multicultural Engineering Program and Director of the Clark Scholars Program at Penn State; **Dorene Uhrich**, COO, MindPlay Education; and **Paula Williams**, Executive Director, Centre County United Way.

The cost for **lunch is \$18 by mail, and reservations are due March 5, 2024.** You can pay **\$20** online or at the door but must RSVP **by March 5. Register here: bit.ly/CEWlunchMarch12**



¡ADELANTE! book club to meet March 21

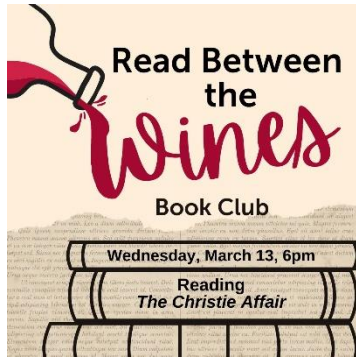
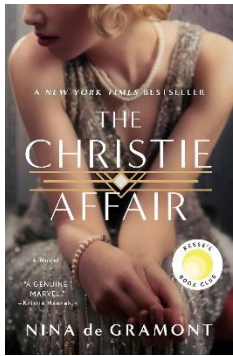
Our book club is modeled after the AAUW Diversity Outreach for Impact Program,

featuring diverse cultures in both fiction and nonfiction offerings. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, March 21, at 2:30 pm.**

We will discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*. Author [David Grann](#) describes a tragic chapter in American history: the Osage Reign of Terror (1921-26), when twenty Osage Indians were murdered in cold blood for access to their valuable shares of oil money.

To join the group, please contact [Naana Nti](#). We warmly welcome new members. Meeting ID: 817 1072 2281; Passcode: 759737; **Zoom Meeting link: bit.ly/AdelanteZoomMeeting**

--Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Chair



***Read Between the Wines* book club select *The Christie Affair* for March 13**

Our new book club will read *The Christie Affair* by Nina de Gramont, an international and New York Times best seller, historical fiction, and thriller. From [Amazon Review](#), “In 1925, Miss Nan O’Dea infiltrated the wealthy, rarefied world of author Agatha Christie and her husband, Archie. She

became a part of their life—first, with both Christies. Then, just Archie. Soon, Nan became Archie’s mistress, luring him away from his devoted wife, desperate to marry him. Nan’s plot didn’t begin the day she met Archie and Agatha.”

The gathering will be held **Wednesday, March 13, 6-7 pm** at the home of Sally Kalin. To attend, please RSVP to [Sally Kalin](#) by **March 11** for directions and parking instructions.

--Susan Chyczewski, Membership Co-VP

Used Book Workshop to close off book donations on March 12



Used Book Workshop volunteers have been working hard for nearly ten months, making steady progress sorting and pricing book donations for the **May 11-14 sale**. The workshop leaders anticipate that by making **March 12** the closing date for accepting book donations, there will be just the right number of boxes to bring to the sale. Huge thanks to all the volunteers who have worked over the past year processing books, and to workshop leaders **Sherry Crassweller**, **Suzanne Kerlin**, and **Dina Liberatore** for keeping things going!

Used Book Sale volunteer scheduling has begun

Scheduling is now underway for this year’s sale, with branch members being notified ahead of community volunteers. If you have not received an invite to volunteer, it is likely because you joined the branch after last May’s book sale; contact Sale Co-Chair [Donna Trapp](#) to let her know when you can help.

vol·un·teer needed

We are still in search of a **Volunteer Scheduler** for our **May 2025 book sale**. The success of the sale depends on teamwork and dividing up tasks so that no single member is overburdened. We rely on the team! The position entails emailing previous volunteers (very little arm-twisting is needed) and identifying new volunteers. This year the volunteer will shadow sale Co-Chair

Donna Trapp, to learn the ropes. Contact [Donna Trapp](#) to let her know you are interested in this position and in learning more about scheduling for the 2025 sale.

Have You Heard?

Best wishes to **Ingrid Blood**, recovering from surgery at Johns Hopkins on January 25. Cards would be welcome and may be sent to her home.

Condolences to **Carline Crevecoeur** and family on the death of her mother, Mercia Crevecoeur, on December 29, 2023.

Louise Tukey **January 28, 1927 - January 4, 2024**



Contributed by Branch member Jackie Esposito, Louise's close friend and branch Co-Historian with Louise Tukey

State College – it is the “end of an era.” On Thursday, January 4, 2024, long-time State College resident and community volunteer Louise Tukey died after more than 70 years of contributing to the local community. Louise arrived in State College in 1951 and immediately became part of the fiber of Centre County. She participated in the founding of the Women’s Resource Centre, Phone-A-Friend, Schlow Library, University Women’s Club, League of Women Voters, Centre County Historical Society (life member), and many more initiatives focused on bettering the lives of women and children in State College.

Louise’s most impactful contribution was as a founding member for AAUW State College’s annual Used Book Sale. Beginning with the first sale at the Wesley Foundation through its current day iteration, Louise volunteered countless hours pricing and organizing books, working with book buyers and sellers, assisting with funds allocation for scholarships for returning adult women and local community betterment projects, and promoting the works of AAUW locally, throughout the state, and nationwide.

Louise was tenacious, sometimes difficult, determined, and steadfast in her convictions. If you met Louise or worked with Louise, you would always remember the interaction. Yes, it is the end of an era for her active contributions, but her memory will live on for many years to come in the stories people tell about all the contributions she made to State College as a community.

Official obituary: [Louise Tukey](#)



Attend AAUW Pennsylvania convention April 5-7, 2024

AAUW Pennsylvania will hold their 2024 convention, *Evolution of the Fight: Looking Back to Move Forward*, **April 5-7**, in Harrisburg.

The conference, held at the Best Western Central Hotel & Conference Center, will provide AAUW Pennsylvania branch members the opportunity to interact and to learn from each other.

Special convention highlights:

- Some terrific **Learning Circles**, including one on *Open Membership*
- *AAUW's Advocacy in Action: Opportunities for Impact*, **Meghan Kissell**, Senior Director, Policy and Member Advocacy, AAUW National
- Saturday night keynote: *The Power of Vulnerability*, **Gisele Fetterman**, Nonprofit Founder, Hugger, Dreamer

To learn more about the conference schedule, costs, and registration, visit [AAUW Pennsylvania](#). Branch members will receive an e-blast later this month, with additional information regarding registration and reimbursement. Stay tuned!



Join us for the AAUW State College Centennial Endowed Penn State Forum Speaker: Lisa Salters March 29, 2024

In 1916, AAUW State College established an endowment with Penn State, as part of the branch centennial celebration. The endowment funds an annual speaker at the popular Penn State Forum lunches. The purpose of the endowment is to increase knowledge about the advancement of equity for women and girls and to provide an opportunity to engage with the community at large. The speakers serve as role models for a new generation of leaders.



[Lisa Salters](#), Emmy-award winning ESPN sports broadcaster, will be the AAUW State College Centennial Speaker at the 2024 Penn State Forum on **Friday, March 29, 2024**. A Penn State alumna, Salters has broken glass ceilings both as a woman and as a person of color in a mostly male-dominated field. Learn more about [Lisa Salters: Sideline Reporter](#).

The Forum will include lunch followed by remarks from Ms. Salters. After the presentation, a facilitator will pose questions to Ms. Salters submitted by members of the audience. The Forum

regularly attracts diverse audiences of several hundred people, who have been educated and inspired by nationally and internationally known speakers.

The event will be held at the Penn Stater Conference Center in President's Hall and will run from **11:30 am-1:30 pm**. The branch has purchased three tables for the event.

Tickets are \$25, available now: [March 29 Forum tickets](#)

This is a wonderful event to come together as a branch and show the community where our priorities are. Join us!



Links to renewing your membership

Following are quick links to renewing your membership, and a list of engagement opportunities.

- [Online membership renewal](#)
- [Paper membership form to mail with check](#)
- [Member engagement opportunities](#)

Questions? Contact Membership VPs [Susan Chyczewski](#) and [Carline Crevecoeur](#)

Member Survey

We need your help! Please reply to this poll.

Together we are strong. Our focus and success depend upon the strength of our team. Please respond and communicate your interest in an open committee or leadership position by responding to this [MEMBER SURVEY](#). Nominations Committee members Carol-Beth Book, Candace Davison, Sherry Lonsdale, Sue Werner, and Amy Wilson appreciate your response.

Liz Kopco: Comments on leadership

as she steps down as co-president elect



The board has been busy focusing on strategic priorities, preparing for the state conference in April, and getting ready for the annual Used Book Sale. If you have the time, I highly encourage you to attend a board meeting, where all members are welcome.

I started this past year as Co-President Elect along with Grace Hampton and have learned tremendously both from her and the board. It is with a heavy heart that I have decided to step down due to family and health concerns. I am extremely grateful for all who have supported and guided me, especially to Sally Kalin and Connie Schroeder who took me under their wing.

Although I know the branch is in good hands with the board and Grace, I am calling on our members to channel their inner leaders and take a role within our board. One thing I can say about our board is that **no one does a role alone**. Together we have all supported and helped one another when needed.

"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing you think you cannot do." — Eleanor Roosevelt

This branch has thrived thanks to all the strong, courageous, and fearless members in our branch who have been leaders. I know there are many new ones among us and look forward to seeing our branch continue to thrive.

Thank you all,
Liz Kopco, 2023 Co-President Elect



Join us and engage with branch leaders

Want to connect with branch leaders? They would love to hear from you.

Reach out via: [2023-2025 AAUW State College Leadership Team](#)

To learn more about what takes place at board meetings, review minutes from the last meeting: [January 13 board minutes](#).

The next board meeting will take place via Zoom on **February 12, 11:45 am–12:45 pm** and is open to all members. Click here to join us: bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardMeeting

New communication strategies to increase security and privacy



Changes are underway to increase privacy and security in our electronic communications. We are in the process of replacing personal email addresses for branch leaders with position-based emails in our *Branch Bulletin* and on the website.

Until the new system can be set up, all queries to branch leaders listed in the *Branch Bulletin* or on the website will be channeled to them through info@aauwstatecollege.org. We are excited to have new member **Sherry Lonsdale** assisting with this project. Remember, it takes a team!

--Connie Schroeder, AAUW State College Marketing & Communications VP



Branch Bulletin dates

The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **Monday, March 4**. Submissions are due **Monday, February 26**. Please send items to editor [Connie Schroeder](#).