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**Branch Award & Scholarship Celebration
look-back**



Scholarship recipients Abigail Deeter, Nivin Shaaban, and Cassandra Barr expressed their appreciation for the scholarships and shared their hopes and dreams. Two remaining recipients, Cigdem Beggi Alrawi and Faith Galbraith, were unable to attend.

Over fifty branch members and guests came together for the June 6 branch celebration at Mountain View Country Club. This culmination of the program year included plenty of inspiration. Five undergraduate scholarships

totaling \$24,000 were awarded. The former AAUW State College Branch Scholarship was renamed the Louise Y. Tukey Scholarship, in memory of longtime branch member and leader Louise Tukey, who passed away earlier this year.



Right: Nivin Shaaban with Scholarship Co-Chair Leslie Laing; Cassandra Barr and son with Scholarship Co-Chair Suzanne Kerlin.



A proud moment for scholarship recipient Abigail Deeter, with mom and Scholarship Co-Chair Leslie Laing.



Outstanding Women Carol-Beth Book (right) with her STEM Co-Chair, Michele Crowl.



Jackie Esposito, Member Making a Difference awardee, with daughter Emily.



Named Gift Honorees Susan Chyczewski and Carline Crevecoeur enjoyed the moment.



Bonnie Goble (center) of the League of Women Voters Centre County accepted the Gateway to Equity Award from Award Co-Chairs Suzanne Kerlin and Chriss Schultz.



Special Branch Recognition for Charlene Harrison was presented by AAUW-PA President Cindy Hall.



We recognized 50-year honorary life member Carol Hodes.



New branch officers Choi DebRoy (co-secretary) and Molly Kunkel (president-elect) joined the leadership team.



Friendly greeters Shan Holliday and Christine Bishop welcomed attendees.



Kathy Burnham and Jane Stanton shared a laugh.

New branch slide show: check it out!

A new five minute slide show of branch activities from July 2023 to June 2024 was shared at the Award & Scholarship Celebration. To follow is an updated version that includes some of the banquet photos:

[2023-2024 Branch in Review](#)



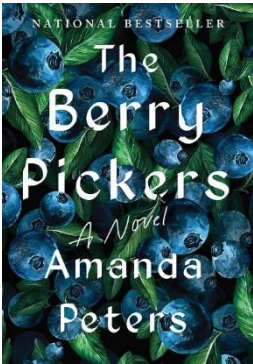
Left: Sherry Lonsdale, Mary Dupuis, and Amy Wilson enjoyed a moment together.



NCCWSL scholarship recipients' thanks

This spring, AAUW State College funded three Penn State students to attend NCCWSL, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, an AAUW-sponsored 3-day conference held in College Park, Maryland. They included **Amanda Perry**, **Madison Reid**, and **Jodie Roberts**. A fourth student, **Ilayda Namli**, was funded by the College of Engineering. Ilayda Namli and Jodie Roberts shared comments about the conference: [NCCWSL Thank You](#)





¡ADELANTE! Book Club to meet Thursday, July 18

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, July 18, at 2:30 pm**. We will discuss *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters. An indigenous family from Nova Scotia travels to harvest blueberries, when their daughter goes missing.

To participate with the group, please contact info@aauwstatecollege.org.

We warmly welcome new members. **Join Zoom Meeting:** [July 18 Meeting](#); **Meeting ID:** 898 5500 8974; **Passcode:** 913553

Inspiring message from Madina Pulotova, Humphrey Fellow, 2021-22



Note: *Madina Pulotova was a 2021-2022 Penn State Humphrey Fellow from Tajikistan who participated in the branch-sponsored Humphrey Fellows lunch in 2022. Recently, she shared the following update:*

Through my Humphrey Fellows experience back in 2021-2022 and volunteering in the AAUW Book Workshop, I witnessed how people in the U.S. and particularly in central Pennsylvania are making positive differences in the lives of thousands of women and girls, so they can pursue their dreams.

I came back to Tajikistan inspired to level up my nonprofit organization.

Today, I lead a nonprofit that offers programs to empower youth and girls through STEM and well-being, so they have enough skills and knowledge to be competitive in the job market. We provide hands-on experience in IT, digital literacy, and well-being, and ensure that more girls are a part of the robotics programs. I strongly believe every girl has a right to quality education, and I am confident that sharing these stories will empower girls to envision their future and pursue their dreams. — *Madina Pulotova*

--*Diversity & Inclusion Committee: Naana Nti (Chair), Carline Crevecoeur, Denise Rupert, Malu Tejada, Sophie Penney Leach, Maria Schmidt, and Carmen Vanderhoof*

Beyond the Branch in dollars and cents: AAUW Pennsylvania



The AAUW Pennsylvania Board and I are highly appreciative of the donation made by AAUW State College for the 2023-2024 year. The \$5,000 commitment enabled us to fully support three undergraduate students' attendance at the AAUW Pennsylvania Conference in Harrisburg (\$2,300); provide student impact mini-grants (\$1,442); and send two students to NCCWSL at College Park, Maryland (\$1,130).



AAUW State College support made it possible for more students to attend the April conference.

AAUW Pennsylvania is a network of 27 branches across the state. It is funded almost exclusively by state membership dues (\$9,540 this past year, representing a decrease of approximately \$500 from the previous year). Our reliance on dues and our decision not to increase state dues for 2024-2025 limits our ability to grow the next generation of AAUW leaders to fill our shoes as well as offer retreats and conferences for members. I hope you

will take a minute to review the last six months of state board activities: [AAUW Pennsylvania: 2023-24 Year in Review](#)

Thank you, AAUW State College, for your impactful gift. We would not have been able to support these Pennsylvania students without your generosity. *We are strong together.*

*--Cindy Hall (State College), President, AAUW Pennsylvania
AAUW State College Co-President (2017-2021)*



Beyond the Branch in dollars and cents: AAUW (National)

As the AAUW Pennsylvania Funds Chair, I receive queries about why AAUW branches and members should donate to national, especially to the Greatest Needs Fund. I have been studying AAUW's finances, and several months ago I had a conversation with the financial expert on the national Board. Here is what I have learned:

- AAUW supports many initiatives in pursuit of its mission to advance women's equity: a renewed focus on advocacy for women's rights with a professional staff who advocate for women on a national level and an advocacy toolkit [advocacy toolkit](#); pay equity programs, such as Smart Start; sponsorship of the National Conference for College

Women Student Leaders; a huge array of educational packages, including webinars; its landmark research; and more.

- Our membership dues (\$2 million) do not cover AAUW's operating costs (\$6 million). Also, over 10% of AAUW members are honorary (50-year) members, which means that they do not pay any national dues. Contributions (\$4 million) help to make up the difference.
- AAUW has over \$90 million in endowments, but they are designated—most for educational fellowships and grants—and cannot be used for other purposes. The Greatest Needs Fund is undesignated and allows AAUW to pivot to where the needs are, e.g., public policy advocacy.
- The recent defeat of the Bylaws change that would have eliminated the educational requirement for membership has negative financial implications: AAUW cannot apply for some grants and corporate donations because it is not considered to be inclusive.
- Few members make personal donations to national or are members of the Legacy Society (members who plan to leave a gift to AAUW in their estates), so branch donations are critical.
- The national Board has worked hard to streamline its operations and to have a balanced budget, despite fewer membership dues and escalating costs. I commend them for this.
- AAUW State College is the largest and wealthiest branch in Pennsylvania with the most successful fundraiser, raising money in AAUW's name. We are an affiliate of AAUW, not a stand-alone organization, and should demonstrate leadership in supporting the national organization and its goals. The survival of many of AAUW's programs is dependent on donations received.

--Sally Kalin, AAUW Pennsylvania Funds Chair & AAUW SC Immediate Past President

Book Workshop reopens to a crowd



Book donations for the 2025 sale have begun!

The Used Book Workshop reopened June 18, to heavy donations. Book donations are accepted anytime in the outdoor bins. **The workshop itself is open and staffed on Mondays, 6-8 pm and Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9 am-noon.**

For those who have not yet been to the workshop, it is located at 2197 High Tech Road. To donate books, check out [Book](#)

[Donation Guidelines](#). **Directions for first timers:** High Tech Road is located directly across from the State College airport. Go down High Tech less than ½ mile and at the end of the chain link fence on the left, turn right at the Book Donations sign. The workshop is located to the rear, housed in a large building with blue donation bins.



Central Pennsylvania
Festival of the Arts™

July 10-14 AAUW-staffed booth at Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts around the corner

The CPFA information booth on Allen Street near the corner of Allen and College will be staffed by AAUW State College volunteers again this year.

Thank you to **Jackie Esposito** for her terrific efforts filling the schedule with branch members volunteering; it is now full.

Be sure to drop by the booth at the festival and say hello! While there, take a photo of or with the volunteer, and send it on to [Connie Schroeder](#), who will share the photos on social media and in the next *Branch Bulletin*.

Have You Heard?

Best wishes to branch member and outgoing two-term co-secretary **Chriss Schultz** on her planned retirement June 30. For the past eight years Chriss has served as Disaster Program Manager with the American Red Cross, most recently covering ten counties up to the New York border. She is an advanced American Red Cross trainer and plans to continue volunteering as a Preparedness instructor.



Membership reminders – renewals & more

Time to renew your AAUW membership? Members receive an email renewal notification from AAUW during the month preceding the due date. **Ways to renew:**

ONLINE through AAUW National – respond to the email reminder from National or go to [AAUW Membership](#) on the National webpage where you will be asked to reset your password. Due to technical difficulties, it is currently not possible to renew online through the State College branch website.

BY MAIL – go to https://aauwstatecollege.org/join_aauw_membership/ and click on “Join by Mail” at the bottom of the page. Print the form and send it with a check to the address listed.

ENGAGEMENT – When members join, they list their interests in the various areas of the branch. Current members and officers try to meet with new members when they join. If you have joined in the last several months but have not yet connected with the membership VPs

and would like to become active in the branch behind the scenes, we need you! Check out [Time to Engage](#).

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



Join us behind the scenes – at the board meetings

Branch board meetings are a great place to learn about what is going on and to offer input. To catch up on branch business, review minutes from the last board meeting: [6-10-2024 Board Minutes](#)

The next AAUW State College board meeting will take place in person at the **College Twp. Building** (upstairs) and also via Zoom on **Monday, August 12, 11:30 am–1 pm**. Click here to join us: bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardMeeting

The challenge of leadership is to be strong but not rude; kind but not weak; bold but not a bully; thoughtful but not lazy; humble but not timid; proud but not arrogant, and have humor but without folly. – Jim Rohn

Help needed with branch communications – join the team!

With our annual book sale behind us and a summer hiatus before our branch program schedule resumes in September, it is time to prepare for future programs and events. There is an abundance of talent among our members, and we really need some help in this area. Join our communications team! Our strength rests in teamwork. Positions available include:



Social media lead - Plan and schedule social media posts onto Facebook and Instagram, 2-3 times/week throughout the year. Content is derived from upcoming branch activities, related local events, promotion of AAUW issues, advocacy issues, and webinars. Post designs may be done

on your own or as a member of our Canva team. Learn more about our current page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWStateCollege/>



Book workshop promoter – Our signage for the workshop is in place, but we need help with getting the word out to local media sources and onto electronic community calendars. Notices are generally sent about four times per year, tied to when the workshop opens and closes (June and March) and changes in hours (from summer

to fall and end-of-year holidays). This is an important behind-the-scenes task that keeps our workshop visible to potential community donors.

To help with either of these positions, please contact Marketing & Communications VP [Connie Schroeder](#) today! She has plenty of resources to get you started.

***Branch Bulletin* dates**



The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **August 5**. The submission deadline will be **Monday, July 29**. Please send items to editor [Connie Schroeder](#).