

Table of Contents

Branch Potluck
September 12.....1

School Voucher Program
September 26.....2

PSU Forum Lunch
October 7.....3

Puzzle Palooza
October 8.....4

Diversity Corner.....4

Out & About.....5

Around Town.....6

Membership News.....7

Community Good.....10

Behind the Scenes.....12

**Branch Potluck
Orchard Park!
Thursday, September 12
5:00-7:30 pm**



The fall Branch Potluck is around the corner, **Thursday, September 12, at Orchard Park, 1060 Bayberry Drive, 5:00-7:30 pm.** Here is a map to the location: [Orchard Park](#). Park in the parking lot off Bayberry and the picnic pavilion is up a short path from the parking lot, adjacent to the basketball court.

Come at 5 pm to socialize and learn about ways to become more engaged with the branch.

Bring your favorite dish, salad, or dessert to share; that is all. We will provide paper products and beverages.

Raffle! We have three mugs, each with a jar of Betsy Manlove’s homemade jelly/jam in them, and two sets of colorful cloth checkerboard napkins (4 per set), etc.

Half-Price Membership for new members: Invite a friend or colleague to join you as a potential AAUW member, and as a brand-new member they will enjoy a one-year, half-price membership. Share this link: bit.ly/AAUWSCMembership

Invite a Friend

New members will be able to join for a special half-price rate of **\$46** rather than the **\$92** standard rate.

What a deal!



Getting ready for our first potluck at Orchard

--Betsy Manlove and Renee Cloutier, AAUW SC Program VPs



Branch program: *Impact of Vouchers on Public Schools*

Thursday, September 26, 6:30-8:00 pm
College Township Building & via Zoom

Have you heard about school voucher programs in Pennsylvania and want to learn more? With school now underway, our AAUW State College Education Committee is working with Education Voters PA on a program about this important topic. School voucher allocation impacts all of us.



EDUCATION VOTERS
of Pennsylvania

Invite a friend or colleague to this important hybrid program to be offered both in-person and via Zoom. **Register below by Tuesday, September 24.**

The in-person program will be held at the College Township Building, 1481 East College Avenue. Refreshments provided. The program is sponsored by **AAUW State College** and **Education Voters PA**. AAUW Pennsylvania is promoting the program to all AAUW branches in Pennsylvania. Learn more about the Education Voters PA position: bit.ly/EdVotersPa-SchoolVouchers

Meet the speakers:



Susan Spicka is the Executive Director of Education Voters PA. During her years teaching high school English, Susan witnessed the incredible power of public education to change the lives of students and the challenges facing our public schools. Her teaching experience solidified her belief that all children deserve to have an equal opportunity to receive a great public education. She completed the Education Policy and Leadership Fellowship Program in 2016 and was the 2020 recipient of the American Association of University Women’s Gateway to Equity Award.



Sandra Miller is the Advocacy Coordinator for Education Voters PA and the Public Policy Chair for AAUW Pennsylvania. Sandra believes that parents and community members need to promote sustainable resources for the success of our community schools. From 2006 to 2021, she was a School Director of the Saucon Valley School Board and was very active in Pennsylvania School Board Association advocacy efforts.

Share Flyer: [9-26-2024 School Vouchers program flyer](#)

Registration Deadline September 24: bit.ly/SchoolVouchersRegistration



KEYSTONE
RESEARCH
CENTER

Pennsylvania's Track Record on School Vouchers: Still No Accountability

Note: *The June 2024 report put out by the Keystone Research Center is an in-depth look at school vouchers and the lack of accountability in Pennsylvania's two existing voucher programs.*

They have cost taxpayers \$2.6 billion since their inception. The report is eye-opening. Highlights follow below. Full report: [School Vouchers – No Accountability](#)

The primary findings about voucher programs in Pennsylvania are as follows:

- Pennsylvania's existing voucher programs fund private and religious schools that are expensive, discriminatory, and exclusive
- Students do not benefit equally from voucher programs
- Students in rural communities often do not have access
- Private schools receiving vouchers discriminate
- Voucher programs have little accountability
- Vouchers subsidize elite and expensive private schools
- Religious schools teach creationism in lieu of science and are eligible for vouchers

Plan to attend the September 26 program on School Vouchers to learn more!

--Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Education Committee



Branch-sponsored Penn State Forum Lunch with Susan Robinson, October 7 Tickets now on sale

Penn State Alumna **Susan Robinson** learned during her time at Penn State that she had a genetic visual impairment for which there was no correction or cure, and which would leave her legally blind (or partially sighted, as she prefers it). Today a business advisor, inspirational speaker, and entrepreneur, Susan partners with executive leaders and boards of directors on enterprise-wide issues.

Ms. Robinson's team-oriented approach draws the best out of others, ensuring success for all. Her previous projects include organizational turnarounds, program launches, leadership workshops for top talent, competitive differentiation and growth assessments, and strategy, horizon, and transformation planning.

Tickets on Sale: AAUW State College has reserved two tables for the event. The cost to attend is \$25, which includes a buffet lunch that begins at 11:30 am. Visit the [AAUW State College-Penn State Forum](#) page today to purchase your ticket!

Branch membership event: Puzzle Palooza!

Tuesday, October 8, 5:30-8:30 pm



Great news! We have a brand-new membership event that promises to be fun: **Puzzle Palooza!** As with all our membership events, Palooza will bring people together for a chance to get to know each other better, relax, and have fun.

We will have teams of 3-4, with a few rounds of puzzles to make, switching groups between rounds.

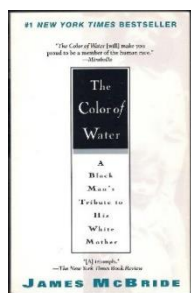
Come at 5:30 for some homemade chili made by host **Connie Schroeder**. Her address is **315 Hubler Road in Harris Acres**, just off Atherton near Meyers Dairy. If you want to bring a small plate of something (sweet, salty, or healthy), you are most welcome to do so. Nonalcoholic drinks will be provided; you may bring your own beverage of choice. **RSVP to [Connie Schroeder](#)**; space is limited. **The RSVP deadline is Tuesday, October 1.**

DIVERSITY CORNER



Happy Valley Latin Festival Saturday, September 14, 11 am-5 pm, MLK Plaza

Join us for a *Vibrant Celebration of Latin Culture* at the 4th Happy Valley Latin Festival on September 14! Experience the traditions of Latin culture with live music, captivating dance performances, and delicious food from across Latin America. It will run 11 am-5 pm at the MLK Plaza, located at 127 S. Fraser Street, State College. **Learn more: [September 14 Latin Festival](#)**



¡ADELANTE! Book Club to meet Thursday, September 19

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, September 19, at 2:30 pm**. We will discuss ***The Color of Water* by James McBride**. A young African American man describes growing up as one of twelve children of a white mother and black father and coming to terms with his confusion over his own identity. To join the group, please contact info@auuwstatecollege.org. We warmly welcome new members. **Join Zoom Meeting: [September 19 Adelante](#) Meeting ID: 883 7339 7994; Passcode: 562149**

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



Next Cultural Empowerment for Women lunch: Thursday, October 10

The next Cultural Empowerment for Women luncheon is scheduled for October 10, 11:30 am–2:00 pm, at The Penn Stater Hotel. The topic for discussion is *Make a Difference Through Community Engagement*. Registration details will be provided later this month.

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

OUT & ABOUT

Members attend *Suffs: The Musical*

Seven branch members helped fill the bus that traveled to NYC for a matinee show of *Suffs: The Musical* on August 21. What a memorable day!

The show told the story of women’s struggle for equality, between 1913 and 1920, when they won the right to vote.



Branch members attending Suff's: The Musical included (l. to r.) Jackie Esposito, Amy Miller, Connie Schroeder, Carline Crevecoeur, Sophie Penney Leach, and Nancy Chiswick (not pictured). They were joined by Amy’s friend Jared and Jackie’s daughter Emily.

The role of women of color in the suffrage movement was especially interesting. We learned about it earlier this year during our March 2024 program with author Dr. Cathleen Cahill, who shared her book, *Recasting the Vote*. We were inspired by the women who fought so hard in the early days for equality and appreciated the history in the current context with the country poised to elect our first woman president.



AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference Glen Allen, Virginia, Sept. 27-29

The AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference presents a unique opportunity for branch members to meet

AAUW members from 13 states in the eastern U.S and be inspired. The conference is modeled

after a highly successful AAUW Midwestern conference held last year. Some attendees are making a vacation out of the conference since it is being held in an historically rich area of the country, an hour's drive from Williamsburg and Jamestown, 50 minutes from Fredericksburg, and 20 minutes from Richmond.

Over the three days, there will be roundtable discussions and networking opportunities. The speaker list is in the link below. **Early bird registration is due by Friday, September 6.** AAUW State College will reimburse members for the \$209 registration fee.

Details: <https://aauwatlanticregionalconference.com/>

Registration: <https://aauwatlanticregionalconference.com/online>

AROUND TOWN



Constitution Day Centre County

American Legion Post #245

Saturday, September 14, 11:00 am-1:30 pm

The 2024 Centre County Constitution Day Celebration will take place Saturday, September 14, at the Nittany American Legion Post #245, located at [1950 Pine Hall Road](#) off Science Park Road near West College

Avenue. The event runs 11:00 am-1:30 pm and includes snacks.

The topic is Immigration. Roundtable folks will listen and share their viewpoints on three questions: *Who Do We Welcome? How Can We Balance Fairness & Security? How Can We Strengthen Our Common Bonds?* **Learn more:** www.constitutiondaycentre.org; **Share Flyer:** bit.ly/Sept14ConstitutionDay2024; **Register:** info@constitutiondaycentre.org



Cheer on *The Book-Bees* at the Mid-State Literacy Council Spelling Bee, Wednesday, September 25

Great news! The AAUW State College 2023 team of *The Book-Bees*, with co-champions **Martha Hummel, Morgen Hummel, and Vasundara Varadan**, have re-upped to participate in the 2024 Mid-State Literacy Council Spelling Bee.

The event is planned for **September 25, 6:00 pm**. The in-person event (with just our team) will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 277 West Pine Grove Road, Pine Grove Mills. Come closer to 5:30 for a “pep rally” with snacks. Or, enjoy watching the Bee virtually:

<https://tinyurl.com/watchthebee>



United Nations Association of Central Pennsylvania to hold Celebration Dinner, October 27

AAUW has a deep interest in women’s issues locally, nationally, and internationally, and as a nongovernmental organization it consults with various United Nations bodies. The local UN chapter, UNA of Central Pennsylvania, is holding its annual celebration dinner on **Sunday, October 27, 5:00-8:30, at the Ramada State College Hotel.**

The speaker, Penn State Smeal College of Business professor **Aydin Alptekinoglu**, will discuss how clothing and fashion employers pay substandard wages and flout human rights regulations. The United Nations has a special agency dedicated to fashion sustainability: <https://unfashionalliance.org/>.

For additional information about this special event, visit: <https://www.unacentralpa.org>
Tickets for the dinner and program are \$40, and we hope to fill a table with branch members.

SHARE FLYER: bit.ly/Oct27UnitedNationsDinnerFlyer

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome
New Members

Gail Agans – gbagans@gmail.com

My husband, Dave, and I moved to State College in July to be closer to family. I have been a member of AAUW Southern New Hampshire since 2003.



I have recently retired after working as Registrar and Bookkeeper for 20 years in a K-12 private school (with day and international boarding students) in southern New Hampshire. For the past two years, I was the Treasurer for the town of Wilton, NH, (an elected office) and served on the town budget committee for many years.

My degree is a BS in Civil Engineering from Tufts University (1980). After graduating, I worked as an engineer in Maine and then moved to New Hampshire and raised two daughters. I enjoy hiking (member of the 4,000-footer club, having hiked all 48), travel, reading, knitting, and spending time with my granddaughter.



Maria Rebecca Duiker - mariarebecca7@gmail.com

Hello, everyone! I am a recent Penn State graduate who studied Elementary and Early Childhood Education with a minor in Spanish and a specialty in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Throughout college, I was an intern with the Teaching Elementary Science and Leadership Academy, an organization that focuses on giving educators the tools needed to make science accessible and engaging for diverse learners.

My internship was supervised by Carmen Vanderhoof, who recommended the AAUW to me as I continue my educational career.

This fall, I will begin my first certified position teaching second grade at Young Scholars of Central Pennsylvania. I am looking forward to beginning my career while continuing to find ways to be active in the community and advocate for others.



Rachael Hartman - rchlhrtn@gmail.com

Hi! I am the Community Impact Director at Centre Foundation, where I manage the Foundation's granting programs, endowment distributions, and the nonprofit side of Centre Gives. Originally from Beaver Falls, I joined the Foundation seven years ago and have called State College home for the past decade.

Previously, I worked at Schlow Library and Penn State University Libraries. Currently, I serve as a board member for 3 Dots Downtown and as the board president for the Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, hiking with my partner, and developing my budding pottery practice.

I am enthusiastic about helping both individuals and nonprofits meet their goals. I originally learned about AAUW State College through their scholarships administered by Centre Foundation and was drawn to join after witnessing AAUW's impact in our community.



Angela Hughes - angela.d.hughes16@gmail.com

Greetings, everyone! I am excited to be joining AAUW and to get more involved in happenings in State College. I have lived in town for more than ten years now, and thought it was about time!

I spend my days doing the accounting/bookkeeping for my husband's engineering consulting business and taking care of our four senior dogs. Prior to this current life of canine caretaker, I lived in Japan for six years as an English teacher to high school students.

In my spare time, I enjoy listening to audio books (everything from nonfiction to science fiction) and attempting new craft hobbies that I do not stick with for any length of time.



Tyler Jones - tyler.on.jones@gmail.com

Hello! I have joined AAUW by way of grad school at Penn State (M.Sc., Entomology, 2020). I currently work as a program coordinator for an online science communication community (SciCommers) and am a freelance science writer (check out National Geographic's *Photo Ark: Insects*, that is me in the back!).

Outside of connecting research with the public via science communication, I connect with the State College community at Happy Valley Improv's Blue Brick Theatre, performing tech for improv shows, hosting a semi-regular improv battle royale (Battle at the Brick), and occasionally teach a 6-week standup comedy course. As downtime, I spend many hours at Centre County PAWS on both the dog and cat sides.



Now is the time to *engage* with the branch

Whether you are a long-time member or have joined the branch recently, if you are not currently “engaged” with the branch, the time to do so is now! There are several committees behind the scenes, planning branch programs, membership events, the Used Book Sale, and much more. The committees need your help! Please

check out this list of engagement opportunities: [ENGAGEMENT](#)



Membership renewals

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 National's webpage where you will be asked to reset your password.

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.

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

HAVE YOU HEARD

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Martha Hummel**, who sustained injuries in a car accident on August 19. Her daughter (and AAUW member) **Morgen** reports that Martha would welcome calls, cards, and healthy leftovers. As a returning Mid-State Literacy Council Spelling Bee champion, Martha wants to be her best for this year's Bee (details page 6).

Best of luck to **Leslie Laing** as she participates in the *Over the Edge* rappelling event at Beaver Stadium on October 8, a fundraiser for Centre County United Way. "Like" her on Facebook - bit.ly/4dJT3NI – and make a gift today.

Condolences to **Chriss Schultz** on the death of her mother, Lois Schultz, who died on August 24. At the age of 98, Lois was quite a survivor. More: [Lois Schultz](#)

COMMUNITY GOOD



More AAUW State College grant letters of thanks

We continue to receive thank you letters from branch grant recipients. Learn more about them: [Community Action Grants STEM Grants](#)

Bellefonte Reads (\$1500): We extend our deepest gratitude for your 9th consecutive donation to our "One Book, One Bellefonte" program. In total, 1,662 new books were given away to readers of all ages during our 2024 program. Your generous support enabled us to purchase hundreds of amazing books for our community this year! Learn more about us: bit.ly/BellefonteReads2024

--Nicole Kohlhepp & Jackie Wynkoop, Bellefonte READS Co-Chairs

Jana Marie Foundation (\$2,250): We could not have offered sixteen parent-child pairs the opportunity to get closer and appreciate each other's strengths through our Side-by-Side program without your gift. As its sponsor, AAUW inspired a day of art, mindfulness, and conversation. Said Stella B. to her mom, "Just when I thought it couldn't get any better, it did!" Your support makes these kinds of family and community experiences possible.

--Christine and Jana Marie Foundation Team

Park Forest Preschool (\$690): We are grateful for your support as we continue to educate 30-36 students during their critical learning years and strive to address the needs of their families each year. It is only through the generosity of our supporters that we can continually meet the needs of the children in our community who otherwise would not have access to the high-quality early childhood education we provide.

--Sue Yearick, Director, Park Forest Preschool

Note: The Park Forest Preschool grant funds the Trauma-Informed Education program, helping staff interact with children and their families who have had or are now experiencing trauma.

Science-U (\$6,000): I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend the Science-U camps this summer by awarding me a scholarship. I attended the *Make it Matter* camp, and I really enjoyed touring the clean room at Penn State, and learning about the different types of science, such as materials science and chemistry. I also met other girls that have the same interests as me and will be able to connect with them in high school this year.

As a result of this scholarship, I was also offered the opportunity to attend a 2-day math camp, an all-girls camp called *Girls Talk Math*. I got to learn about how math is part of our everyday lives, and I learned some trigonometry. Thank you so much for providing this opportunity to me and others. I hope more girls will continue to be impacted by this scholarship every year.

--Allison Warner, Science U camper and 9th grade student in SCASD

Note: The \$6,000 Science-U grant funded 17 girls and young women to attend a week-long Science-U summer camp. The math program Allison also mentions was funded at \$2,330, and supported 12 high school girls.

Book workshop hours extended to 2:30 pm on Tuesdays/Wednesdays



Left: Workshop volunteers Connie Wheeler & Doris Trueblood keep busy pricing in their categories.



Sue Werner moves books into sorting boxes.

Used Book Workshop volunteers are keeping busy these days, as donations continue to roll in. Branch members who would like to volunteer are welcome to do so.

If you have books to

donate or need directions to the workshop, check out [Book Donations](#) first. Workshop hours are **Mondays, 6-8 pm** and **Tuesday/Wednesdays, 9:00 am-2:30 pm.**

BEHIND THE SCENES



New branch *Handbook/Directory* available soon

Branch *Handbook/Directory* editor Candace Davison and team are working on the 2024-2025 edition and hope that it will be ready to go later this month. As soon as it is ready, it will either be mailed to members or made available at branch programs and activities.

Join us at our monthly board meetings



Branch board meetings are open to all members and are a great way to learn about what is going on and to offer your input. To catch up on branch business, review the minutes from the last board meeting: [August 12, 2024 minutes](#)

The next AAUW State College board meeting will take place **Monday, September 9, 11:30 am–1 pm**. It will be held both in-person and via Zoom.

The in-person meeting is at the **College Twp. Building** (1481 E. College Avenue, Council Room). If you aren't a Board member, but would like to join the meeting via Zoom, please contact sallywkalin@gmail.com to receive the agenda and the Zoom link.



Branch Bulletin dates

The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **September 30**, a week earlier than usual in order to provide important election news before people with mail-in ballots send them in. The submission deadline will be **Monday, September 23**. Please send items to editor [Connie Schroeder](#).