

**Coming AAUW Events
Mark Your Calendar**

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Meet 2025 branch award recipients

*Appreciation is the mirror reflecting
the beauty and worthiness we often fail
to see in ourselves. – Oliver Smith*

The branch Awards Committee met in February to select annual award recipients from those nominated by branch members, and they were approved at the February board meeting. Congratulations, all!

Member Making a Difference: Sherry Lonsdale



Sherry is an integral leader of our branch's IT team, contributing her technical expertise and informed and systematic approaches to solving our IT challenges. Sherry's leadership enabled the branch to gain nonprofit status with Google, which led to the creation of generic position-based emails instead of personal emails. She leads our web team to develop the skills needed to update our website ourselves and found a local website company to assist us in solving IT problems.

Outstanding Woman: Michele Crowl



Michele has served as co-chair of the AAUW STEM Committee for more than six years, offering programming that empowers and encourages young women to be leaders in the STEM fields. These AAUW-sponsored programs spark creativity, curiosity, and imagination in the girls and young women who attend them. Michele does an excellent job of running the monthly meetings and making everyone feel welcome, encouraged, and included. In addition, she represents the STEM Committee on the branch board.

Gateway to Equity - Strawberry Fields



Empowering People, Enriching Lives - This nonprofit organization enables our fellow citizens with intellectual and mental disabilities to become part of the larger community through its services and advocacy. Through its entrepreneurial initiatives, Strawberry Fields has brought marginalized individuals into the workplace, allowing them to earn a living, enhancing their economic self-sufficiency, and helping them to integrate into the community at large.

Named Gift Honorees - Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Implementation Task Force



This task force is being recognized for their work to align our branch's strategic plans with local, state, and national goals to

ensure the ongoing efficient use of our human and economic resources. The task force is led by Grace Hampton (above left) and the committee includes Lee Carpenter, Ann Echols, Jackie Esposito, and Linda Higginson.

Centre County Council of Human Services Volunteer of the Year - Amy Wilson



Amy's involvement in AAUW began in 2012, and she has been very supportive of branch activities ever since. She has served as a financial reviewer for the branch and was chair of the Nominating and Election committee last year. Amy is a terrific listener and promotes equitable discussions. Last fall, she also stepped in to serve as co-secretary when an opening occurred and is doing a wonderful job in that position.

May 29 Awards & Scholarship banquet: *Mark Your Calendar!*

All the above honorees will be recognized at our **Spring Awards & Scholarships Banquet**, planned for **Thursday, May 29, 2025, 5:30-8:00 pm** at Toftrees Golf Resort.

Details forthcoming in *Weekly Notes* and the *May Branch Bulletin*.

Amy Wilson will also be honored at the April 24 CCCHS dinner. Reservations are now closed.

--Chriss Schultz and Suzanne Kerlin (Co-Chairs), AAUW State College Awards Committee, with Anne Ard, Sue Johnston, Betsy Manlove, Sue Poremba, Sue Werner

MEMBERSHIP FOCUS

Tuesday, April 22, Bus Trip to NYC to the Morgan Library & Museum Exhibition featuring *Belle da Costa Greene*



Last call! With some seats left, invite a friend.

Our Fullington bus trip to **New York City on April 22, 2025**, coincides with the 100th anniversary of the [Morgan Library & Museum](#). Our primary interest is the [Belle da Costa Greene Exhibit](#), featuring J.P. Morgan's first director of the library, whose fascinating life is detailed in *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict.



The Morgan describes this exhibit as the most important one of their centennial year. It is believed that Belle convinced J. P. Morgan's son to

make the Morgan a public institution by giving it to New York City. If she had not done this, we might not have been able to visit the Morgan.

Belle had a secret to keep. Learn more about it:

[Today Show \(2-19-2024\)](#) [NPR Interview \(10-28-2024\)](#) [Washington Post article \(3-30-2025\)](#)

There will be time to explore New York City on your own after we visit the Morgan Library & Museum, which is in the heart of Manhattan, including shopping, attractions, and nearby [dining options](#).



Sending your reservation: Costs are \$60 per person for the bus and the library admission is \$25 for adults and \$17 for seniors (65 and older), so your check should be for either \$85 or \$77. The cost of meals is on your own. Mail your check, made out to "SCAAUW, Inc." with your name, phone number, and email, to AAUW State College, Box 735, State College, PA 16804. This promises to be a great trip and is a wonderful value.

We hope you will invite a friend along for the adventure.

Questions? Contact membership@aauwstatecollege.org.

Share Flyer: [April 22 Trip to Morgan flyer](#)

Time to renew your AAUW membership?



Time to renew your AAUW membership? Members receive an email renewal notification from AAUW the month prior to their renewal date. **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. **RENEW BY MAIL** – go to bit.ly/AAUWSCMembership and click on “Join by Mail” at the page bottom. Print the form and send it with a check to the address listed. **QUESTIONS?** Contact Membership VPs **Susan Chyczewski** and **Carline Crevecoeur** at membership@aauwstatecollege.org.

--Susan Chyczewski and Carline Crevecoeur, Membership Co-VPs

Explore Branch Engagement Opportunities



If you are not currently “engaged” with the branch, or would like to shift directions, check out the list of engagement opportunities today: [ENGAGEMENT](#).

PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY



Primary ballot for the May 20 primary election

This primary is a quiet affair for both parties. The only real choices you will need to make are for State College Area School Board, where seven people are running for four seats. This is a cross-filed race, meaning all seven will appear on each party’s ballot. The top

four finishers on each side will go on to November.

School boards are not supposed to be political, but as you are voting in your party’s primary, you’ll want to know in what party the candidates are registered. Two of the candidates are Republicans: **Kristen McTernan** and **Mihaly Sogor**. The other five are Democrats: incumbents **Deborah Anderson** and **Jackie Huff**, and challengers **Jesse Barlow**, **Jennifer Black**, and **Rebecca Arnold Desmarais**.

As we learn more information, we will get that to you before the mail-in ballots arrive!

--Dianne Gregg and Mary Dupuis, Public Policy Co-Chairs

From LWVCC: [Voter Deadlines–Municipal Primary 2025](#).

Advocacy in Action: *League of Women Voters Centre County*



The League of Women Voters Centre County is hard at work these days, with the primary election around the corner. The group is also getting ready for a LWV

Lobby Day in Harrisburg on May 5, where they will have an opportunity to speak with local legislators and their staff. Their guiding assumption is, “There are no ‘off-year’ elections!” Learn more at <https://www.lwvcentrecounty.org/> or contact lwvcentrecounty@gmail.com. Their state organization has compiled a very good one-pager that provides additional information: bit.ly/LeagueOfWomenVotersPA.

Oppose the Educational Choice for Children Act



The ECCA, or Educational Choice for Children Act (H.R. 817 and S.292, in the 119th Congress) plans to give away \$10 billion per year in vouchers to students to attend private schools. But exactly what are the choices for average families? Many states with voucher programs find that they only benefit families who *already* send their children to private school.

On top of this, private school access can vary widely depending on where you live. Often, low-income and rural areas have limited options outside of the public school system. In rural central Pennsylvania, there are counties with no private schools at all, which would likely force families seeking school choice to use an online school. Data from the recent pandemic show that most students do not learn as well in the virtual school environment. In-person, teacher-led instruction creates the social environment conducive to student engagement and learning.

It is important to understand that the ECCA would be funded through tax credits awarded to those who contribute to the voucher program. This change to the tax code would disrupt the revenue generation of the federal government, leaving less money to spend on other federal measures. And who would benefit?

While public schools accept all students in their district, private schools can and do reject students with disabilities or any other students the school wishes to avoid. Private schools may refuse spots to students because of their academic ability, their personal beliefs, their religion, sexual orientation, and more.

Vouchers do little more than undermine public education and subsidize parents who already can afford private schools. In reality, true school choice does not exist for most public-school students. Ask your senators and representatives to oppose ECCA.

--Carol Hodes, Jackie Huff, and Leslie Laing, AAUW State College Education Committee

DIVERSITY

March 4 Cultural Empowerment for Women lunch program a hit



Left to right: Naana Nti, AAUW State College liaison to Community Diversity Group; Emily Benjamin, Lead Counselor, St. Joseph Institute; Nova Ritchey, Women's Self-Care Coach; Tina Kephart, Manager, Behavioral Health, Mount Nittany Medical Center; Marisa Vicere, President/Founder, Health First Aid and QPR Suicide Prevention, Jana Marie Foundation; Carol Eicher, Community Diversity Group, Founder/Chair.

The March 4 CEW event, co-sponsored by the Community Diversity Group and AAUW State College, featured *Let's Talk About What We Don't Talk About: Navigating Mental Health*.

The program topic was of great interest, bringing out 60 attendees, a full

house. Thank you to the Community Diversity Group for their partnership co-sponsoring the CEW programs with AAUW State College, which occur twice a year. The next one will be held in October.

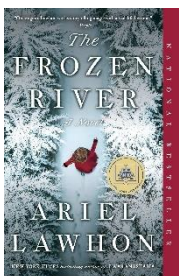
Community Diversity Group to hold Cultural Conversations April 16



Join the Community Diversity Group on **Wednesday, April 16, 5:30-7:30 pm**, for a "cultural conversation" on ***Intersectionality of LGBTQ+ and Race***. It will be held in the State College Municipal Building, Room 201. LGBTQ+ individuals who are also people of color face the dual challenges of racism and homophobia. At this gathering, LGBTQ+ community members will share their experiences about how race and sexual identity impact their lives. This event is free and open to the general public.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/3pmynah4>. **Share flyer:** [4-16-2025 Cultural Conversations Flyer](#).

¡Adelante! Book Club: Thursday, May 22, 2:30 pm



Join us virtually for our ¡Adelante! book club on May 22, when we will discuss ***The Frozen River*** by Ariel Lawhon. It is a New York Times bestseller and NPR Book of the Year. It is described as a gripping historical mystery about an 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history. Learn more: <https://www.ariellawhon.com/thefrozenriver/>. **Meeting Link:**

Black maternal health mortality rates are staggering



There is a mass disparity in maternal rates of all high-income countries, broken down between Asian, Hispanic, White, and Black groups. Black women experience more than twice the mortality rate of White women per 100,000 live births, according to the study, [U.S. Maternal Mortality Comparisons](#), conducted in 2022. The 2025 Black Maternal Health Week, April 11-17, emphasizes the power of Black-led peri- and reproductive health organizations to drive systemic change and foster community healing. **More:** bit.ly/2025BlackMaternalHealthWeek.

APIDA Spring Festival: April 12, Fraser Street, 1:00-4:30 pm



The APIDA (Asian Pacific Islander Desi American) Spring Festival will be held Saturday, April 12. Sponsored by the PanAPIDA Circle, APIDACaucus, State College Borough, Penn State Student Affairs, and the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, it features food trucks and other vendors, henna painting, music, dance performances, and more! **Details:** [4-16 ADIDA Festival flyer](#)

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

BOOK WORKSHOP & SALE

Book Workshop crew ends workshop days with puzzles galore

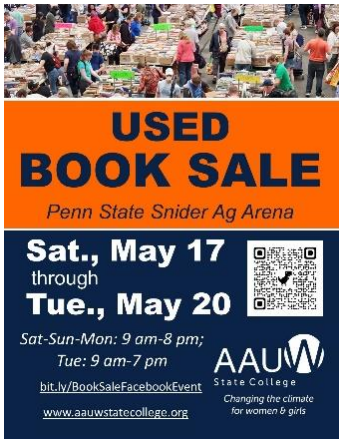


Left, workshop volunteer Carol Pollard unpacked puzzles and and right, Cora Martz, Star Campbell, and Humphrey Fellow Kallaya Tantiyaswasdikul assisted.

Over the final few days the book workshop was open, dozens of beautiful puzzles were donated for the sale.

In the May bulletin, we will showcase some Special Collection books to be offered at the sale.

Help us spread the word about the May 17-20 Used Book Sale



It is not too soon to share a “mark your calendar” Used Book Sale notice to friends, family, and colleagues, with a reminder that the sale funds our work to help improve the climate for women and girls in our community through the grants and scholarships we award. **How can you help?**

Share Sale Info: bit.ly/May17-20BookSaleFlyer.

Can you share with organizations such as Next Door, neighborhood associations, and newsletters?

Post and share on social media: bit.ly/BookSaleFacebookEvent.

Other Needs: We need people to take **photographs at the sale**; contact [Connie Schroeder](#) if you can help. We also need someone to **help put out and later pick up our small outdoor road signs**. To help, contact [Carolyn Donaldson](#).

May 17-20 Used Book Sale volunteer scheduling – sign up today!



We still need help on **Move-in Night (May 15)** and over the four days of the sale. Questions? Contact [Donna Trapp](#) today!

Invite a friend to join you and sign up today:

bit.ly/BookSaleVolunteerSignup

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

AAUW State College Community Action Grant recipient: Focus on Centre Volunteers in Medicine



During last year’s grant covering June 2024-May 2025, AAUW State College awarded a grant to CVIM for their Dental Hygiene Education Program for Women. It was based on data showing that women are more likely than men to have unmet dental needs due to cost. Last

year, the CVIM Dental Clinic served 395 patients with 1,387 visits.

A 2025 grant from the branch (January 2025-December 2025) funded a grant for gynecology services in the CVIM Women’s Health Program. Recognizing the unique healthcare needs of

women, CVIM offers a comprehensive range of women's health services. Yearly pelvic exams, pap smears, gynecology ultrasounds, and biopsies are just a few in-house procedures included in our specialized care. CVIM can refer patients to a community practice for things like routine and diagnostic mammograms. All female patients are referred to gynecology by their CVIM primary care provider. Learn more about Centre Volunteers in Medicine: www.cvim.net.

AAUW PENNSYLVANIA

Vote in AAUW Pennsylvania officer & bylaws election through April 30



The AAUW Pennsylvania Nominating and Elections Committee has confirmed the slate of board officers for two-year terms that will run 2025-2027. In addition, there are some updates to the AAUW Pennsylvania bylaws that need to be voted on. **Online voting runs now through Wednesday, April 30, 2025.**

Link to Election Information and Voting: bit.ly/3E6nv7F

Questions? Contact Nominations Co-Chairs: [Deb Roney](#) and [Ann Pehle](#)

AAUW Pennsylvania Summer Retreat in Boalsburg June 27-28



Plans for the June 27-28 AAUW Pennsylvania summer retreat, to be held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Boalsburg, are well underway. In today's world, our work to help advance and support women and girls has become even more critical. We estimate 75-100 members, from 30+ AAUW branches around the state, to attend. We hope to strengthen both our branch and AAUW's impact overall, a collective action for lasting change.

The Friday night reception runs 6:30-8:00 pm and includes hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet members from other AAUW branches to exchange ideas! Saturday will be a full and very interactive day, focused on discussing topics that members have registered as priorities. The itinerary will be shared over the coming weeks.

Registering for the Retreat - The cost to attend the retreat, including meals, is normally \$75. Following the April 14 branch board meeting, members will be notified if the cost will be fully or partially covered by the branch. **Stay tuned for registration information next week, and plan to join us June 27-28. Save the date!**

IN OUR MAILBOX

Former branch member **Louise Malarkey** died on March 15 in Monroe, Ohio. In 2000, Louise was named Outstanding Woman of the Year by AAUW State College, an honor she deeply treasured. **More:** [Louise Malarkey](#)

A note from the daughter of Irene Mong:

Greetings,

I am writing to share with you that I have designated AAUW State College as the beneficiary of memorial gifts following the death of my mother, [Irene Heeter Mong](#) (1937-2024). She was a teacher for more than 30 years in State College. She was a returning adult student, completing her BS in Education at age 33, with two young children at home.

She worked SO HARD to make ends meet during those years, and she was always a great supporter of women whom she called "Late Bloomers." We love late bloomers in our family. I was one myself, earning my BS at 31 and my Ph.D. at 51. I hope that some of Mom's friends will donate in her name. If you could help a woman who wants to go back to school with those funds, Mom will be smiling down from heaven. Thank You, Mary Anne Mong

Note: We have received at least three memorial gifts in Irene's name.

BRANCH BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Branch Handbook-Directories have arrived



Good news! The branch *Handbook/Directory* has arrived! Special thanks to editor **Candace Davison** for her hard work pulling it all together. Candace apologizes for the extra-long wait in receiving it. The long story short is that life intervened. Suzanne Kerlin was instrumental in providing mentorship and reviewing the member list changes. Sally Kalin and Connie Schroeder provided comments and corrections on the early draft. Martha Hummel made corrections on the final draft, and her eagle eyes were deeply valued.

Candace appreciates all the help and patience received with the project. She also reports that she learned a lot along the way and has some ideas for the next iteration of this handy booklet.

If you were expecting to receive a paper copy and have not yet received it, please submit a request by using the link below. While every effort

was made to ensure accuracy, please provide additions, deletions, or corrections here: [Handbook-Directory Updates](#).

The electronic version of the *Handbook/Directory* will be posted in the members' only section of the website at a later date.

--Connie Schroeder, VP Marketing & Communications

Monthly board meetings open to membership



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 [March Meeting Minutes](#).

The next board meeting, **Monday, April 14, 2025, 11:30 am–1:00 pm** is hybrid. In-person, it will be at the College Township Council Room (second floor) and remotely, it will be held via Zoom. **Meeting link:** <http://bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardMtg>.

Branch Bulletin dates



The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **May 5**.

The submission deadline for the May bulletin is **Monday, April 28**. Send items to editor [Connie Schroeder](#).