

August 13 Public Policy Primer

The Public Policy Committee will hold an orientation to Public Policy issues and advocacy on **August 13, 6:30-7:30 pm**, at Foxdale Village meeting room (second floor). The focus will be on the importance of knowing the issues, advocating, and voting. Apps that help with advocacy and contacting representatives will be shared.

Starting in September, branch programs will be held monthly the third Thursday of the month, 6:00-7:30 pm at Foxdale.

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September 11 AAUW State College Member Potluck



5:30-7:30 pm, Tudek Park

Mark Your Calendar

The fall Branch Potluck is around the corner, **Thursday, September 11, at Tudek Park Pavillion #1**, 400 Herman Drive, off Martin Street in State College. It will be in the second pavilion on the left, just behind the restrooms. **Bring your favorite dish, salad, or dessert to share; that is all.** We will provide paper products and beverages.

Half-Price Membership for new members!

Invite a friend or colleague to join you as a potential AAUW member. As a brand-new member they will receive a one-year, half-price membership if they join at the program. Share this link: bit.ly/AAUWSCMembership.

—Renee Cloutier & Betsy Manlove, Program VPs

AAUW-Pa. Retreat Memories

The June 27-28 AAUW Pennsylvania summer retreat, held at the Wyndham Hotel in Boalsburg, brought together about 90 AAUW members from across the state, including 30 AAUW State College members. It was a wonderful turnout.

The goal of the retreat was to provide an inclusive space where members could come together to focus on key AAUW issues and engage in an open, meaningful dialogue. Retreat memories follow.

For a complete report on the retreat, provided by facilitator Spud Marshall ([@mycreativecommunity](https://www.instagram.com/mycreativecommunity)), visit: [AAUW Pennsylvania Summer Retreat Summary](#).

Right, Cindy Hall, AAUW Pennsylvania President, recognized Ann Pehle (member of Carlisle & Harrisburg branches), Immediate Past President, for her outstanding contributions.

Friday Night – ERAs of Empowerment

On Friday evening of the retreat (below), we celebrated "ERAs of Empowerment," wearing things representative of the times in our lives when we felt empowered.



Amy Wilson, Nancy Weinreb



Candace Davison, Sally Kalin, Leslie Laing, Carlene Crevecoeur



Naana Nti, Vasundara Varadan, Angie Hughes, Cyndee Graves



Chriss Schultz, Denise Rupert

Arts Festival brings out AAUW State College



Jackie Esposito, Chriss Schultz



An AAUW State College Community Action Grant led to the purchase of Children's Day Ts that displayed our logo.



Carolyn Donaldson at Children's Day

AAUW was out in force at this year's festival with their sponsorship of the festival Information Booth. **Jackie Esposito**, branch liaison to the festival, extends a big thank you to all branch members who staffed the festival Information Booth. Thank you to Jackie for her great work keeping the schedule full and overseeing many details. Jackie reports that this year's information booth was voted *Best in the Fest*. Way to go, team!

Branch member **Carolyn Donaldson** (upper right) keeps busy as VP of Community Relations for Kish Bank, but also found time to serve this year as Immediate Past President of the Arts Festival Board of Directors.



Leslie Laing, Candace Davison, Lee Carpenter, Gail Agans

Busy summer days at the Used Book Workshop



Summer Hours: Our Used Book Workshop opened for summer hours on July 8 to a brisk pace for both book donors and volunteers. It is staffed **Mondays, 6:00-8:00 pm** and **Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:00 am-Noon**. Check out bit.ly/Book_Donation before coming. The workshop is located off 2197 High Tech Road, across from State College Regional Airport.

Left: members Ellen Frederick (and daughter) donate books and Tracey Whitehill sorts them.

PENN STATE FORUM UPDATES

AAUW State College-sponsored Penn State Forum Lunch



Monday, October 13, 11:30 am-1:00 pm

With Caroline Fitzgerald: *Barbie, Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, and the Inevitable Prosperity of Women's Sports*

Tickets available now!

Caroline Fitzgerald has been selected as the AAUW State College-sponsored Penn State Forum speaker. The Penn State Forum lunch is scheduled for **October 13 at the Penn Stater, Deans Hall**. Caroline is the Founder and CEO of GOALS—a consultancy and media platform dedicated to growing women's sports. She has dedicated her career to empowering individuals through innovative approaches to personal and professional development.

The examples of Barbie, Beyoncé, and Taylor Swift have undeniably proven that when women



consumers are prioritized, profits soar. And when it comes to an entertainment product, women's sports are perfectly positioned to serve an historically underserved female audience. This talk will make “the business case for women's sports” and discuss how women's sports are at a tipping point and are poised for incredible growth ahead.

GOALS is a transformative organization focused on leadership coaching, skill-building, and goal setting. “*The stories are all too common: pay gaps on and off the field, exploitation, lower endorsements, poor facilities, lack of coverage; the list is endless.*” Caroline's work has made a significant impact on youth empowerment, corporate leadership, and community development. Her unique perspective on mindset and performance has earned her recognition as a thought leader in personal development.

Purchase your ticket today: https://aauwstatecollege.org/lectureship_women_leaders/.



Susan Robinson, 2024 Branch-Sponsored Forum Speaker, Named Penn State Alumni Association President

Last fall, Susan Robinson, our branch-sponsored speaker for the Penn State Forum, spoke on *The Art of Possibility and Seeing Vision*, an excellent talk.

Congratulations to Susan in her new role: [Susan Robinson New PSU Alumni Association President](#).

DIVERSITY

Community Diversity Group invite to August 14th potluck



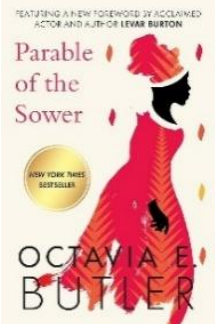
Members of Community Diversity Group and friends are invited to their annual fall potluck. It will be held **Thursday, August 14, 5:30-7:00 pm**, at **Holmes-Foster Park Pavilion #2 (Lower)**. CDG will supply drinks and paper goods, and all you need to bring is your favorite dish to share. Invite family and friends! To help with planning, please **RSVP** at <https://tinyurl.com/2npbmpaa>.

Diversity Committee invite for coffee and conversation - August 15



The branch Diversity Committee welcomes branch members to join them the **third Friday of every month for coffee and conversation, 9-10 am**. They meet at the Kitchen Garden, located in the Hills Plaza on South Atherton Street. The next meet-up will be **Friday, August 15**. We would love for you to join us. Questions? Contact diversity@aauwstatecollege.org.

Join ¡Adelante! Book Club: Thursday, September 18, 2:30 pm



Join us virtually September 18 when we discuss *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler. It is a 1993 speculative fiction novel by Octavia Butler, set in “a post-apocalyptic Earth heavily affected by climate change and social inequality.”

More: [Parable of the Sower](#). **Questions?** [Sophie Penney Leach](#).

Meeting link: bit.ly/AdelanteDiversityBookClub.

Additional meeting dates and selected books: **November 20**—*Becoming Ms. Burton* by Susan Burton and Cari Lynn; **January 15**—*Babel* by R.F. Kuang.



D is for Diversity

Currently, DEI(B) is a very hot topic in the news and media. But how many of us really understand what that is? Over the next four months, we are going to look into each letter. Then, on **Thursday, November 20**, we will host a panel discussion during the branch meeting to delve deeper. **Diversity** focuses on representation. Imagine we are hosting a dinner party. Diversity is getting a seat at the table. We want to invite everyone to the party. See how DEIB supports our mission in the [2025 AAUW Strategic Plan](#).

—Branch Diversity Committee: Naana Niti (Chair),
Carline Crevecoeur, Sophie Penney Leach, Denise Rupert, Maria Schmidt

Branch book clubs offer options



¡Adelante! (means “going forward”) **Book Club** is part of the Diversity Committee and meets virtually the **third Thursday of every other month, 2:30 pm**. The group focuses on fiction and nonfiction books that explore characters with diverse backgrounds and experiences. The book description for the September 18 meet-up is described on page 5.

Read Between the Wines is organized by the Membership Committee and is a social in-person gathering, centered on fiction and nonfiction books that focus on women and the issues that affect them. Meet-ups are usually held **on weeknights in the early evening**. On **Wednesday, August 27 (6:00-7:00 pm)**, the group will discuss [*The Briar Club*](#) by Kate Quinn, described as “a haunting and powerful story of female friendships *and secrets* in a Washington, D.C. boardinghouse during the McCarthy era.”

The group will meet at the home of [Gail Agans](#). Please let Gail know if you plan to attend and for directions to her home. Contact [Membership VP Susan Chyczewski](#) if you would like to host a gathering sometime.

MEMBER FOCUS

Celebrating Our Differences



Editor’s note: *When Angie Hughes joined the branch last summer, she shared that a hobby of hers was dressing in “Lolita” Fashions (described below). It was certainly unique, and to my mind, somewhat brave. But mostly it was a real reminder that change can be beautiful. Angie now serves as AAUW State College Marketing & Communications Co-VP with Dina Liberatore. Keep doing your thing, Angie! —Connie Schroeder*

Lolita fashion (ロリータ・ファッション) is a subculture from Japan that is highly influenced by Victorian clothing and styles from the Rococo period. Lolita originated as a reaction against stifling Japanese society, in which young people are pressured to strictly adhere to gender roles and the expectations and responsibilities that are part of these roles. While the name “Lolita” has a negative connotation in the west due to the novel by Vladimir Nabokov, within Japanese culture the name refers to cuteness and elegance rather than to anything sexual.

I began dressing in Lolita fashion after living in Japan for six years (2004-2010). That time period was my first experience living on my

own and really figuring out who I was going to be as an adult, so Japan and Japanese culture remain precious to me! Lolita fashion helps me to stay close to Japan, even though I am 7,000 miles away.

Change Can Be Good! - As a still relatively new member (I joined in July 2024), new board member, and an attendee/alum of the AAUW-PA Summer Retreat, I am simply **bursting** with ideas for AAUW and its future! But...sometimes when I bring up an idea, the response is less-than-enthusiastic. "Yeah, good luck with that..." "Oh, probably not, we've never done that before." "Someone tried that five years ago and it didn't work out..."

I would like to encourage everyone to pause before responding when presented with an idea and try to see the potential in trying new things. We are members of an always evolving and changing organization, so it is essential that we evolve and change too.

—Angie Hughes

Walk & Talk on *Morning Walks*

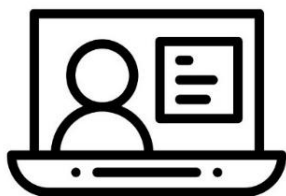


Our membership committee has organized ***Morning Walks*** – now underway - for **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:30–8:30 am**, at the **Boalsburg Military Museum**.

There are such great reasons to walk! In addition to all of the health benefits of walking, *Morning Walks* provide a chance to meet and catchup with other AAUW members. We will walk rain or shine, except in the case of heavy downpours.

Water and Gatorade will be provided. Feel free to invite others to join us, and share this flyer: [AAUW Morning Walks](#). If you plan to attend, contact membership@aauwstatecollege.org.

Branch Technology Committee



The newly formed Technology Committee is requesting your input! We plan to offer various tech literacy classes/tutorials in the coming months, but need your input as to what topics you would like to have addressed. Please complete the form below at your earliest convenience: <https://forms.gle/ua4m4ZDgA47jpPn39>.

The committee will meet on the **third Tuesday of every month from 3-4 pm via Zoom**. The first meeting, **Tuesday, August 19**, will focus on getting to know Google Workspace. The meeting link is <https://bit.ly/AAUWSCTech>.

Invite from AAUW Harrisburg



At the AAUW Pennsylvania retreat in June, AAUW Harrisburg members invited AAUW State College to join them next spring

(April 25-May 10, 2026) on a “Mediterranean Coastal Cruise” with Collette Tours. For those who book now, there is a \$400 discount. What a nice invite! If interested, contact [Barbara Warfel](#). **Details:** [Spring 2025 Mediterranean Coastal Journey](#).



We have gained several new members over the summer. For this issue, we are happy to introduce **Myrta Mathews** and **Kat Miller**. Welcome!



Myrta Mathews – myrtamathews26@gmail.com

I am a lifelong health educator and a retired Spanish-language professor who enjoys helping our community. I have a passion for collaborating with others and advocating for education. I enjoy hiking, line dancing, yoga, and spending time with my family.



Kat Miller – kxm452@gmail.com

Kat Miller (she/they) holds BAs in Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies and World Literature from Penn State, and a Masters in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts. They have been volunteering for the AAUW book sale for two decades, and recently agreed to step in as the book sale co-chair. They currently work as a freelance writer. For the last two years, they have also been on the leadership team for the annual Trans Rights Readathon event, promoting stories by and about trans and gender nonconforming folks.

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](#).

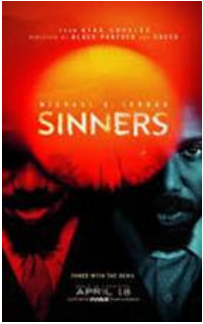
Time to renew your AAUW membership?



Branch members whose membership needs to be renewed within the next month should have received an e-notice about it from AAUW National. For the majority of branch members (those who have been members more than a few years, memberships were due in July.

To RENEW, visit bit.ly/2025AAUWMembershipForm, complete form, and mail with check for \$94 to the address at the bottom of the form. Please add “renewal” in the check memo line. **QUESTIONS?** Ask Membership VP **Susan Chyczewski**, membership@aauwstatecollege.org.

September 16-18 Event – *Sinners* watch party & broader discussion



Great news! The branch Membership Committee is hosting an outdoor showing of the recently released movie ***Sinners*** on **Tuesday, September 16, 6:00-8:30 pm**, at Carline Crevecoeur's home. If it rains, it will move inside. Rated 97% by [Rotten Tomatoes](#), the film is set in 1932 in the Mississippi Delta, starring criminal twin brothers who return to their hometown to start again.

On **Thursday, September 18, 6:00-7:30 pm**, we will meet at Foxdale Village, (second floor Conference Room) to analyze the rich cultural history of African Americans, Chinese, and Irish communities as depicted in *Sinners*—exploring the subtle but significant ways these narratives were portrayed.

RSVP for both nights: membership@aauwstatecollege.org.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AAUW State College recognized by CC4H Robotics



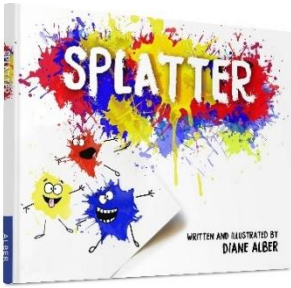
[Centre County 4-H Robotics](#), an AAUW State College grant recipient, invited us to join them on July 22 to thank us for the grant and also to observe them in action at one of their robotics building sessions. Branch president **Carline Crevecoeur** (left, in red) attended, along with her husband, Michael, and **STEM Co-Chair Carol-Beth Book**. They were joined by team members, complete with female members, thanks to the AAUW grant.



The group also invited the branch to join them at an August 8 Spikes Game – share [August 8 Game Flyer](#) - where a percentage of proceeds will benefit CC4H Robotics. They will demo robots on the mezzanine, including a robot capable of “throwing out the first pitch.” The demos will inspire kids to become involved in STEM. We will have an AAUW table there as well, to promote what we do in the community. If you can help staff the table, contact membership@aauwstatecollege.org.

To buy tickets for the game, visit <https://bit.ly/cc4hr-spikes>.

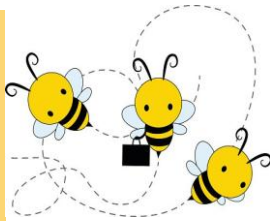
Branch STEM Committee holds *Let's Read Math* summer program



On July 26th at the Centre County Library, the *Let's Read Math* program, part of the AAUW State College STEM Committee, held *Exploring Colors* for elementary-age children. It featured the book [Splatter](#) by Diane Alber. The group learned about mixing colors, and how science and math help make colors. Thank you to PSU math major Elizabeth Blizzard and Jennifer Davison for helping. Stay tuned for more *Let's Read Math* activities.

—Candace Davison, *Let's Read Math* Coordinator

Branch *Book-Bees* to participate in September 24 Mid-State Literacy Council Spelling Bee



Our bees are assembled! The branch plans to participate once again in the annual Mid-State Literacy Spelling Bee, planned for **Wednesday, September 24**. Our team, *The Book-Bees*, includes past champions and finalists **Martha Hummel and Morgen Hummel**, who are joined this year by

Angie Hughes, a past participant in the state spelling bee.

Join our "cheer team" - Even though the Bee is held virtually, we would love to have branch members and friends join the team where they will gather, at the St. Paul Lutheran Church, 277 West Pine Grove Road, Pine Grove Mills. The actual **Bee starts at 6:00 pm, but all are welcome to come at 5:30 pm** to meet the team, spur them on, and enjoy some snacks together. If you are able to bring a small snack to share, contact [Connie Schroeder](#).

BRANCH BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Meet the 2025-2027 Elected Branch Officer Team



President - **Carline Crevecoeur**

President-Elect - **Molly Kunkel**

Marketing & Communications CoVPs – **Angela Hughes & Dina Liberatore**

Membership Co-VP - **Susan Chyczewski***

Program Co-VPs - **Betsy Manlove & Renee Cloutier**

Co-Secretaries – **Lee Carpenter & Amy Wilson**

Financial Officer – **Gail Agans**

*There is a real need for a second Membership Co-VP to partner with Susan. If interested, contact membership@aauwstatecollege.org. Learn about the full board at [Board Leadership](#).

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 [June meeting minutes](#).

The next board meeting (hybrid) will take place **Monday, August 11, 11:30 am–1:00 pm**. In-person, it will be in the College Township Council Room (second floor) and via Zoom: bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardMtg.

Branch Bulletin dates



The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **Monday, September 1**. The bulletin is always issued the first Monday of the month. The submission deadline for September is **Monday, August 25**. Send items to editor Connie Schroeder, bulletin@aauwstatecollege.org.