

Coming Events

October 9

AAUW SC-CDG Cultural
Empowerment for Women lunch.....6

October 13

AAUW SC-sponsored Penn State
Forum lunch and program.....1

October 16

How Our Money Meets
Our Mission.....2

October 26

Branch table at UNA dinner.....8

AAUW State College receives Five-Star recognition from AAUW National



Recently, AAUW State College received some wonderful news from AAUW National. Along with just 54 other AAUW branches (from several hundred branches around the country), AAUW State College has been recognized as a “Five-Star Branch,” based on FY 2024-2025 initiatives.

The AAUW Five-Star Program helps branches align with AAUW’s strategic priorities. By participating in this program, our branch contributes to a strong network of advocates, elevating both our local

impact and our collective efforts nationwide. The award is based on progress in five areas: 1) advancement, 2) public policy and advocacy, 3) governance and sustainability, 4) programming, and 5) communications. For the full report, contact bulletin@aauwstatecollege.org.

Linda Higginson, Five-Star Branch Committee lead, commented, “I am so proud that the State College branch is recognized for its many initiatives supporting the national strategic plan during the past year.”

COMING BRANCH PROGRAMS

Penn State Forum Lunch and Program:



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

Branch-reserved tables for the Penn State Forum lunch are sold out. However, **general seating tickets remain, and can be purchased from**

<https://facultyaffairs.psu.edu/penn-state-forum/>. Branch attendees should arrive **by 11:15 am** to be in the group photo with speaker Caroline Fitzgerald.

How Our Money Meets our Mission: Thursday, October 16, 6:00–7:30 pm, Foxdale Meeting Room



*Just as every picture tells a story, financial records also tell a story. **How Our Money Meets Our Mission** will share the financial story of AAUW State College, a story of dedication to improving the lives of women through research, education, and advocacy.*

This program is a story of historical perspective and current-day strategic planning. Please join us as we plot the future. Presenters are Finance Officer Gail Agans and Used Book Sale Co-Chair Mary Ann Blair. The meeting will be in-person at the **Foxdale meeting room (second floor), 6:00-7:30 pm**. The meeting will also be available via zoom: bit.ly/AAUWSCBranchMtg. **To attend, please RSVP to: treasurer@aauwstatecollege.org.**

—Gail Agans, AAUW State College Financial Officer

PUBLIC POLICY

Statewide Election 2025



If you are voting by mail, your ballot is in the mail if you do not have it yet. If you are voting in person, here is the link to your sample ballot:

<https://centrecountypa.gov/3511/Sample-Ballots>.

Following are the things you need to know about the statewide judicial elections.

HOW JUDICIAL ELECTIONS WORK

Judges have run in political parties in Pennsylvania ever since the Constitutional Convention of 1967-68. We are one of only seven states to elect judges. An attempt was made in the Convention to establish a merit selection appointment process, but as the current budget impasse proves yet again, Pennsylvania politics have not reached the point where a merit process would be workable. The current system of elections followed by retentions was created as a compromise.

Parties should put forward their best candidates, but once elected, these judges are expected to renounce politics. They may not attend any political events until they stand for retention 10 years later. Retention is supposed to be a nonpartisan performance review; if a judge has not misbehaved, the theory is that the judge should be retained for another 10-year term.

The neutral arbiter of judicial qualifications is the Pennsylvania Bar Association. The Bar represents all lawyers regardless of their political leanings, so it has a clear interest in

qualifications and fairness. The Bar interviews and rates candidates, and then publishes its findings. Here are the links to those reviews so you can see for yourself why they gave the rating that we report below.

Pennsylvania Bar Association Ratings: <https://www.pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Committees-Commissions/Judicial-Evaluation/Resources/JEC-Ratings/2025>.

Supreme Court: <https://www.pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Committees-Commissions/Judicial-Evaluation/Resources/JEC-Ratings/2025/Supreme-Court>.

Superior Court: <https://www.pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Committees-Commissions/Judicial-Evaluation/Resources/JEC-Ratings/2025/Superior-Court>.

Commonwealth Court: <https://www.pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Committees-Commissions/Judicial-Evaluation/Resources/JEC-Ratings/2025/Commonwealth-Court>.

CANDIDATES FOR VACANCIES

We have one opening each on the Supreme Court and the Commonwealth Court. These candidates will be at the top of your ballot in the usual fashion, where political party is indicated.

Superior Court hears appeals from county courts, most often involving family law and other issues between individuals. For Superior Court, you will see three candidates.

- **Judge Brandon Neuman** is a Democrat who is rated Highly Recommended by the Bar.
- **Maria Battista** is a Republican who was a former Assistant District Attorney and was a staff lawyer in government. She is rated Not Recommended by the Bar for failure to participate in their review process. In this year's primary, she upset the Republican party's endorsed candidate, Ann Marie Wheatcraft, who was Highly Recommended by the Bar.
- **Daniel Wassmer** is currently listed as a member of the Liberal party but has previously run for the Keystone party and the Libertarians. He is a perpetual candidate, having come in fifth behind Sen. Fetterman in 2022 with 0.5% of the vote, and third in 2020 behind then Attorney General Shapiro, getting 1.8%.

Commonwealth Court hears appeals from county courts involving individuals v. governmental units and is the original court of jurisdiction for issues like election law, education, and the environment.

- **Judge Stella Tsai**, a Democrat, is Highly Recommended by the Bar. She is a Judge of Common Pleas currently.
- **Matt Wolford**, a Republican, is an environmental lawyer. He is Highly Recommended by the Bar.

JUDGES STANDING FOR RETENTION



November 4

Please be sure to turn your ballot over because that is where the retention election is. This placement—as far from the competitive elections as possible while still being on the same piece of paper—is meant to underscore that retentions are not supposed to be political.

You will see a series of questions: Shall Judge So-and-so be retained for an additional term on the Court of Whichever? Yes or no. The first three are Justices of the Supreme Court, then Superior, then Commonwealth. Each of these judges is Recommended for Retention by the Bar Association. Their evaluations are included with the candidates for each of the relevant Courts.

You may have gotten mailers or otherwise have seen messaging urging a No vote. That messaging is coming from a billionaire who opposes the AAUW public policy, He is the one who makes the profits on cyber charter schools. Please consider the source.

COUNTY LEVEL ELECTIONS

The last retention candidate is **Katie Oliver** of Centre County. The other judges in this county vouch for her and would like to see her continue to serve.

District Attorney Bernie Cantorna is running for reelection, on the front of your ballot. He is unopposed. In State College, **Magisterial District Judges Don Hahn** and **Steve Lachman** also are running for reelection, unopposed.

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

County Elections Office Information on Mailing Your Ballot

For information on secure ballot drop boxes and tracking ballots, visit <https://centrecountypa.gov/3506/Secure-Ballot-Drop-Boxes>.

Pass the budget for education funding and cyber charter reform



To date, the budget for Pennsylvania has not been passed by the legislature. The hold up is the Senate. The budget is overdue, as the due date was July 1. Being overdue results in money not being released to the school districts, which means that those that do not have savings must borrow money, which is costly.

The charter and cyber charter schools are not affected because the school districts must pay tuition for the students in their respective school districts attending them.

We want to encourage that the funding Governor Shapiro recommended for education remain in the budget. In addition to increases for basic and special education, the Governor included money to shrink the adequacy gap for chronically underfunded schools, following the Commonwealth Court ruling.

The other area we want to highlight is cyber charter reforms in the budget. Because the amount of tuition the school districts are required to pay the charter schools is based on brick-and-mortar cyber schools, the cyber charters often have excess funds. These funds are spent on items such as marketing, gift cards, and sports tickets for students and parents. Many cyber charter schools also have purchased buildings that they can rent out. A limit on the tuition is suggested in the budget.

Please take a moment to contact your state senator, either Langerholc or Dush, and ask them to encourage swift passage of the budget with the school funding included.

Cris Dush (814) 355-0477 or (717) 787-7084

Wayne Langerholc (814) 806-1197 or (717) 787-5400

—Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Education Chair

League of Women Voters Centre County to hold October 15



Candidates' Night

The League of Women Voters of Centre County (LWVCC) will host the 2025 Municipal Election

Candidates' Night on **Wednesday, October 15, at 7:00 pm in the State College Borough Council Chambers** (243 S. Allen Street). Candidates in these contested races have been invited: Bellefonte Borough Council Ward 1; College Township Council; Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors at Large; Spring Township Board of Supervisors; State College Area Board of School Directors.

The nonpartisan format for the evening will include an introduction to the event by LWVCC. Each candidate will have 60 seconds to answer each of six questions, with the first to answer rotating among the candidates. They will each have 90 seconds for a closing statement. Questions are prepared from community input and issues at hand. No questions are released to candidates prior to the event.

"Candidates' Night provides voters an opportunity to ask their candidates important questions about local issues," said Susan Werner, LWVCC Candidates' Night chairperson. Questions for the candidates can be submitted to lwvcentrecounty@gmail.com or on the LWVCC Website until **October 7**, or can be submitted at the event. The event will be live-streamed and archived on C-Net, and posted on LWVCC website after the event. Past Candidates' Nights videos are also on the League website. The League of Women Voters is a grassroots organization (anyone can join!) working to protect and expand voting rights.

DIVERSITY

Cultural Empowerment for Women Lunch

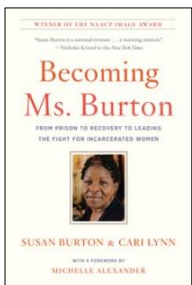
Thursday, October 9, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, Penn Stater



Planning for a Healthy Retirement with panelists include **Iyunolu Osagie**, PhD, Licensed Financial Professional & Faculty Emeritus, Penn State (Moderator); **Nina Cowart**, CPFA, Senior Financial Advisor; **Amber Malek**, Registered Representative & Investment Advisor Representative.

Questions? Naana Nti, diversity@aauwstatecollege.org.

Join ¡Adelante! Book Club: Thursday, November 20, 2:30 pm (virtual)



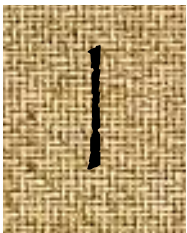
We will discuss **Becoming Ms. Burton** by Susan Burton, described as a stunning memoir and remarkable life story of the renowned activist Susan Burton.

“Susan Burton recounts her own journey through the criminal justice system and her transformation into a life of advocacy. She became a powerful advocate for a more humane justice system, helping more than one thousand incarcerated women.”—[The New Press](https://the-newpress.com). More: <https://beingsusanburton.com/>

Questions? [Sophie Penney Leach](#); Meeting link: bit.ly/AdelanteDiversityBookClub.

January 15 Book and meeting date: *Babel* by R.F. Kuang and Cari Lynn.

I is for Inclusion



This month we are looking at Inclusion. This is where we start to make changes to our community. Inclusion creates an environment where diverse individuals of all backgrounds can participate fully.

Remember our imaginary dinner party? Diversity is everyone getting a chair; Equity is everyone being able to reach the table from their chair; Inclusion is when we all get to speak and be heard during the party.

Do you want to be more inclusive? To follow are some ideas for ways to do that.

[10 Actions You Can Take Today to Be More Inclusive at Work - The Diversity Movement](#)

Mark your calendar for a **November 20** branch meeting featuring a panel discussion (6:00-7:30 pm, Foxdale) on diversity. See how DEIB supports our mission in the [AAUW Strategic Plan](#).

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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Branch *Book-Bees* make a buzz at Mid-State Literacy Spelling Bee



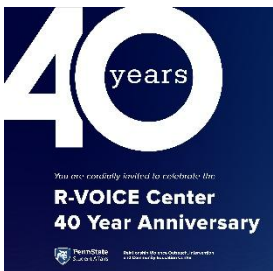
The AAUW State College *Book-Bees*, past champions in the annual Mid-State Literacy Council Spelling Bee, showed their spirit at this year's September 24 event along with 12 other teams. All in the name of raising funds for literacy!

The *Book-Bees* sailed through several rounds with some challenging words but faltered near the end of the Bee when presented with the word P-S-I-T-T-A-C-O-S-I-S. The team was fooled by the silent "P"!

Top honors went to *How Do You Spell Schlow?* —the team representing Schlow Centre Region Library. Their winning word was I-C-H-N-E-U-M-O-N, a wasp that does not sting humans. The win did sting the *Book-Bees* a little bit, but it was all for the good, raising nearly \$15,000 for Mid-State Literacy Council.

Above: Branch members **Morgen and Martha Hummel** were joined by **Nate Clinard**, who kindly filled in for Angie Hughes when she came down with a bug—thankfully, not psittacosis.

R-VOICE to celebrate 40th year at October 12 celebration



Congratulations to R-VOICE, the Relationship Violence Outreach, Intervention, and Community Education Center, located on the Penn State campus. They are now celebrating their 40th year working to support survivors, promote consent, build healthy relationships, and foster a campus culture where every student can thrive.

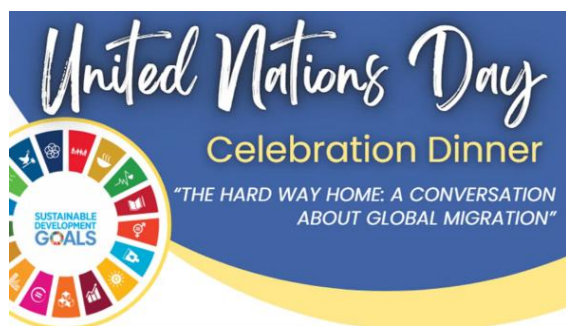
Community members are invited to their celebration, planned for **Sunday, October 12**, at The Graduate Hotel, **10:00 am-12 noon**. The cost to attend is \$50, and reservations are due **Monday, October 6**. Details: [40th Anniversary R-VOICE celebration](#).

Invitation to United Nations Association Dinner, October 26 *The Hard Way Home: A Conversation About Global Migration*



AAUW has maintained a deep interest in women's issues locally, nationally, and internationally. It is one of more than 2,500 non-governmental organizations who consult with various U.N. bodies. The local U.N. chapter, UNA of Central Pennsylvania, is holding its annual celebration dinner and

program on **Sunday, October 26, 5:00-8:30 pm**, at **The Graduate by Hilton**, 125 South Atherton Street, State College. We hope you will plan to attend!



The event includes a 5:00 pm reception welcoming international guests, buffet dinner, entertainment, and program featuring three panelists who will engage in an informative conversation about the topic of migration around the world, followed by a Q&A.

The cost to attend is \$40, and registration is available online, due **no later than October 20**. For speaker information and to attend, visit bit.ly/2025UNDinnerDetails-Registration. Be sure to list "AAUW State College" as your organization, so that we will be seated together.

Book donations continue at a steady clip, along with plastic crates!



Left: Dina Liberatore leads the Monday night crew.



Middle: Plastic crates, free to a good home! Stop by during workshop hours to pick up.



Right: Judy Rockey pauses to determine what category a book belongs in.

Book donations at the Used Book Workshop continue to keep workshop volunteers very busy! A side benefit of volunteering there is the chance to discover some wonderful surprises among the boxes and bags, along with other volunteers.

The workshop is open **Mondays, 6-8 pm** and **Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9 am-2:30 pm**. If you have books to donate, be sure to check out bit.ly/Book_Donation before coming. It is located off 2197 High Tech Road, across from the airport.

MEMBER FOCUS

September 11 Branch Potluck: gathering with fine culinary memories



Gail Agains, Betsy Manlove

The event was topped off with a raffle that featured several hand-made items, including Betsy's wonderful jams, jellies, and quilted treasures. Special thanks to Program Co-VPs **Renee Cloutier** and **Betsy Manlove** for organizing this event. What a terrific and friendly way to kick off the program year.

The September 11 branch potluck was a perfect venue with wonderful weather that made just the right backdrop for 33 branch members, potential members, and invited guests to gather, network, and socialize.

As always, there was a dazzling and diverse array of dishes, a testament to the culinary talents of the group. Standout features were the pineapple bread pudding (Star Campbell), fantastic salads, spanokopita, and homemade baklava (Carmen Miller).



Left: Star Campbell, Cora Martz (guest), Deb Smith;
Right: Leslie Laing, Sue Kuo (guest)

Grace Hampton Curates Elizabeth Catlett Art Show



Branch member Grace Hampton served as the guest curator for the **Elizabeth Catlett Exhibition** at the **Westmoreland Museum of American Art** in Greensburg, PA, this fall. This exhibition celebrates the powerful and enduring legacy of Catlett's work, and her achievements in sculpture and printmaking. The show honors a half-century of her artistic activism in support of women.

The Catlett Exhibition will be on view until **January 4, 2026**, offering a wonderful opportunity to view her impactful art.

Learn more about the exhibition: [Elizabeth Catlett Exhibition](#)

Brighten a member's birthday this month



October 2 – **Carline Crevecoeur**

October 7 – **Rebecca Mugridge**

October 23 – **Sally Kalin**

Isn't it nice to be remembered? Your birthday greeting to the above members just may make their day. If you have not shared your own birthday yet, please send the date along (but not the year) to bulletin@aauwstatecollege.org, today.

Remembering Mimi Barash Coppersmith, AAUW State College member beginning 1966



Mimi Barash Coppersmith died on September 14 at the age of 92.

Throughout her life, she was a trailblazer and a monumental figure in the Centre County community. She was the recipient of a myriad of honors for her business and community leadership. Mimi always said that what she most wanted to do was help others—especially women, whom she frequently mentored and aided with her charitable contributions and community service.

She was the first woman to be elected chair of the Penn State Board of Trustees. She will be missed. **More:** [Mimi Barash Coppersmith obituary](#).

Time to renew your AAUW membership?



Branch members whose membership is due for renewal within the next month should have received an e-notice 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 your AAUW membership, 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 Co- VP **Susan Chyczewski**, membership@aauwstatecollege.org.

Member Reflections



"Seeking equity for women and girls has been a theme for my professional and personal life. Joining AAUW while in my twenties provided a venue to receive mentoring and practice leadership skills.

Through my AAUW membership I have had access to an ongoing education about national strategies for advancing women's education

and involvement at the highest levels."

--Linda Higginson, Past Branch President, 1981-1985

BRANCH COMMITTEES

Engage with the branch by becoming active on a committee!



If you are not currently “engaged” with the branch, or would like to shift directions, check out the full list of engagement opportunities: [ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#). Most committees/activities on this list need new members, and all welcome your interest!

Ongoing meetings – The following committees have regularly scheduled meetings:

- **Diversity** – Meets the 3rd Friday of every month for coffee and conversation, 9-10 am at Kitchen Garden (in the Hills Plaza on South Atherton Street). Contact Naana Nti, diversity@aauwstatecollege.org.
- **Programs** – Register in advance for this virtual meeting: https://commonwealthu-edu.zoom.us/join/https://commonwealthu-edu.zoom.us/join/register/SJvpdY_ZTB6THEm0v7rX6Q. Meets every other month on the 3rd Thursday, 8-9 am, **October 16th** this month. You only need to register once. Contact Betsy Manlove, programs@aauwstatecollege.org, for meeting link.
- **STEM** – Meets virtually every other Monday, 4-5 pm. Contact Carol-Beth Book and Michele Crowl, stem@aauwstatecollege.org, for meeting link.
- **Technology** – Meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month, 3-4 pm. Contact Angie Hughes, technology@aauwstatecollege.org for details. The meeting link is bit.ly/AAUWSCTech.

Membership Co-VP(s) sought!



We are in urgent need of one or two branch Membership Co-VPs! This area maintains membership records, welcomes new members, and plans membership-focused activities for the branch throughout the year. This is an important position with a flexible time commitment.

Ideally, the Membership Co-VPs oversee their own committee, where tasks are divided among themselves. Whether you are interested in taking the lead or simply serving on the committee, please contact Branch

President Carline Crevecour, president@aauwstatecollege.org.

Tech Committee Report



Gmail Tips - Our September tech session focused on Gmail topics, such as creating labels and filters for organization and a few lesser-known secrets about how to make your Gmail address work better for you! It is available on our **YouTube Channel**: https://youtu.be/Wml12g_Axu8

Next Tech meeting 10/21, 3pm via Zoom - ONLINE SELLING

Meeting link: (<https://bit.ly/AAUWSCTech>)

Have items in your house that you don't need or that are just taking up space?

Learn how to turn them into extra cash! Join us for a session on the basics of online selling, where we will explore the most popular platforms, tips for creating listings that sell, and simple strategies to get started. Whether you want to declutter or earn some side income, this session will give you the tools and confidence to begin.

BRANCH BEHIND-THE-SCENES

2025-2027 Elected Branch Officers

President – Carline Crevecoeur
president@aauwstatecollege.org

President-Elect – Molly Kunkel
pres-elect@aauwstatecollege.org

Immediate Past Presidents Council
ipprescouncil@aauwstatecollege.org

Co-Secretaries
Lee Carpenter, Amy Wilson
secretary@aauwstatecollege.org

Treasurer – Gail Agans
treasurer@aauwstatecollege.org

Marketing & Communications
Angie Hughes, Dina Liberatore
com@aauwstatecollege.org

Membership – Susan Chyczewski
membership@aauwsatecollege.org

Programs – Renee Cloutier
Betsy Manlove
programs@aauwstatecollege.org

Full Board listing – [Board Leadership](#)

Questions – info@aaustatecollege.org

Monthly Board Meetings



Monthly branch board meetings are open to all members who would like to attend. Learn about what is going on and offer your input. Catch up with us: [September 2025 Board Meeting](#)

Next board meeting:

Monday, November 10, 11:30 am–1:00 pm

In-person: College Township Council Room
(second floor).

Zoom meeting link: bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardZoom.

Branch Bulletin Updates



Submission deadline:
Monday, October 27

Send to: bulletin@aauwstatecollege.org.

Issue date: **Monday, November 3**

Note: Submissions of achievements or personal interests are also welcome.