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Holiday Gathering

Wed., December 10th
RSVP by December 3rd!

Great news! Our AAUW State College Holiday Gathering will be held on **Wednesday, December**

10, 5:30-7:30 pm, at [University Wine Company](#).

Join us for an evening filled with food, drinks, laughter, and great company. Your festive casual attire or new branch AAUW T-shirt would be a perfect fit for this event.

The meal will be provided by [Caribbean Corner](#), bringing the soul of the islands straight to you. One beverage (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) comes with the meal, which has been subsidized by the branch.

At the party, we will also feature a wonderful selection of Eastern European pastries from branch member **Carmen Miller**, who is originally from Romania. Her baking business of such specialties is blooming. If interested in ordering items for your next gathering, contact [Carmen](#) today!

University Wine Company is located at [540 Misty Hill Drive](#) off Rte. 45 between Atherton Street and Pine Grove Mills. From the intersection of South Atherton and Rte. 45, travel 1.4 miles to Misty Hill Drive and turn left. The winery is the first left up the road.

The cost to attend is **\$25 per person**, except for members who have joined since May 2025,

whose cost will be waived. Feel free to invite *potential* new members to join us. **RSVPs are due December 3.** Questions? Contact membership@aauwstatecollege.org. **Make your reservation and payment today:**

- **Credit Card** – Go to [AAUW State College](#) member portal to make payment. If you do not have a log-in for this area, contact technology@aauwstatecollege.org and request an invitation to be sent to your email address.
- **Check** – Send your check made out to “AAUW State College” with your name and name(s) of your guest(s) – to AAUW State College Finance Officer Gail Agans, 400 Brush Valley Road, Boalsburg, PA 16827.

NOVEMBER RECAP

Branch participates in November 18 Lobby Day in Harrisburg



On Tuesday, November 18, 11 of us represented AAUW State College, traveling to Harrisburg to participate in *Our Health, Our Future* Lobby Day, organized by Planned Parenthood. Over 140 advocates attended, and 67 legislative meetings were held.

While there, we rallied on the Capitol steps and listened to speakers from various organizations and the state legislature.

We had the opportunity to speak with a member of Senator Cris Dush's staff about several bills on the docket regarding women's health, and health in general, in Pennsylvania. A primary focus was the Family Care Act (HB200/SB906), which would provide a paid family leave program. Many of us shared personal stories of how the pending bills would affect our lives if they were (or were not) passed. We ended the day with a brief tour of the building, learning about a lot of the art and construction of the building.

—Angie Hughes, AAUW State College Marketing & Communications Co-VP



Left: Carline Crevecoeur and Marjory Price review a bill.

Right: Dave Agans (left), Angie Hughes (center), Naana Nti (bottom), Kat Miller (right) in the rally on the Capitol steps.

November 20 DEIB program: all voices welcomed



At our November program, branch members **Denise Rupert** and **Melissa Landau Vega** (left) led a terrific session on DEIB (diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging) and its execution within our branch. There was a lively roundtable discussion, starting with identifying different types of Diversity, from racial to economic to geographic, and so many more. From there, we discussed how we can improve Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging within our branch. If you have ideas on improving any of these areas, email diversity@aauwstatecollege.org.

PUBLIC POLICY

Pennsylvania state judges retained



Special thanks to AAUW State College Public Policy Co-Chair **Dianne Gregg** for her integral role in the statewide effort to retain Pennsylvania state judges in the November election. Her hard work behind the scenes carried the day. Learn more about the election results from SpotlightPA, an independent and nonpartisan newsroom: [11-4-2025 SpotlightPA](https://www.spotlightpa.org).

Positive gains for public education



The state budget has passed with great news for public education in Pennsylvania. Four of our local legislators—Senator Langerholc, Representatives Conklin, Benninghoff, and Takac—voted for the budget. Highlights include funding for the second installment of adequacy gap payments, increases in Basic and Special Education funding, money for school facilities, and school safety and mental health. In addition, cyber charter funding and accountability reforms (saving \$78 million) are included. Thank you to all who contacted your legislators regarding the budget.

—Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Education Chair

Cyber Charter funding and accountability reforms passed



To follow is a summary from Susan Spicka, Executive Director of Education Voters PA, on the recent budget passage impact

on public education. **Full article:** [11-13-2025 Education Voters PA-Cyber Charter Funding](#).

On November 12, the General Assembly approved a budget, signed by Governor Shapiro, which ended the four-month budget impasse. This budget deal delivers substantial cyber charter funding and accountability reforms and more than \$785 million in new investments in public education. This budget is a clear demonstration that Governor Shapiro and state lawmakers made funding our public schools their top priority. It shows that adequacy funding is a nonnegotiable priority until all schools are fully funded in compliance with the constitutional mandate.

Highlights from the 2025-2026 state budget: \$105 million increase for Basic Education Funding; \$40 million increase for special education funding; \$125 million for school facilities; \$100 million for school safety and mental health grants; and \$78 million in net savings because of cyber charter reforms and increases in early childhood funding. These hard-won cyber charter funding and accountability reforms are the result of decades of work by advocates and school officials in every corner of the commonwealth. We are very proud of the work done by Education PA Voters to contribute to the passage of this law.

While there is still work to do, these reforms represent an important and significant step toward reining in wasteful spending by the cyber charter industry and creating accountability for cyber operators to ensure that students are supported, safe, and actually attending school. To learn more about the cyber charter reforms, visit [Senate Bill 315](#) and more on [cyber charter accountability reforms](#).

—Susan Spicka, Executive Director, Education Voters PA

Title IX update with Peg Pennepacker planned for January 15



Plan to attend the next AAUW State College branch program, featuring Peg Pennepacker, a retired K-12 Educator and Title IX consultant. From 2011 to 20217, Peg served as the athletic director in the State College Area School District before retiring from public education.

Peg will lead a conversation about the [Title IX](#) Education Amendments of 1972, from the law's beginnings to what is currently happening with it today. Peg has been a "student" of the law for over forty years and is a very knowledgeable and engaging speaker. At this program, attendees will gain insights into an extremely important law.

The program will be held **Thursday, January 15, 6-7:30 pm, in the Foxdale meeting room** on the 2nd floor. Invite a friend or colleague to join you. The meeting will also be available via Zoom (bit.ly/AAUWSCBranchMtg) for those unable to attend in person.

Registration is requested: [Register Today](#)

Questions? Contact education@aauwstatecollege.org

—Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Education Chair

Fair Districts PA to introduce bills for independent redistricting commission



Fair Districts is introducing new redistricting bills in preparation for the 2030 census and redistricting in 2031. Pennsylvania will not be participating in the midterm redistricting we are hearing about because we have divided government. Studies show 82% of people prefer lines to be drawn by an independent redistricting commission rather than by the party in power.

The bills, House Bill 131 (59 co-sponsors) and Senate Bill 31 (19 co-sponsors), providing for an independent commission, are still gathering co-sponsors and have been referred to the respective state government committees. Representatives Conklin and Takac are co-sponsors. The Senate State Government committee is chaired by Senator Cris Dush. A call to his office (814-355-0477) by those of you who are his constituents, asking for a vote to move this out of committee, would be appropriate. A call to the offices of Representative Benninghoff (814-355-1300) and Senator Langerholc (814-806-1197) is also a good idea.

—Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Fair Districts Centre liaison

DIVERSITY

December 12 Community Diversity Group Potluck: invite to all!

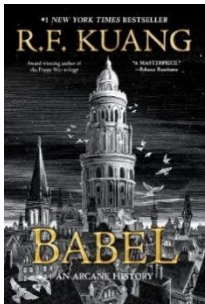


Great news! The Community Diversity Group invites AAUW members to their Cultural Conversations Holiday Potluck, celebrating holiday traditions from around the world. It will be held **Friday, December 12, 6-8 pm**, at South Hills School of Business & Technology, 480 Waupelani Drive in State College.

There is no cost to attend, and the public is welcome. Just bring a dish!

Share Flyer: [CDG Potluck](#). Register today: [12-12 CDG Potluck registration](#).

Join ¡Adelante! Book Club: Thursday, January 15, 2:30 pm (virtual)



Join us January 15th as we discuss *Babel*, from award-winning author R. F. Kuang. It is a historical fantasy epic that grapples with student revolutions, colonial resistance, and the use of language and translation as the dominating tool of the British Empire. **More:** [GoodReads review](#); **Questions?** [Sophie Penney Leach](#). **Meeting link:** bit.ly/AdelanteDiversityBookClub.

—Branch Diversity Committee: Naana Nti (Chair), Linda Higginson, Sophie Penney Leach, Denise Rupert, Maria Schmidt, Melissa Landrau Vega

BOOK WORKSHOP

Book workshop volunteers visit Harrisburg's Midtown Scholar Bookstore for inspiration



Back: Terry Melton, Nancy Weinreb, Mary Ann Blair, Kathy Burnham, and Eric Papenfuse (store co-owner).

Front: Sally Kalin, Mary Peterson, Kat Miller, Sherry Crassweller, and Suzanne Kerlin.

On November 14th, nine volunteers from the used book workshop visited [Midtown Scholar Bookstore](#) in Harrisburg.

Store co-owner Eric Papenfuse offered tours of three spaces: the main bookstore, the newly opened collectors' location next door, and their processing facility down the block. Below left, Seung Chon then led a tour of their 50,000-square-foot warehouse complex. For comparison, the UBS warehouse is only about 4,500 square feet!



Attendees had many opportunities to explore and ask questions about what becomes of our books once they are entered into the system. Midtown Scholar spends thousands of dollars on books each year at our sales and bought out our inventory in 2020 when the May sale was cancelled. It was lovely to build on their support and see how they operate their business.

—Kat Miller, Used Book Sale Co-Chair

Holiday hours for book donations later this month



Through Wednesday, December 17, the workshop is open Mondays, 6-8 pm and Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9 am-2:30 pm. It will be closed for winter break from **Monday, December 22, 2025, until Monday, January 5, 2026.** The donation bins will be emptied daily.

The workshop is located off 2197 High Tech Road, across from the airport. If you have books to donate, check out bit.ly/Book_Donation before coming.

MEMBER FOCUS

Recognizing our members: nominations due Wednesday, January 14



It is time to gather nominations to recognize our branch's dedicated members! Please look around to see who is actively supporting the branch and submit your nomination(s) for the awards described below.

Nominations should include a brief paragraph on how the person, group, or organization meets the award criteria. Awardees will be recognized at our annual Awards & Scholarship Celebration next June. **Nominations are due January 14, 2026.** To follow is a description of each of the awards.

Outstanding Woman Award - The Outstanding Woman Award recipient is an AAUW State College member who has given meritorious service to the branch and to the community over multiple years. Past recipients include: 2021–Cindy Hall and Sally Kalin; 2022–Naana Nti; 2023–Sally Kalin and Connie Schroeder; 2024–Carol-Beth Book; 2025–Michele Crowl.

Making a Difference Award - This award honors a member who made a big difference in something important to AAUW State College in the past year. The recipient exemplifies the spirit of AAUW and need not be a branch leader. Past recipients: 2021–Dina Liberatore; 2022–Estelle Stroup Call; 2023–Mary Ann Blair; 2024–Jackie Esposito; 2025–Sherry Lonsdale.

Gateway to Equity Award - The Gateway to Equity Award honors an individual, group, or organization that by action and philosophy has promoted AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, or research. Past recipients include: 2021–Carol Eicher and the Community Diversity Group; 2022–Ten Thousand Villages State College; 2023–Leslie Laing; 2024–League of Women Voters; 2025–Strawberry Fields, Inc.

Centre County Council for Human Services - The CCCHS Award honors an individual who has devoted outstanding volunteer service to an organization. The recipient will be recognized at the April CCCHS Volunteer of the Year dinner. Past recipients include: 2021–Ann Echols; 2022–Jordan Glover; 2023–Vasundara Varadan; 2024–Donna Trapp; 2025–Amy Wilson.

Please send nominations by **January 14** to Awards Co-Chairs Chriss Schultz and Suzanne Kerlin, awards@aauwstatecollege.org, and let us know if you have any questions.

Remembering Ingrid Blood



On November 13, 2025, AAUW State College and our community lost a valued member, Ingrid Blood, after her long battle with cancer. Her loving husband Gordon and two sons survive.

Ingrid became the first female full professor with tenure in Penn State's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and served for six

years as Penn State's Associate Vice Provost and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education and Summer Programs.

In her retirement, Ingrid served as a docent at the Palmer Museum of Art, chaired University Women's Club, mastered her knitting, became a Master Gardener, and was active in OLLI. Ingrid radiated tremendous joy, positivity, and kindness. She will be deeply missed.

More: [Ingrid Blood Obituary](#)

Meet new member Catherine Dupuis



Editor's note: Catherine is the daughter of Mary Dupuis, AAUW State College Public Policy Co-Chair. Welcome, Catherine!

Catherine Dupuis brings an expressive warmth to her singing and a skilled ability to communicate the emotional content of a lyric. At Indiana University's School of Music (B.S. in Music and Theatre), she studied with legendary Eileen Farrell (one of the foremost interpreters of The Great American Song Book) and performed with the Singing Hoosiers (under the direction of music educator Robert Stoll). Catherine worked her way through an M.F.A. in Acting and Movement from Penn State, performing voice-overs, jingles, and backup recording in central PA studios. In 1985, she moved to NYC.

After several decades performing regionally and off-Broadway, Catherine pursued work in jazz and cabaret clubs. She has produced three critically acclaimed records and has been declared "one of the most interesting jazz singers of the early 21st century" (Scott Yanow, *All Music Guide*). "Her hard swinging style reminds one of Annie Ross. If Janis Siegel or Cheryl Bentine ever left the Manhattan Transfer, she would make a perfect replacement" (Jerome Wilson, *Cadence*).

Thursday, December 11, Pine Grove Hall

Seating starts at 6 pm, music begins at 7 pm - \$21 Cover

A Holiday Evening with Catherine Dupuis and Tommy Wareham

(invite from Catherine)

Join us for our annual holiday show with Tommy Wareham on guitar and a swinging jazz trio. We will showcase some familiar holiday tunes plus some fun "seldom-heard" tunes - lotsa music about snow.

Everyone should also come prepared to help us with a sing-along during the evening (think Mitch Miller).

We will have a great time! **BOOK TODAY:** bit.ly/12-11-2025CatherineDupuis

Brighten a member's birthday this month



December **23** – Susan Werner
December **24** – Leslie Laing
December **29** – Suzanne Kerlin

It's so 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 (but not the year) to bulletin@aauwstatecollege.org, today.

Time to renew your AAUW membership?



Branch members whose membership is due for renewal within the next month will receive an e-notice from AAUW National. **To RENEW** your membership, visit bit.ly/2025AAUWMembershipForm, complete form, and mail with check for \$94 – which includes membership in the local, state, and national organization) to the address at the bottom of the form.

Add “renewal” in the check memo line. **QUESTIONS?** Ask membership@aauwstatecollege.org.

2025 AT A GLANCE



Row 1: January: Humphrey Fellows program; **February:** Women-led food recovery program; **March:** Getting ready to close the book workshop; **April:** Trip to Morgan Library for Bella Da Costa Greene exhibit; **May:** Used Book Sale; **June:** AAUW Pennsylvania summer retreat.

Row 2: July: Arts Fest booth; **August:** Public Policy Primer; **September:** Fall Potluck; **October:** Branch-sponsored Penn State Forum; **November:** Lobby Day; **December:** Holiday Gathering.

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.
- **Marketing & Communications** - Meets **Wednesday, December 3, 8 am** – discussing separate social media profiles for the book sale (and posting ideas for them); holiday social media messaging; website improvements. Virtual meet-up: bit.ly/AAUWSCMCZoom.
- **Programs** – Meets every other month on the 3rd Thursday, 8-9 am. 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.

2026 AAUW Atlantic States Regional Conference in Lancaster September 25-27, 2026 - book a room today



AAUW Pennsylvania is host of the second AAUW Atlantic States Regional Conference. AAUW members from thirteen states will be in attendance, representing a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas and learn more about where we fit into the larger picture.

The theme of the 2026 Atlantic Regional Conference, to be held September 25-27 at the Lancaster Convention Center, is *Unfinished Revolution: Together We Stand*, resonating with the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Join us where history meets progress as AAUW members stand together to shape the future.

The hotel room block is now open for the Lancaster Marriott at the Lancaster Convention Center. Reserve now (don't wait!) to secure your stay because rooms are booking up fast!

Learn more: [AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference](#).

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 – OPEN*
membership@aauwstatecollege.org

Programs – Betsy Manlove
programs@aauwstatecollege.org

Full Board listing – [Board Leadership](#)

Questions –
info@aauwstatecollege.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: [November 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)

Monday, December 8, 11:30 am–1:00 pm

In-person: College Township Council Room (2nd floor)
Zoom meeting link: bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardZoom.

Branch Bulletin Updates



Submission deadline:
Monday, December 29

Send to: bulletin@aauwstatecollege.org.
Issue date: Monday, January 5.

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

Officer Opening:

Currently, we seek a **Membership Vice-President** or two Co-VPs working together. Duties include maintaining membership records, welcoming new members, and planning membership-focused activities for the branch.

Details: president@aauwstatecollege.org.



AAUW State College: 5-Star Recipient - AAUW State College received 5-Star recognition from AAUW National for outstanding efforts in 2024-2025, centered around five key areas: advancement, public policy and advocacy, governance and sustainability, programming, and communications.