

Mark Your Calendar

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**Title IX update with Peg Pennepacker
planned for Thursday, January 14**



Plan to attend the next AAUW State College branch program, ***Title IX: Look-Back & Challenges Ahead***, with Peg Pennepacker. The program will be held **Wednesday, January 14, 6-7:30**

pm, in the College Township Building (1481 East College Avenue), 2nd floor Council Room.

Peg is a retired K-12 Educator and Title IX consultant. From 2011 to 2017, she served as the athletic director in the State College Area School District before retiring from public education.



Peg is a Certified Athletic Administrator, founder of High School Title IX Consulting Services, and a national faculty member of the NIAAA (National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association). She also serves as an advisory board member of the Association of Title IX Administrators.

Peg will lead a conversation about the [1972 Title IX Education Amendments](#), all the way up to current challenges to the law today. As a “student” of the law for over 40 years, she is a very knowledgeable and engaging speaker. At this program, attendees will gain insights into this extremely important law.

Registration requested: <https://bit.ly/1-14-26TitleIXProgram>

Invite a friend to join you. Walk-ins also welcome.

Unable to attend in person? Please preregister to receive the Zoom meeting link.

Share Flyer: [1-14-2026 Title IX Flyer](#) **Questions?** education@aauwstatecollege.org

—Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Education Chair

PUBLIC POLICY

2025 Election Results and a Look Ahead in 2026



We have another first for women in Pennsylvania. **Judge Stella Tsai's** election to the Commonwealth Court makes her the first Asian American ever elected to any office statewide. Stella is a Penn State grad.

All our sitting judges on the high courts were retained by comfortable margins. We hope this teaches the Vote No crowd not to try to make retention elections political. Retentions should be decided on merit.

Our county **Judge Katie Oliver** won retention also.

Looking ahead this year, we will vote for Governor, Member of Congress, and all three State Representatives in Centre County.

We will not be voting for state senators. Pennsylvania State Senators serve four-year terms. Both of ours have terms expiring in 2028. Neither of our U.S. Senators is up for election in this cycle.

Nominating petitions begin to circulate in mid-February, so we expect candidates to announce sometime after the first of this year.

—*Mary Dupuis and Dianne Gregg, AAUW State College Public Policy Co-Chairs*

STEM EDUCATION

Applications to branch-funded Science-U camps due Friday, Jan. 16



Science-U day camps, administered by the Penn State Eberly College of Science, engage Centre County girls ages 11-17 in science. Thirteen week-long science day camps will be held this summer. Last year, AAUW State College awarded 14 such scholarships to Science-U day camps, and we hope to award even more this year!

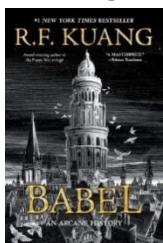
Left: Science-U campers, interested in science, technology, engineering, or math, engage in group and individual learning.

The scholarship information, application form, and mentor/teacher recommendation forms are available at: <https://science.psu.edu/outreach/scienceu/scholarships/aauw>. **The deadline to apply is January 16.**

—*Carol-Beth Book, AAUW State College STEM Co-Chair*

DIVERSITY

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 to co-sponsor Racial Healing event on Tuesday, February 3



The National Day of Racial Healing was founded in 2017 by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, with a goal of considering shared values and creating a blueprint for healing from racism. This year marks a full decade for holding the annual event, inspiring communities like State College, who started their own event three years ago. **Learn more:** [National Day of Racial Healing](#).

AAUW State College is a co-planner and co-sponsor of this year's National Day of Racial Healing in State College, along with the State College Borough and the Community Diversity Group. It will be held **February 3, 11:00 am-2:00 pm in the State College Borough Building Community Room, Room 201**. It will kick off with a keynote address by [Dr. Leah Hollis](#) from Penn State University's College of Education. Lunch will be provided, followed by an interactive session led by [Dr. Wanda Knight](#) of Penn State's College of Arts and Architecture.

There is no cost to attend, but reservations are required. A registration link will be provided in *AAUW State College Weekly Notes* over the next two Mondays. **Questions?** Contact Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Chair, diversity@aauwstatecollege.org.

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

BOOK WORKSHOP

Book donations for May 9-12 Used Book Sale to continue into March



The book workshop reopens today (January 5) after being closed for the holidays. It will be staffed by volunteers during workshop hours, and outdoor donation bins are open 24/7. Check out [Book Donation](#) for details.

The workshop closes sometime in March in order for volunteers to finish processing books for the May 9-12 sale. Check the website for the exact date.

MEMBER FOCUS

WELCOME new members

Laura Leites - lauraleitesb@gmail.com



Laura Leites, PhD, serves as Assistant Dean for Access and Equity and Research Professor of Forest Ecology in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State University. With 16 years in higher education and almost two years in administrative leadership, she champions inclusive excellence through advocacy, education, and research. Laura has earned honors such as the Rosemary Schraer Mentoring Award and the Translational Research Award, reflecting her dedication to advancing science and equity.

Laura is equally committed to strengthening her community through leadership and service, a commitment recognized with the Rose Cologne Volunteer Award in 2024. She works to remove barriers and create opportunities for women and underrepresented groups in academia.

Kathleen O'Connell - kxo111@gmail.com



Kathleen O'Connell is a 50-year resident of Centre County. A graduate of SCASD, PSU, and UC Berkeley, she taught mostly sixth grade for decades. "It's the best job in the world, 11-year-olds are awesome," she says. Retired for five years, Kathleen is currently President of the League of Women Voters of Centre County. When not registering voters, she is hiking, traveling, reading, or biking.

Kathleen joined AAUW because of the focus on gender equity. In 1984, when her first principal asked for a few boys to move auditorium chairs, she refused, offering a few girls instead. Now she brings that fervor to voters: "We encourage, educate, and empower every eligible citizen to vote."

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.

—Suzanne Kerline & Chriss Schultz, AAUW State College Awards Co-Chairs

Brighten a member's birthday this month



January 13 – Marjory Price

It is nice to be remembered. Your birthday greeting to the above member just may make her 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.

HOLIDAY PARTY LOOK-BACK

Closing out 2025 with a colorful December gathering

About 30 branch members, including four new members, attended the December 10 branch holiday party, held at University Wine Company. What a great way to end the year!



Left: Party closes by gathering “on the stairs.”

Above: Carline Crevecoeur, Nancy Chiswick, Gail Agans.

Below: Chriss Schultz and Leslie Laing did a terrific job as event photographers.





Top Left: Linda Friend, Gail Agans, Linda Higginson, Joanne Bennett, Rebecca Mugridge.

Bottom Left: Carmen Vanderhoof, Kat Miller, Angie Hughes, Michele Crowl.

Top Right: Amy Wilson, Betsy Manlove, Nina Cowart, Nancy Weinreb.

Our annual holiday gathering was marked by a sea of the new AAUW State College logo shirts and lots of other festive wear; a wonderful meal, provided by [Caribbean Corner](#) and desserts by branch member [Carmen Miller](#); and a strong interest in getting to know each other better, and coming together for common interests and priorities. Onward to 2026!

BRANCH COMMITTEES

Engage with the branch by becoming active on a committee!

engage

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 first week of every other month in the even months, 8 am via Zoom, virtual meet-up: bit.ly/AAUWSCMCZoom.
- **Programs** – Meets every other month on the 3rd Thursday, 8-9 am. **Betsy is looking for help planning a program on some aspect of women's health for spring 2026.** If you are interested in helping and/or have ideas for topics or speakers, contact Betsy at programs@aauwstatecollege.org.
- **STEM** – Meets the second Monday of each month, 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 13 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](#).

Book your room today: bit.ly/AAUWRegionalConferenceSept25-27.

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. Join us at our next meeting: **Mon., January 12, 12:00–1:00 pm**

In person: College Township Council Room (2nd floor)

Zoom meeting link: bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardZoom

Branch Bulletin Updates



Submission deadline:
Monday, January 26

Send to: bulletin@aauwstatecollege.org

Issue date: **Monday, February 2**

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.