

Mark Your Calendar

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Branch to co-sponsor February 3 Local National Day of Racial Healing event

On January 12, State College Mayor Ezra Nanes presented a proclamation declaring the February 3 program, ***Race & Identity: Fostering Healing in Our Communities***, a National Day of Racial Healing event. It is co-sponsored by State College Borough, the Community Diversity Group, and AAUW State College. Held in the State College Borough Building, Room 201, 11 am-2:30 pm, it includes speakers, lunch, and interactive activities. The event is now filled.



State College Mayor Ezra Nanes, Carol Eicher, Community Diversity Group Chair, Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Chair.

—Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Chair

Program on Community Action Grant allocations: Thursday, February 19

Learn about the branch's Community Action Grant allocation at the **Thursday, February 19th program, held in the Foxdale meeting room (second floor), 6:00-7:30 pm.** In the current Community Action Grant cycle, AAUW State College received 20 applications requesting a combined \$116,514. At the January 12 branch board meeting, the Community Action Grants Committee recommended funding **\$65,000 to 13 organizations** to deliver high-impact services across Centre County. This level of demand demonstrates both the breadth of community need and the strength of our partner organizations; allocating funds to the most promising proposals



ensures measurable outcomes while responsibly stewarding the proceeds from our annual book sale. Funded projects targeting barriers that women and girls face in our region include:

- literacy and ESL instruction (**Mid-State Literacy Council**)
- girls' STEM education (**CentreSTEM Inc.**)*
- dental care access (**Centre Volunteers in Medicine**)
- transportation to support employment (**Interfaith Human Services**)
- recovery support for women (**Go ReEntry**)
- mother-daughter relationship workshops (**Jana Marie Foundation**)
- community female health resources (**Schlow Centre Region Library**)
- early-childhood assessments (**CenClear**)
- investments in internships that elevate young women's voices (**C-NET**)
- help low-income women access medical appointments (**CentreHelps**)
- targeted early-education staff development (**Park Forest Preschool**)
- support for Children's Day at the Arts Festival (**Central Pa. Festival of the Arts**)
- mindfulness writing for women to help overcome trauma (**Ridgelines**)

**CentreSTEM was funded this year through Community Action Grants but will be considered in the future for a STEM grant through the AAUW State College STEM Committee grant program.*

Collectively, these investments advance equity for women and girls, aligning squarely with AAUW's mission and our branch's focus on education, economic security, and advocacy. Learn more about our grants program: [:AAUW State College Community Action Grants](#). The next Community Action Grant cycle runs **September 1-November 1, 2026**. Centre County nonprofits with a focus on advancing equity for women and girls are encouraged to apply.

—Sherry Crassweller & Carolyn Donaldson, Branch Community Action Grant Co-Chairs

BOOK WORKSHOP & SALE

Book workshop to close for donations on Tuesday, March 10



It's official! The Used Book Workshop will close for donations on **Tuesday, March 10**, in order to give workshop volunteers time to sort and price all the books ahead of the May 9-12 book sale. See [Book Donation](#) for details.

—Suzanne Kerlin, Sherry Crassweller, Dina Liberatore, workshop co-leads

Promoting the May 9-12 book sale through social media



Our 64th annual Used Book Sale is just around the corner, and every member has a role to play to help us cross the finish line! Our sale leadership

and workshop volunteers have laid the foundation, and this is where you come in. There is a separate page on Facebook and Instagram for the sale. Search @AAUWSCBookSale on either Facebook or Instagram to find our sale pages, or use the links:

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWSCBookSale>; <https://www.instagram.com/aauwscbooksale>.

—Dina Liberatore, AAUW State College Marketing & Communications Co-VP

Volunteering at the Used Book Sale

Great news! For branch members who want to get an early start on claiming their preferred



book sale shift(s). In addition to the May 9-12 sale days, we will need help on May 7, when we set up for the sale in the morning, and load/unload books later that day. **Here is the link to volunteering:** bit.ly/May9-12BookSaleVolunteerSignup.

Shortly after signing up, you will receive a confirmation email. This will be the only notice of your shift until the official book sale newsletter comes out. As always, if you have any questions please drop volunteer scheduler [Donna Trapp](#) a line. Thanks for your interest in volunteering!

—Donna Trapp, AAUW State College
Used Book Sale volunteer scheduler

Above: Sale volunteers receive cashier training prior to their shift.

DIVERSITY

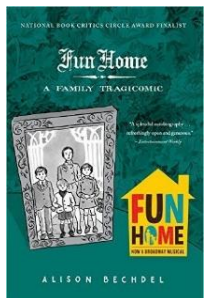
Community Diversity Group & AAUW lunch and program on retirement security Wednesday, March 18; sign up today



The Community Diversity Group and AAUW State College will host a panel discussion titled *Taking Care of Your Health for Retirement Security: The time to start is now!* at their Cultural Empowerment for Women luncheon. It will be held on **Wednesday, March 18, 11:30 am-2:00 pm at The Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center**. This event is open to the public. More details will be shared as they become available.

The cost to attend is \$23 by mail, and reservations are due March 11. You can pay **\$25** online or at the door but must RSVP by March 11. Click here to register and select payment option: [March 18 CEW Lunch Registration](#). We have a limited number of scholarships for individuals with limited means. Request when you register.

Join ¡Adelante! Book Club: Thursday, March 19, 2:30 pm (virtual)



Join us on March 19th as we discuss ***Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*** by Alison Bechdel. It is described as a graphic memoir about the author's childhood in rural Pennsylvania, focusing on her complex relationship with her closeted gay father, Bruce, who ran the family's funeral home (the "Fun Home"). The book explores themes of sexuality, family secrets, and identity through literary allusions and detailed, humorous, and heartbreaking storytelling. It was adapted into a Tony Award-winning musical.

More: [Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic](#); **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

EDUCATION

January 14 Title IX program strikes a chord



Left: Carline Crevecœur, Peg Pennepacker, Linda Higginson, and Sue Johnston discuss the program. **Right:** Peg received an AAUW State College cap as a thank you for serving as program speaker.



The January 14th branch program on Title IX brought out a crowd, with 45 attendees present either

virtually or in person. Peg Pennepacker, speaker and Title IX expert and consultant, started with a history of the 1972 law, which follows:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal assistance.

Next, Peg reminded the group that Title IX pertains to far more than athletics. The example of girls being stigmatized from participating in STEM fields is another area where girls traditionally have been treated differently, and there are many others. Today, Title IX focus

areas include pregnant and parent students, athletics participation opportunities, and transgender participation in athletics.

Title IX law is very dependent on the political landscape at the time. Currently, many Title IX regulations have been vacated or rescinded. Enforcement of the law, even in a supportive environment, is a tremendous challenge. To date, no school has ever lost federal funding over Title IX violations. As community members, we must press for our schools to investigate, stop, prevent, and remedy potential violations of the law. Title IX is at the heart of efforts to create gender equitable schools.

Thank you to **Sue Johnston**, Branch Education Chair, and her committee: Jayne Cawthern, Carline Crevecoeur, Mary Dupuis, Ann Echols, Carol Hodes, Jackie Huff, and Leslie Laing, for their work on this important program. It was enlightening!

Use Action Network to engage Congress for Department of Education

It is time to use the AAUW Action Network to call upon Congress for protection of the U.S.



Department of Education. As Meghan Kissell, AAUW (National) Senior Director, Policy & Member Advocacy points out, “only Congress can eliminate or restructure the Department of Education. Interagency shifts don’t cut bureaucracy—they create confusion for states and schools, weaken protections for students (especially students with disabilities), and undermine equal educational opportunity.”

She continues, “The Department’s unlawful transfer of education programs jeopardizes students’ civil rights. The Administration continues to freeze funding that Congress has directed under law—for education, childcare, health care, and more. Now is the time to urge Congress to conduct oversight of the Department of Education and ensure appropriated funds are reaching students and families.” Visit <https://aauw.quorum.us/campaign/152931/> to raise your voice!

PUBLIC POLICY

Vote By Mail Applications



If you are voting by mail, you should have gotten a letter from the Centre County Elections Office about applying to stay on their list. In Pennsylvania, that list is annual, meaning, you must reapply every year or you get dropped from the list.

People are speculating that voting by mail could be dangerous due to various rumors of election interference. Our best information as of today is that voting by mail is safe. You could have a problem if you delay putting your ballot in the

mail because the Post Office has changed its policy on postmarking, resulting in delays. You avoid any worries about that by returning your ballot to one of the drop boxes the Elections Office sets up around the county, as those are collected by county staff, bypassing the Post Office altogether.

Other rumors suggest we may not have an election at all. Please be assured that elections are run by the states individually, not the federal government. State Secretaries of State are conferring about how to ensure elections occur and run smoothly. Speculation may continue all year, but please be assured that officials have heard all the same rumors you have and are working diligently to be sure nothing goes amiss.

Your letter from the Elections Office contains a form to be filled out to stay on their list to get a mail-in ballot. Filling it out and using the return envelope they have provided will have you on the list for both the primary and the general elections.

You can change your mind at any point by going to vote.pa.gov but frankly, the reapplication looks easier to us. And here's the benefit the campaigns don't tell you about: if you vote by mail, when your ballot is marked as received (you get an email confirming that), it's a matter of public record that you have already voted (not who you voted for, just that you voted). Any respectable campaign keeps tabs on that list, and they know there's no point in contacting you again.

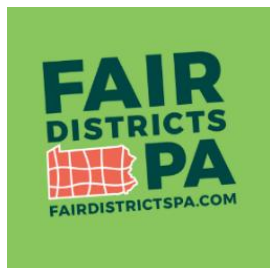
The candidates on your ballot this year are Governor, member of Congress, and State Representatives. We'll let you know who the candidates are once they turn in their paperwork to the Department of State. Nominating petitions begin to circulate on February 17 and face a filing deadline of March 10.

Additionally, this is the year when the parties elect new officers. Republicans, your county officers go on the ballot and precinct committee persons are chosen afterward. Democrats follow the reverse order, with precinct people on your ballot; once they are elected, they choose their officers.

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

Stand with Fair Districts PA to support House Bill 31

It is time to start thinking about redistricting in Pennsylvania. We need the legislation passed



for a nonpartisan independent redistricting commission by 2030 in two separate legislative sessions. Politics should not enter into drawing the district lines, and the present system leaves it to politicians.

Fair Districts Pennsylvania asks that we contact members of the Pennsylvania House by phone, now, including Majority Leader Matthew Bradford, 717-772-2572, and Speaker Joanna McClinton, 717-772-9850. Tell them your Pennsylvania Representative (Paul Takac or Scott Conklin) has signed on as a co-sponsor for HB 31 to create an independent redistricting commission that you support. Ask for

a vote in the State Government Committee and on the House Floor. The bill was referred to the House Government Committee on April 15, 2025. **Learn more:** [Fair Districts – HB 31](#).

—Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Liaison to Fair Districts-Centre

BRANCH SCHOLARSHIPS

AAUW State College presents educational scholarships to deserving undergraduate women each year. The window to apply for 2026 scholarships is now open and will close March 31.



Branch scholarships support women who have interrupted their undergraduate studies for at least two years and are now ready to resume their studies.

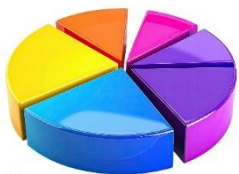
Up to four scholarships will be awarded at our spring Awards & Scholarship Banquet, with amounts ranging from \$3,000 to \$7,000, depending on financial need and circumstances of the recipient.

Please share this information with women who may be interested. Visit the scholarship page for Eligibility requirements: [2026 Branch Scholarships](#).

Leslie Laing, AAUW State College Scholarship Chair

MEMBER FOCUS

Branch members respond to program survey



In December, branch members received a survey about their interests in the branch, and more specifically, branch programs. Forty-eight (48) members responded to the survey. Not all respondents answered all questions. Here is a summary of [responses to the Survey](#):

- Networking with other women (46%), the chance to meet new people (38%), and donating/supporting a cause (67%) or advocating on issues (54%) were priorities to our membership.
- 61% of respondents attended between 1 and 5 meetings/programs throughout the year, and 26% attended more than five. Thirteen percent of respondents did not attend any meetings/programs.
- The biggest reason members do not attend meetings/programs is scheduling. Fifty-nine percent said they are busy during meeting times. When asked if weekend times would

be better than weekdays, 51% of respondents said it depends, while 45% said it made no difference.

- For format of meetings/programs, 45% of respondents preferred hybrid (in person and virtual) while 38% preferred in-person meetings.
- When asked which events they are most likely to attend, 91% indicated the book sale, 59% the holiday party, and 54% the Awards & Scholarship Banquet.

Contact programs@aauwstatecollege.org with your program ideas and get involved!

—Betsy Manlove, AAUW State College Program VP

First branch *Craft Night* to be held Thursday, February 26

AAUW State College's first community craft night will be held at **The Rivet at Discovery Space**, 1224 North Atherton, on **Thursday, February 26th, 7-8:30 pm**.

Craft Night

Feel free to invite a friend to join us. Bring a project you would like to work on while we catch up. Kids are welcome. Light snacks and some extra craft supplies will be available, and

attendees are invited to bring something to share.

—Kat Miller and Angie Hughes, co-organizers

Meet Joanne Bennett – jmbennett4@gmail.com



Joanne, a former AAUW member, is delighted to reconnect with the organization and renew old friendships after spending five years in Pittsburgh. She has been involved with AAUW intermittently for more than 40 years across three states and previously served as AAUW State College Treasurer.

Having raised two wonderful daughters and enjoying two beautiful granddaughters—one of whom has significant special needs—Joanne feels a deep connection to AAUW's mission of "Advancing equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy."

A former Home Science and Special Education teacher, Joanne has also worked in the Overseas Trading division at Fidelity Investments, owned a personal training studio, and served as a Financial Assistant in a local accounting firm. Now happily retired, she enjoys volunteering at the Palmer Museum of Art, participating in the University Women's Club where she is a Past President, and traveling both near and far.

Jackie Esposito honored with Centre County Historical Society Award



*Mary Sorensen, CCHS Executive Director;
Jackie Esposito, CCHS Collections
Management Chair; Roger Williams, CCHS
Board of Governors President; Katie O'Toole,
Chair, CCHS Award Nominations Committee.*

At their January 18 awards presentation, the Centre County Historical Society (CCHS) recognized preservation and advocacy projects from around the county. Included in this group was the CCHS President's Award, presented to AAUW State College Branch member **Jackie Esposito**, for exemplary service to the Centre County Historical Society as its Collections Management Chair.

Jackie's contributions through her ongoing work with interns and staff, and insights as a professional archivist, have exponentially benefited the Historical Society's archives by

increasing their public accessibility. Congratulations, Jackie!

Join us Saturday, March 28 **AAUW State College at 110: Women Taking Charge**

Branch historian Jackie Esposito will give a talk about the history of our branch at the American Philatelic Society, [100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte](#), on **Saturday, March 28, 11 am-12:30 pm**. The event is offered in collaboration with the Centre County Historical Society, and the American Philatelic Society.

AAUW State College celebrates its 110th year as a branch this year.

Brighten a member's birthday this month



Kat Miller – February 9; Connie Schroeder – February 27

It is 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@auwstatecollege.org today.

Time to make a change to access branch calendars?

UPCOMING EVENTS

On the branch website, public events and members-only events can now be separated, but you only need to subscribe

to the members-only calendar to view **both**. Committee meetings and other members-only functions will now be visible only to membership.

If you've subscribed to our public events calendar (<https://aauwstatecollege.org/aauw-events-2/>), I recommend that you switch your subscription to the new version available at <https://aauwstatecollege.org/aauw-member-events/>. Clicking on this link will direct you to log in to our website. If you need a login, contact Angie at technology@aauwstatecollege.org. The link to the member calendar is also available in the Members Only portal.

—Angie Hughes, Technology Committee Chair

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. **RENEW** membership at 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.

ENGAGEMENT: BRANCH & BEYOND

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 list of [ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#).

Committees/interest areas include: Awards; Book Groups; Community Action Grants; Diversity; Education; Marketing & Communications; Membership; Programs; Public Policy; Scholarship; STEM; Technology; Used Book Sale; Used Book Workshop. Most committees/activities need new members, and all welcome your interest. Check us out!

2026 AAUW Atlantic States Regional Conference in Lancaster

September 25-27, 2026; book a room



AAUW Pennsylvania is host of the second [AAUW Atlantic States Regional Conference](#). AAUW members from 13 states will attend! This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and learn from other AAUW members. The hotel room block is now open for the Lancaster Marriott at the

Lancaster Convention Center. Reserve now (don't wait!) to **book your room today:**
bit.ly/AAUWRegionalConferenceSept25-27.

More details, including **program speakers, branch support of registration costs, and travel options**, will be provided in the March bulletin. Stay tuned!

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 share input. See [12-2025 Minutes](#) for the

record of a recent meeting. Join us at our next meeting:

Monday, February 9, 12:00–1:00 pm

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

Zoom meeting link: bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardZoom

Dial-in numbers: [301-715-8592](tel:301-715-8592); **Meeting ID:** 875 1248 8158; **Passcode:** 571829. If dialing in via cell, tap the phone number link and it will auto-dial the meeting ID and passcode.

Branch Bulletin Dates



Submission deadline: **Monday, February 23**

Send to: bulletin@aauwstatecollege.org

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

Issue date: **Monday, March 2**

***Officer Opening: Two Membership Vice-Presidents** working together. Duties include maintaining membership records, welcoming new members, and planning membership-focused activities. **Details about the position:** 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.

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