



Mark Your Calendar

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The Book Workshop is hiring!

While most of the work at our workshop out on High



Tech Road is done by volunteers, we have one paid position that we fill from July through March. Our bins must be emptied **every day** during

donation season. This usually takes about two hours a day; timing is flexible depending on availability as long as the bins get emptied daily.

The Tuesday and Wednesday volunteers also need someone to be available from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm to help donors unload during workshop hours. In the past, this person was the same as our bin emptier, but these positions could be split between two people if necessary.

Employees must be at least 16 years old and have reliable transportation. This role is labor-intensive and requires the ability to lift and shift 30-pound boxes. Pay is \$13/hour, part-time and seasonal. If you know anyone who is interested, or if you have questions,

please contact our daytime workshop leads, Sherry Crassweller and Suzanne Kerlin, at bookworkshop@aauwstatecollege.org. (See related story on the BOOK SALE on page 3.)

Spin to Win for ice cream at the Meyer Dairy Meet-up

Wednesday, August 19, 5:30-7:30 pm



Summer is rapidly coming to a close! We had a fun meet-up earlier this summer for new branch members at [Meyer Dairy](#). We're having a second drop-in/meet-up there for any branch member on **Wednesday, August 19, 5:30-7:00 pm**. If you haven't been there before, the dairy is located at 2390 South Atherton.

To sweeten the pot, we'll play *Spin to Win* for the first 20 members arriving, who will win a discount (\$1, \$3, or \$5) off their ice cream purchase. Stop by the AAUW table first, in the dining area, for a spin!

Mark your calendar: annual branch potluck, Thursday, September 10

The time is here to reconnect with branch members and welcome new members, at our fall



Members Potluck, on **Thursday, September 10, 5:00-7:30 pm**. It will be held at [Orchard Park](#), 1060 Bayberry Drive, State College. This is the only pavilion at the park, near the end of the parking lot off Bayberry, up a short path, adjacent to the basketball court.

Bring your favorite dish, salad, or dessert to share; that is all. Part of the fun of a potluck can be not knowing what everyone is bringing, so we'll skip having a sign-up. Paper products, utensils, and beverages will be provided. As usual, there will be fabulous door prizes. **Door prize contributions are welcome!** If you have something you would like to contribute, please contact Betsy Manlove at programs@aauwstatecollege.org.

Half-Price Membership for new members who join at the potluck

Invite a friend or colleague to come with you if they are interested in becoming an AAUW member. We will have applications there, and by using a coupon code, their membership dues will be half-price (\$48.00) for the first year. **Share this link:** bit.ly/AAUWSCMembership

Branch members pitch in for community at annual Arts Festival



Left, Jackie Esposito and Chriss Schultz helped staff the first day of the festival. Right, Carmen Vanderhoof and Angie Hughes take a

Our branch participation, staffing the Info Booth at July's 60th Annual Arts Festival, featured the fun of greeting Arts Fest goers, answering lots of questions, selling water, seeing old friends, encountering some very unexpected circumstances, and a surprise at the end.

Jackie Esposito, branch liaison to the festival, tells the story best with her [Arts Fest Diary](#). Jackie has served as branch liaison to the Arts Fest for many years and does a marvelous job scheduling all the branch volunteers and fulfilling other duties required for a well-run volunteer project.

At the close of the festival, Jackie learned from Arts Fest leadership that in 2027, new information booths will be debuted. For the first time, an AAUW State College banner will grace the front of the booth. In recognition of our many years of superior volunteering, the cost of being a banner sponsor will be waived. What a lovely way to end the festival!

BOOK WORKSHOP & SALE

Book workshop reopens to outpouring of book donations



A book donor and her mother unload books for donation.



After three weeks of donations, book donations filled the front third of the workshop, and volunteers scrambled to clear a path.



Above, branch member Amy Wilson helps unload books from bins.

The AAUW State College Used Book Workshop, 2197 High Tech Road (located across from the airport), opened not quite a month ago, and donations have been heavy since Day 1! A busy crew of volunteers work there during open hours—culling, sorting, and pricing.

Over the summer, the workshop is open for volunteers **Mondays 5:30-7:30 and Tuesdays/Wednesday 9 am-12 pm**. Stop in and check it out! Next year's sale runs **May 15-18, 2027**), and there is lots of work to do to prepare for the sale.

Interested in helping plan the 2027 sale?

Our fabulous co-chair, Mary Ann Blair, is stepping back to focus on sponsorship and support. Kat Miller will be co-chairing again and is looking for at least one more person to help coordinate sale logistics. There are lots of opportunities to get involved on a smaller scale, too.

Book sale chairs attend monthly board meetings, meet regularly throughout the year to plan and schedule for the May event, and coordinate with the workshop chairs and volunteers to make updates and changes to how the event develops.



In addition to being a fun and beloved community activity, the book sale raises most of the money that fuels our branch initiatives, community and STEM grant pools, and event programming. If you're interested in co-chairing or finding out about other opportunities to get more involved, please email booksale@aauwstatecollege.org.

Kat Miller, AAUW State College Book Sale Co-Chair

DIVERSITY

Community Diversity Conference focuses on inclusion

Several AAUW State College members, who are also members of the Community Diversity Group, participated in their annual diversity conference on June 29. In case you missed the conference, to follow are videos of the breakout sessions: [Sustainability & AI](#) by Peter Buck; [Equity Roadmaps & Accountability](#) by Leslie Pearson; [LGBTQ Trends & Trickle-down Effects](#) by Sonya Wilmoth. Thank you, Community Diversity Group, for all you do.

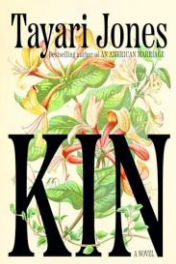
Community Diversity Group Potluck planned for Thursday, August 13



As a friend and supporter of the Community Diversity Group, AAUW State College members are warmly welcomed to the annual CDG picnic! It will be held Thursday, August 13, at Holmes-Foster Park Pavilion #2, (lower pavilion off Westerly Parkway), **5:30-7:00 pm**. CDG will supply drinks and paper goods; please bring your favorite dish to share! Make your [PICNIC RSVP HERE](#) to assist with planning. Family and friends are welcome!

Share: [CDG picnic flyer](#). **Questions?** Contact [Naana Nti](#).

¡Adelante! Book Club: Thursday, Sept. 24, 2:30-3:30 pm



The next *¡Adelante!* meet-up will be held **Thursday, September 24, 2:30-3:30 pm**, via Zoom. We will discuss ***Kin*** by Tayari Jones. It is a 2026 historical fiction novel exploring female friendship, family, and the Jim Crow South. Learn more from the [NPR interview with Tayari Jones](#).

Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/AdelanteBC>. **Questions?** [Deb Smith](#).

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

PUBLIC POLICY

Branch to co-sponsor voter education program with League of Women Voters-Centre County - Sunday, September 13, location TBA

On Sunday, September 13, AAUW State College will host **Why Should I Vote?** in collaboration with the League of Women Voters-Centre County, **2:00–5:00 pm**, location TBA. This event will feature speakers, panelists, a table with information about the voting process, where our taxes go, and public resources in Centre County, and more. This is a family-friendly event with trivia games and prizes for attendees and participants of all ages.



If you are interested in getting involved in this event, please contact the AAUW State College Program VP, Sophie Penney Leach, at programs@aauwstatecollege.org. In addition to planning, we will be looking for volunteers available between 1:00 and 6:00 pm (an hour before opening and an hour after closing the event) to staff an AAUW information table and help staff coordinate the larger event.

Share flyer: [September 13 Why Should I Vote? event flyer](#)

AAUW partners with League of Women Voters for *Unite & Rise for Voting Rights Day of Action* on Saturday, August 8

AAUW is proud to support the League of Women Voters' [Unite & Rise for Voting Rights Day of Action](#) on August 8, a national, nonpartisan call to civic action honoring the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. Advocates across the country will come together to educate about what's at stake, encourage turnout, and defend the freedom to vote.



An [August 6 virtual pep rally](#) will be held to inspire action in our community, which could be a great starting point for our participation in the **September 13 Why Should I Vote?** event described above.

Two-Minute Activist: Join AAUW in the fight for gender equity



AAUW's **Two-Minute Activist** provides everything you need to contact your members of Congress and your state legislators about pressing issues regarding economic security, education, and civil rights for women. Join the [AAUW Two-Minute Activist](#).

MEMBER FOCUS

Updates for branch member directory sought by August 12

Work is underway to publish an updated membership directory for 2026-2027. The printed version will be a bit different this year, focusing on member contact information. We would like to know your contact information preferences.



If you are OK with including your member contact information from the 2024-2025 directory, you needn't take any action. However, if there are changes or additions, please complete this form by **Wednesday, August 12**.

Update form: <https://forms.gle/4oThKTdMo1cGa2jv5>

Questions? Contact us at handbook@aauwstatecollege.org.

Engage with the branch by becoming active on a committee!

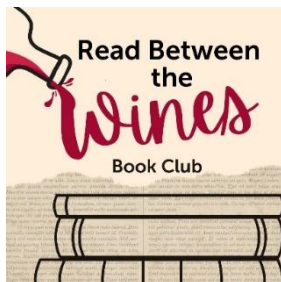


If you are not currently “engaged” with the branch, or would like to shift directions, check out the [ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#).

ONLINE BRANCH EVENTS CALENDAR: [Online Calendar](#)

Need a log-in? Contact Angie, technology@aauwstatecollege.org

Hosts Needed for *Read Between the Wines*



Are you willing to open your home for a book club meeting?

The Membership Committee would like to resume *Read Between the Wines*, but we need host homes. If you can be a host, please contact Candace Davison and Kerry Smith at membership@aauwstatecollege.org.

Sew it Forward pop-up workshop offered Wednesday, August 5 State College Borough Building, 6:30-8:30 pm



Have you always wanted to learn how to sew? Or do you already sew, but would love to be part of a local community knowledge exchange? AAUW State College is sponsoring a free sewing workshop exploring the basics and creating a small sewing project, held in the State College Borough Building Community Room (second floor).

Experienced sewers from AAUW SC will guide an informal session. You can also bring a project in progress and work alongside others. The workshop is open to the public and space is

limited, so please [REGISTER](#) today. **Share:** [August 5 Sew it Forward event flyer](#).
Questions? Contact branch member [Carmen Vanderhoof](#).

AAUW membership renewals

Total annual dues are \$96. This includes AAUW National dues of \$76 (or \$18.81 for students, and \$1,520 for lifetime) are all fully tax deductible. AAUW Pennsylvania dues are \$12; and AAUW State College are \$8. To renew, please follow these step-by-step directions: [MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL](#).

Membership
Matters

Candace Davison and Kerry Smith, AAUW State College Membership VPs

NEW MEMBER WELCOME



Caryl Byrne – carylbyrne@gmail.com

I have appreciated AAUW's contributions to our community and am happy to be joining the efforts. I moved to State College when I was 13; I'm a retired nurse. Over the years I have been involved in local and statewide groups, focusing on issues of healthcare affordability and access as well as broader social justice issues.

Most recently I have participated in Nittany NOW and Remote Area Medical. One of the group experiences I found most gratifying was the local Interfaith and Community Coalition Against Violence, a group that began in response to the Columbine shootings.



Sue Cromwell – sec10@comcast.net

As a champion of change and people, I have focused my career on helping people and organizations thrive. As an educator, trainer, consultant, I have gained experience and wisdom from the people and organizations I've served. I understand how successful organizational development and change management practices contribute to organizational excellence and success.

I received my Ph.D. from Penn State in Workforce Education and Development with an emphasis in leadership development/organization development. Throughout my career I have led change initiatives, leadership and management development, talent management, strategic planning, organizational development, and training. I retired from Penn State as Senior Director of Organizational Excellence and Engagement.

In post-retirement, I help for-profit and nonprofit organizations navigate change, develop leaders, and plan for the future. I serve on several nonprofit boards and enjoy life with family

and friends, traveling, biking, and golfing for fun! I have always wanted to be involved with AAUW, and when I retired, I finally had the opportunity to join. The AAUW mission attracted me as well as the great people who are part of this group.



Maya Dalton – maydalton21@gmail.com

Hi! I was born and raised in West Virginia, received my Bachelor's from Wake Forest University in North Carolina, and a Master's from Penn State, both in Political Science. I recently earned a Ph.D. in Political Science and Social Data Analytics from Penn State. This fall, I start my full-time job at the Applied Research Lab (ARL) as a Research Data Scientist.

In my free time, I enjoy reading, crocheting, scrapbooking, crafting, video games, and working on various puzzle books. I joined AAUW to find a sense of community here in State College with like-minded individuals after volunteering at the Used Book Sale and am passionate about empowering women in higher education.



Marian Fritzsche – marian.c.fritzsche@gmail.com

I moved to State College almost 11 years ago, from Putnam County, NY, to be near my son and his family. Interested in getting involved, I am currently teaching line dancing classes at the Active Adult Center and through Centre Region Parks and Rec; volunteering with OLLI as a teacher, Social Committee Chair, and Leadership Committee member; Soroptimist International of Centre County member and on the North Atlantic Region Board; a member

of Women's Welcome Club and President 2024-2027; active in University Women's Club; and on the Blue Course Ladies Golf League, serving as treasurer.

While volunteering at the AAUW Book Sale, I learned more about this group's other activities and was very impressed at how much they accomplish! I retired as a high school mathematics teacher 15 years ago and love the focus on supporting women's equity and STEM education. I am eager to help the club continue its mission in the community.



Kristen Hanna – kristensedor@yahoo.com

Hello, University Women! My name is Kristen Hanna, and I am a returning AAUW member after more than 10 years away.

I am a 2001 alum of Susquehanna University and spent more than 20 years in digital and communication strategy. After the pandemic, I changed careers and now work with children on the spectrum as a para at Radio Park Elementary School. Working with special needs has strengthened my desire to help individuals reach their full potential. Rejoining AAUW is a great way to give back to my community and channel my passion for helping others.

As for me personally, I love reading novels, listening to nonfiction audiobooks, crafting whimsical art and projects, and spending time with my daughter, Lillian (a future university woman!), my husband, Scott, and our bubbly Boston Terrier, Olive.



Renee Steffensmeier – rhoffsteff@gmail.com

Although the mission of AAUW—advancing gender equity—has always been very important to me, it is only now that I have time to participate. I am looking forward to helping with the book workshop and making new friends.

I taught sociology for over 30 years at PSU-Altoona, retiring early to care for my daughter for 25 years. She is enjoying good health now and recently married, and I am building a newly independent life.

Upon arrival in town in 1975, I immediately became involved in the Women’s Resource Center volunteering on the hotline, shepherding domestic violence victims to safe homes, and accompanying them to the District Justice to obtain a PFA. Most recently, I spent nine years on the board of The HOME (Housing Opportunities Made Equitable) Foundation. It is the non-profit partner of Housing Transitions that rehabs homes for sale to low-income, first-time home buyers. I have been a member since about 2013 of 100 Women Who Care, and after the founder stepped back, I assumed leadership for several years.

BRANCH GRANT RECIPIENT EVENT

Summer concert and bake sale to support MSLC August 9



Mid-State Literacy Council invites us to a fun end-of-summer concert with [La Fiesta Band](#) and bake sale fundraiser at the South Hills School of Business & Technology summer concert, 480 Waupelani Drive, on the North Lawn. It will be held **Sunday, August 9, 6:00 pm**. Share flyer: [Aug 9 MSLC fundraiser](#).

AAUW BEYOND THE BRANCH

AAUW State College member Ann Echols installed as AAUW Pennsylvania President



Last month, branch member Ann Echols began her two-year term as AAUW Pennsylvania President. Congratulations and best wishes, Ann! She has been a member of AAUW State College since 2014, when she served as branch treasurer. She was also AAUW Pennsylvania finance director from 2021 to 2025 and is now serving as treasurer for the 2026 AAUW Atlantic Regional

Conference. Ann is a retired college professor who taught various business courses and designed a graduate course in nonprofit management.

AAUW national board represents...all of us

We have AAUW friends and colleagues in every state, with the same successes and challenges in their branches that our branch experiences. That common ground will be in sharp focus at the regional AAUW conference in Lancaster on September 25-27 (details in following story). AAUW SC member Cindy Hall has recently joined the national board and shares the following inside view of the national board at work.



Front row left to right: Sandi Gabe, Monique Taylor, Kathleen Mars, Melissa LaDuke, Christine Schmitz. **Back row:** Pat Ashe, Malinda Gaul, Dianne Owens, Hope Bennett, Hope Ricciotti, Aaliyah El. Amin, Anna Nygren, Cindy Hall. **Missing from photo:** Auntaneshia Staveloz, Mayida Zaal.

The 15-member AAUW National Board of Directors hail from many states. Several of the directors have both branch and state board experience. The board members come from a broad range of

professions. As board members roll off the board, others may be recruited to fill gaps in needed expertise. Directors are chosen by what they can bring to the board's deliberations and the future of AAUW. Board members serve a three-year term and in most cases are eligible for one more term. Directors sit on at least one committee or chair a committee.

Cindy is chairing the Nominating Committee this year. Cindy served two terms as AAUW Pennsylvania President, two terms as State College Co-President, with Victoria Sanchez and Sally Kalin, and is co-chair of the 2026 Atlantic States Regional Conference this September.

September 25-27 AAUW Atlantic States Regional Conference open for registration; conference gear available through August 31



AAUW Pennsylvania is host of the second [AAUW Atlantic States Regional Conference](#). AAUW members from 13 states will attend. Please consider attending. If you have not already registered, make sure to do so today: [Conference Registration](#). AAUW gear for the conference is now available, whether you are planning to attend it or not. Included are some very nice shirts, totes, and more. Gear must be ordered by August 31. **Check it out:** [Conference Gear](#).

BRANCH BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Next branch board meeting: Monday, August 10, 12:00 noon – open!

Monthly branch board meetings are open to all branch members and are held on the second



Monday of each month. In person, the meeting is held in the College Twp. Council Room (second floor), 1481 East College Avenue, State College. Or you can attend virtually via **Zoom**:

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.

MEET the 2026-2027 AAUW STATE COLLEGE BOARD of DIRECTORS

The *Branch Bulletin* is issued the first Monday of the month



Submissions for the **September 7** issue are due **August 31** to bulletin@aauwstatecollege.org. Submissions of personal achievements or interests are also welcome.

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. We have applied for 5-Star certification for 2025-2026.

The State College Association of University Women is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, committed to transparency. For our most recent IRS 990 form: info@aauwstatecollege.org.