

## September-October Events

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## Annual branch potluck, Orchard Park Thursday, September 10, 5:00 pm



The time is here to reconnect with branch members and welcome new members, at our fall Member 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. It is near the end of the parking lot off Bayberry, and up a short path to the left of 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, contact me at [programs@aauwstatecollege.org](mailto:programs@aauwstatecollege.org).

Betsy Manlove, AAUW State College Program Co-VP

## Half-Price Membership for new members

Invite a friend or colleague to come with you if they are interested in becoming an AAUW member! During the potluck, membership dues will be half-price (\$48.00) for the first year. **Share this link:**

[bit.ly/AAUWSCMembership](http://bit.ly/AAUWSCMembership).



## Branch Ts still available!

We still have some branch Ts left from our order last fall, and some older inventory too. Check out the supply and [purchase online](#), then pick up at the **Used Book Workshop** (during workshop hours), the **September 10 potluck**, or the **October 15 Cider & Donuts** gathering.

# PUBLIC POLICY

Join us Sunday, September 13, for **Why Should I Vote?**

Co-sponsored by AAUW SC and League of Women Voters-Centre County

On Sunday, September 13, AAUW State College will host **Why Should I Vote?** in collaboration with the League of Women Voters of Centre County. It will be held **2:00–5:00 pm** at the Active Adult Center/Mall Commons in the Nittany Mall (Entrance A at the Rural King end).



This event will feature speakers, panelists, a table with information about the voting process, where our taxes go, public resources in Centre County, and more. It is a family-friendly event with trivia games and prizes for attendees and participants of all ages.

**We need volunteers to staff the AAUW info table at the event!** If you can help, contact [Kat Miller](#) to let her know about your availability. **We need help between 1:00 and 6:00 pm** (includes an hour before opening and an hour after closing).

**Share Info Sheet:** [9-13 Why Should I Vote? info](#) **Share Flyer:** [9-13 Why Should I Vote? flyer](#)  
**Schedule of speakers/panel discussion:** [aauwstatecollege.org/vote/](http://aauwstatecollege.org/vote/)

*Kat Miller, Public Policy Committee*

## Election 2024: Things to Consider to Protect Your Vote

*Thank you to Dianne Gregg (and Mary and Catherine Dupuis for their assistance) in writing this very comprehensive piece for the AAUW State College Public Policy Committee. We all must ensure that our vote this November counts, and this step-by-step guide provides the tools to do that. Take the time to read the full article, via either of the links below. This guide is dated 9-4-2026. Additional updates will be shared as soon as they become available.--Editor*



Pennsylvania will be a target state for election interference because the stakes are higher here than anywhere else in the country. We have four Congressional seats that are generally acknowledged as inclined to flip from red to blue, and another where a flip is possible. These seats taken together are more than enough to change control of the U.S. House of Representatives from Republican to Democrat.

Everybody in the hands-on political world knows this, so careful planning has been underway for some time. This column is not concerned with the planning that the political parties and campaigns are involved in. This column is concerned with how you can best ensure your vote counts, regardless of who you intend to vote for. What follows is advice on how to avoid the drama. Then we'll address the various conspiracy theories that are confusing people.

**Read now:** [bit.ly/2026ProtectingYourVote](http://bit.ly/2026ProtectingYourVote) OR [2026-ProtectingYourVote](#)

## Who is on your ballot this fall?

[StateCollege.com](https://statecollege.com) did a nice job of profiling candidates on your ballot immediately following the primary. We are reprinting their article: [On the Ballot in Centre County](#). The only race they did not cover was for Governor. Incumbent Governor Josh Shapiro, Democrat, faces current State Treasurer Stacy Garrity, Republican. Shapiro's running mate is Austin Davis, currently Lt. Governor. Their campaign website is <https://joshshapiro.org>. Garrity's running mate is Jason Richey, currently a lawyer in Pittsburgh. Their campaign website is <https://garrityforpa.com>.



The main issue in the race so far is construction of AI data centers. Both candidates support some restrictions on development of new centers. The issue is viewed negatively by large majorities of voters across party lines.

*Dianne Gregg, Mary Dupuis, and Catherine Dupuis  
Writing for the Public Policy Committee*

## What to know about the new federal school voucher program

A new federal voucher program for states is part of the Big Beautiful Bill Act. The federal voucher program is an opt-in by the governors of each state. The official name is The Trump Federal Tax Credit Scholarship Program. It is funded with tax dollars diverted from the federal Treasury. The result is that money out of the U.S. Treasury will be used by private and religious schools, so it will be unavailable to public schools. States will have little authority to oversee the spending, so cannot prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. The final rules are proposed to be available in September but are not expected to be complete.



Pennsylvania already has two voucher programs that are primarily benefiting wealthy families who already send their children to private schools. All these voucher programs siphon off tax dollars that could fund public schools. This program would make fewer dollars available for public schools and would not benefit children from lower-income families.

Governor Josh Shapiro is receiving pressure from private schools to opt into this program. Please call the governor's office at (717) 787-2500 to express concern and ask Governor Shapiro to opt out of this program. For the full report from Education Voters PA on what we know (and don't know) about the Trump School Voucher program, visit [Trump's Federal Voucher Program](#).



**EDUCATION VOTERS**  
of Pennsylvania

*Sue Johnston, Education Committee*

## AAUW State College Public Policy Committee forms new book club

The AAUW State College Public Policy Committee is starting a book club dedicated to public policies, histories, and lived experiences that shape women's lives—from reproductive rights and labor policy to political representation, healthcare, and beyond.



Our first meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 11, at 5:00 pm**, in the **Schlow Library Community Room**. Together, we'll read a book (fiction or nonfiction) that digs into these themes, then come together for a lively discussion. Whether you're a policy buff, a lifelong reader, or just someone

who wants to learn more and connect with others who care about these issues, you're welcome here.

**What to expect:** One book per quarter/season, picked collaboratively, in-person meet-up on **Wednesday, November 11, 5 pm, in the Schlow Library Community Room**; a supportive, thoughtful space for dialogue; all perspectives welcome; no prior policy expertise required, just curiosity and an open mind!

Please complete this [form](#) to vote on a book and share your interest by **September 20** and let us know of any other topics or books for future meetings!

**Form Link:** <https://forms.gle/gXGHdgnb8YTALA597>.

*Maya Dalton, AAUW State College Public Policy Book Club*

## BOOK WORKSHOP & SALE

### 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; the hours are flexible so long as the donation bins get emptied daily.



The Tuesday/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 two 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, contact Sherry Crassweller and Suzanne Kerlin, [bookworkshop@aauwstatecollege.org](mailto:bookworkshop@aauwstatecollege.org).



## Book workshop: full speed ahead

Summer donations for our [May 15-18, 2027, Used Book Sale](#) were very heavy. Several days, there have been 20-25 volunteers working—culling, sorting, and pricing—just to keep up.



**Fall hours for volunteering:**

**Mondays**  
5:30-7:30 pm

**Tuesdays-  
Wednesdays**  
9:00 am-2:30 pm

**Left to right:** Daytime workshop co-lead Sherry Crassweller keeps busy pricing children's books while overseeing volunteers; Star Campbell culls and packs books with friend Diane Kalata; Morgen Hummel and Martha Hummel work together in the recycling area.

Learn more: <https://aauwstatecollege.org/volunteer-at-ubs/>.

## Join the leadership team for the 2027 used book sale

Thank you to **Kat Miller**, who has agreed to be a Used Book Sale co-chair again! Her passion and commitment to the sale are inspiring. Kat also works two jobs and has other important priorities. We must enlist a few more members to pitch in and exercise their leadership muscles. Obviously, teamwork is the key to running a large event like the book sale.



*This event is a successful, well-oiled machine with 65 years of history to inform us. It is also critical to the work of AAUW State College, funding our branch initiatives, community and STEM grant pools, and more. Without the sale, these would all be in jeopardy. --Editor*

We are still seeking a co-chair for the 2027 sale. If you are interested in getting more involved, or in taking on a smaller targeted role in planning next year's event, please contact [booksale@aauwstatecollege.org](mailto:booksale@aauwstatecollege.org).

*Kat Miller, Used Book Sale Co-Chair*

## Book Workshop Tour: Sunday, Oct. 4, 11:00 am-2:00 pm



Great news! We are opening the Used Book Workshop on **October 4** for public tours. This is a terrific opportunity to show the public what goes on behind the scenes as we prepare for the May sale, and to help people understand the importance of the sale in our community.

We seek book workshop volunteers to greet people, show them around, explain where the money raised at the sale goes, and answer questions. We will provide 2027 sale bookmarks and refreshments. If you can help, please sign up on the [Tour Guide Sign-up](#). **Share:** [10-4 Book Workshop Tour flyer](#).

*Dina Liberatore, Used Book Workshop Co-Lead*

## AUGUST MEET-UPS

### August 5 *Sew It Forward* inspires many; second session planned



*Above, Dina Liberatore works with a student.*

*When branch member Carmen Vanderhoof learned that a number of ESL students at Mid-State Literacy Council were interested in learning how to sew, she set up a class and recruited some branch members and others to serve as trainers. Twenty-two people enrolled (though not all were able to attend). State College Borough donated classroom space and, with the Community Diversity Group, helped advertise the class.*

*To start the session, branch Co-President Carline Crevecoeur delivered some very powerful [Welcoming Remarks](#), explaining how the mission of AAUW and sewing is more than just women's work. Learning to sew is empowering! --Editor*

We taught people how to sew on a machine for the first time, using fabric scraps and lots of



*Sue Hiester (in pink) oversees measuring and cutting.*

encouragement. We also unpacked people's perfectionism and normalized having to rip out seams and sew again if needed.

We made pillowcases to be donated to children in hospitals:

[caseforsmiles.org/](https://caseforsmiles.org/). Many people said they have been looking for a sewing class or a reason to start sewing again. Many just needed

encouragement. Everyone worked at

their own pace and shared materials. The volunteers were amazing in donating their time and materials. The best part of the program was that it was open to the public and intergenerational. We got to meet new people and invite them to join AAUW or to attend our coming events. For the next session (info below), **we need more sewing machines (just on**



loan during the session), even if you are not interested in being an instructor. Last time, about half of the participants did not bring a machine. Contact [Carmen Vanderhoof](#) if you can help with that. **We could also use a few more instructors.** At the October 7 session



**Left:** Member Patty Doty (right) explains the basics to eager students.



**Right:** Students are proud of their completed pillow cases.

we will make [tote bags](#) and ask participants to bring projects in progress. **Please invite others to join us:** [10-7 Sew It Forward II flyer](#).

If you need fabric, we suggest [Scraps & Skeins](#) in State College, a creative reuse shop selling knitting and sewing supplies

donated by the community. Proceeds benefit Strawberry Fields, who received the AAUW State College Gateway to Equity award in 2025.

*Carmen Vanderhoof, Sew It Forward organizer*

**Sew it Forward, Part II - Sign up Today:** [REGISTER](#)

**Wednesday, October 7, 5:30-7:30 pm**

State College Municipal Bldg. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Community Room

## August 19 Ice Cream Social hits a sweet spot



*Left to right: new members Yaa Anima, Renee Hoffman Steffensmeir, Candace Davison (Membership Co-VP), Maya Dalta, Marian Fritzsche.*



The August 19 Ice Cream Meet-up at Meyer Dairy was held as an opportunity for new members to get to know each other, and they were joined by several other branch members.

Participants played *Spin to Win* to receive discounts off their ice cream. Sweet! We hope to see you at *Cider & Donuts*, planned for October 15 (see page 9).

# COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS

## Applications accepted now for branch community action grants

Applications for AAUW State College Community Action Grants are now open and will close



**November 1, 2026.** Centre County nonprofits with a focus on advancing equity for women and girls are encouraged to apply. In 2026, we awarded **\$65,000 to 13 local organizations.** Funds for selected organizations in the next cycle will be distributed in **January 2027.** Learn more and apply: <https://aauwstatecollege.org/community-action-grants/>.

## DIVERSITY

## International Equal Pay Day is September 18, 2026

International Equal Pay Day is the day that the average working woman earns the same amount of money that a man earned in 2025. It takes an additional 9 months to make up that pay gap.

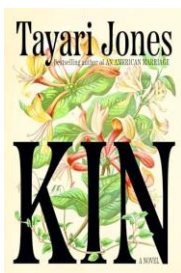


Equal Pay Days are always hard for me, personally. We need to highlight them and bring them to light, but often I feel they just showcase how much more work we need to do. I am proud to be a member of AAUW, who has been at the forefront of highlighting and addressing this disparity. Please

take a few minutes and learn more about International Equal Pay Day:

[International Equal Pay Day—National Today](#); [International Equal Pay Day—United Nations](#)

## *¡Adelante!* Book Club: Thursday, September 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](#).

## CEW Lunch - *Making Our Voices Heard: Increasing Women's Participation in Public Office*: Thursday, October 8



The Community Diversity Group (CDG) and AAUW State College will host the Cultural Empowerment for Women (CEW) a lunch and panel discussion on **October 8**. The panel program following lunch is ***Making Our Voices Heard: Increasing Women's Participation in Public Office***, featuring local women



who have served in elected office or helped in elections. They will share their experiences and offer advice for anyone considering a run or helping elect other women to public office.

It will be held **11:30 am–2:00 pm** at The Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center. This event is open to the public. The **cost of lunch is \$23 by mail, and reservations are due October 1**. You can pay \$25 online or at the door but must RSVP by October 1. Register at [CEW Lunch Registration](#) today. **Share flyer:** [10-8-2026 CEW Lunch flyer](#).

Panelists include **Betsy Blizard Whitman**, Chair, Patton Township Board of Supervisors; Chair, Centre Region Council of Governments; Recruiter, campaign/application advisor, mentor for local government elected and appointed positions; **Amber Conception**, Centre County Commissioner; and Mia Petrunyak, Campaign Manager for a U.S. Congressional race.

In other CDG news, all are invited to the **September 24 program** of [Cultural Conversations](#).

*Branch Diversity Committee: Denise Rupert and Naana Nti (Co-Chairs),  
Linda Higginson, Sophie Penney Leach, Maria Schmidt, Melissa Landrau Vega*

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Plan to join us for **A Branch Cider & Donuts (A-B-C-D!)**



**Boalsburg Fire Hall, Thursday, October 15, 6-8 pm**

Join old friends and new members for a meeting/mixer and hear from your branch committees about upcoming projects and programs. Enjoy famous, old-fashioned Way Fruit Farm apple cider donuts and hot or cold cider. Gluten-free options will be available. We will gather in the Boalsburg Fire Hall, 113 East Pine Street, Boalsburg.

## Membership Committee seeks members

The Membership Co-Chairs are forming a committee to assist with membership activities.



Upcoming activities include the cider and donuts meeting and mixer; holiday party at University Wine Company; a retro luncheon; and annual banquet. The time commitment is not huge and is a great way to meet members. Please contact Candace Davison and Kerry Smith at [membership@aauwstatecollege.org](mailto:membership@aauwstatecollege.org) if you are willing to help.

**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 Hughes, [technology@aauwstatecollege.org](mailto:technology@aauwstatecollege.org)

### AAUW State College membership renewals

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

Membership  
Matters

*Candace Davison and Kerry Smith, AAUW State College Membership VPs*

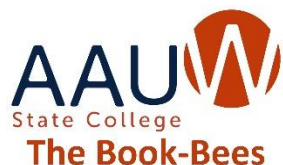
## OUT & ABOUT

*Out & About features some activities of groups receiving STEM or Community Action Grants from AAUW State College, or whose work aligns with our mission.*

### Mid-State Literacy Council Updates

**Cheer on the AAUW State College spelling team at the MSLC Spelling Bee:  
Wednesday, September 30, 6:00 pm**

Once again, AAUW State College will be participating in the annual Mid-State Literacy Council Spelling Bee! It will be held *in-person* this year at the State College Municipal Building, in the Community Room (Room 201).



This year's team, ***The Book-Bees***, includes branch members **Martha Hummel** (at 93, still going strong), daughter **Morgen Hummel**, and new team member **Carmen Vanderhoof**. Previously, *The Book-Bees* have either won the bee or were named runners-up. They are a force to be reckoned with.

This is a very fun community event that raises funds for MSLC's adult literacy programs. **The Book-Bees will be thrilled to see branch members in the audience, and if you go, be sure to wear your AAUW T-shirt if you have one!**



### MSLC seeks volunteers for Barnes & Noble Book Fair Committee

Currently, Mid-State Literacy Council is seeking volunteers to assist with the **November 21-22 Barnes & Noble Book Fair**. Monthly meetings run now through December. Volunteers will help recruit local authors, speakers, and community groups for the event, and assist with event logistics. Your time will

help MSLC provide literacy education and support to 300+ local adults, including adult learners, GED students, English Language Learners, and more.

**Book Fair Committee Details:** [MSLC Barnes & Noble Book Fair Committee](#).

**Contact:** MSLC Executive Director Bridget Schell, [bschell@mid-stateliteracycouncil.org](mailto:bschell@mid-stateliteracycouncil.org).

**Learn more:** <http://www.mid-stateliteracycouncil.org/events>.

## Friday, October 2, Free STEM Day for middle-schoolers *Volunteers needed!*



On October 2, AAUW State College is supporting this wonderful STEM event, which will be held at the State College YMCA (677 West Whitehall Road, State College). It is a lead-in to the **October 3-4** [Maker Faire Happy Valley](#) event, sponsored by Discovery Space and The Rivet.

The October 2 event runs **9 am-3 pm**, and **we will need many volunteers, 8 am-4 pm. Shifts run 1-3 hours.** I am leading the charge to help engage folks to participate. We are using the big gym and community room inside plus the outdoor hockey rink. **Volunteer duties include:**

- Meeting buses as they arrive
- Assisting at the information table
- Guiding student groups through the various activities
- Chaperoning lunch

The activities planned are super cool, and I know the participating schools are getting very excited about this great event. We've already had some wonderful [press coverage](#).

**Learn more:** [October 2 STEM Day Event](#). **Share Flyer:** [Volunteering at Oct 2 STEM Day](#).

Please text, email or call me ASAP at [STEMday@DiscoverySpace.org](mailto:STEMday@DiscoverySpace.org) if you can help.

[Catherine Dupuis](#), cell: 646-320-5852, landline: 814-355-2768

## Constitution Day Celebration to be held Saturday, October 3



This year's Constitution Day Celebration will be held at the Delta High School in State College, **10:00 am-2:30 pm**, lunch is provided. **Bring friends and family for civil conversations:**

- Is basic health care a right?
- What are Second Amendment rights for the 21st Century?
- Are there privacy rights in a digital world?

**Register:** [info@constitutiondaycentre.org](mailto:info@constitutiondaycentre.org) **Share:** [10-3 Constitution Day flyer](#)



# AAUW BEYOND THE BRANCH

## Last Call! September 25-27 AAUW Atlantic States Regional Conference open for registration



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](#). To date, 18 branch members have signed up to attend the AAUW Atlantic States Regional Conference. They will return with highlights to share!

# BRANCH BEHIND-THE-SCENES

## Next board meeting: Monday, September 14, 12:00-1:00 pm



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 attend virtually via Zoom: [bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardZoom](https://bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardZoom).

## MEET the 2026-2027 AAUW STATE COLLEGE BOARD of DIRECTORS

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.

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



Submissions for the October *Branch Bulletin* are due **September 21** (a week earlier than usual) to [bulletin@auwstatecollege.org](mailto:bulletin@auwstatecollege.org). Submissions of personal achievements or interests are also welcome. The issue date is **October 5**.

## 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@auwstatecollege.org](mailto:info@auwstatecollege.org).*