

October-November Events

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Join us for Sew It Forward II:

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

As shared previously, there was a wonderful response to our first *Sew It Forward* session on August 5, where people learned how to sew on a sewing machine for the first time. It was an empowering experience for first-time sewers, and a handful of branch members served as trainers. We have scheduled a second session for **Wednesday, October 7**, which will be held in the **State College Municipal Building, Room 201**.

We received a generous donation of a very serviceable sewing machine and some great fabric from Rus Moroz, a book donor who also cleans out houses through his business, [RDI Cleanouts](#). If you need a house cleaned out, check them out!

We are still in need of a few more sewing machines. Contact [Carmen Vanderhoof](#), *Sew It Forward* organizer, today if you have a sewing machine to use at the session and/or if you can be a trainer there. We will make [tote bags](#). Participants are asked to bring their own fabric and there will also be some fabric there. They may also bring their own projects.

Flyer: [10-7 Sew It Forward](#) **REGISTER:** [Sew 10/7](#)

Carmen Vanderhoof, Sew It Forward Coordinator

AAUW is about building community—one conversation, one project, and maybe even one stitch at a time. Yes, we advocate for public policy. Yes, we support women in higher education and work toward closing the gender pay gap. But we also believe in creating spaces where women can connect, learn, encourage one another, and simply enjoy being together. Community matters, and programs like this help build it.

—Carline Crevecoeur, AAUW SC Branch Co-President

SEPTEMBER POTLUCK

September 10 Potluck brings out a crowd



Our September 10 member potluck was a fun evening at Orchard Park, led by Program VPs **Betsy Manlove** and **Sophie Penney-Leach**. About 30 members attended, including five new members. The potluck was the perfect place to catch up with old friends and make some new ones.

Left: Marketing and Communications Co-VP **Dina Liberatore** hung a new branch banner. It did a terrific job promoting our group to parkgoers.



Left to right: 1) Members line up to complete a ticket to win a door prize. Betsy Manlove's perennial elderberry jam won top honors; 2) 2026 Book Sale Co-Chairs Mary Ann Blair and Kat Miller enjoy the chance to catch up since the sale; 3) Carolyn Donaldson displays the 2026 Arts Fest Ts for Children's Day that were funded through an AAUW State College Community Action Grant.



Happy to be there: Kristen Hanna, Sophie Penney-Leach, Carmen Vanderhoof, Marjory Price.

Right: Something tickled Joanne Bennett's funny bone; we're just not sure what. Maybe Amy Wilson (seated, facing camera) could tell us.



September 13 *Why Should I Vote?* provided networking opportunity



AAUW State College members kept busy talking to attendees and members of other groups represented. Pictured: Mary Ann Blair, Carline Crevecoeur, Kathleen O'Connell, Jane Stanton, Kerry Smith.

The Voter Expo that AAUW State College sponsored with the League of Women Voters-Centre County at the Nittany Mall on September 13 was a great networking experience. Hats off to **Kat Miller** from AAUW State College and **Kathleen O'Connell** from the League of Women Voters-Centre County, who led the event.

The expo was nonpartisan and provided an

opportunity to educate the public about the voting process. It featured several candidates running for public office, speakers, and a panel discussion on current topics affecting local government. Several nonprofit and grassroots volunteer groups (Centre LGBT+, Community Diversity Group, Fair Districts PA-Centre, Keystone Indivisible, and many more) networked and shared info with attendees.



Left: Gail Agans and Chriss Schultz met with Ray Bilger, a Democrat running for U.S. House of Representatives, District 15.

Volunteer replacements needed for November 3 (Election Day)

The Centre County Elections Office is looking for people who are willing to cover poll



workers who call off at the last minute the day of the election. There are trainings for all poll workers two weeks before the November 3 election on the following days: October 20, 21, 22; 10a-12n; 2-4p; 6-8p each day; at the Flex Space in the County Election Office, Bellefonte.

To get on the volunteer replacement list, please contact [Catherine Dupuis](#), 646-320-5852. Replacement poll workers may be asked to fill in any missing spot, including Judge of Elections, and may be asked to serve at any precinct in the county. Lastly, please include whether you are willing to go outside of the Centre Region (Phillipsburg, Snow Shoe, Orviston/Monument, etc.). Catherine is coordinating with the County Elections staff and will send you the link to the training sign-up sheet. Don't hesitate to contact Catherine with any

questions. Let's help our neighbors and communities feel comfortable voting in person on Election Day!

Catherine Dupuis, AAUW SC Public Policy Committee

Poll worker volunteers needed at Penn State HUB on Election Day

Invite from branch member Kathleen O'Connell: [Working at the HUB voting poll on campus.](#)

Important considerations for mail ballots in the November 3 election

The Centre County Elections Office anticipates receiving clearance to mail out ballots during the week of October 5. Once they have that clearance, they will finalize the schedule for their new mobile satellite office expected to travel around the county. We will update you once this information is available.



With a new van and nine drop boxes to be installed around the county, Centre has far more convenient voting than other rural counties. You can have confidence that, by voting in person or turning in your ballot at any of these facilities, you will avoid the Post Office entirely.

At this writing, all the court cases challenging proposed new restrictions on voting have been rejected by judges. The Post Office says it has abandoned attempts to intrude on the voting process, but we should all be mindful that the mail service is running slower than is ideal due to consolidating regional service centers, among other impediments. For this reason, please do not take seriously the deadline to apply for mail ballots, October 27. What are the odds that your application could reach the county office on that date, and they could put your ballot in the mail, and that it would reach you, and that you could vote and return it to them in a week? Be advised, also, that postmarks don't count in voting—your ballot must physically arrive in the Elections Office by Election Day, November 3, or it won't be counted.

If you intend to vote by mail, please apply right now if you haven't already. You can check your status online at www.vote411.org, run by our friends at the League of Women Voters. They also have a candidates' guide there.

If you prefer to vote in person, you can verify your polling place at the Centre County Elections Office's website. Some polling locations have been changed to provide easier access for people with mobility challenges.

We often hear that a given election is the most important election of your life. This time, that's likely true. The best way to safeguard our rights from those who believe they would benefit from restrictions is to have overwhelming turnout. By voting in large numbers, we testify to how much we value the privilege and send a strong signal that we'll fight to keep it.

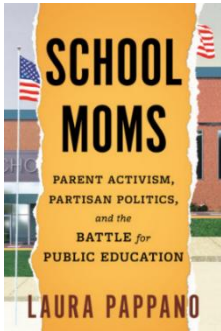
Dianne Gregg and Mary Dupuis, Co-Chairs, AAUW SC Public Policy Committee

Election 2026: Things to Consider to Protect Your Vote



To follow is an updated version of the article on page 2 of the September *Branch Bulletin* from the Public Policy Co-Chairs. Recent updates are provided in **Red**: [Protecting Your Vote \(updated\)](#).

School Moms selected for Public Policy Book meet-up, November 11



As shared last month, our new Public Policy Book Club—dedicated to public policies, histories, and lived experiences that shape women's lives—will first meet on **Wednesday, November 11, 5:00 pm**, in the **Schlow Library Community Room**. We will discuss [School Moms](#) by Laura Pappano. The book explores parent activism, partisan politics, and the battle for public education.

All are welcome to attend, even if they didn't read the book. Contact [Maya Dalton](#) with suggestions for future selections. We hope to meet quarterly.

Maya Dalton, AAUW SC Public Policy Book Club

BOOK WORKSHOP & SALE

Book Workshop Volunteering: [DETAILS](#)

Book Donations: Open 24/7 for donations in outdoor bins.

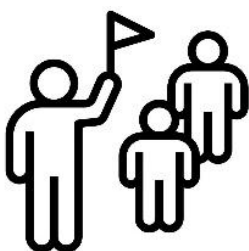
2027 Used Book Sale: [AAUW State College Used Book Sale](#)

HELP WANTED

Book Donation Bin Emptier

We are temporarily in need of help emptying our outdoor book donation bins on **Saturdays and Sundays** at the Used Book Workshop, 2197 High Tech Road near the airport.

For details, contact Dina: com@aauwstatecollege.org.



Leadership team members needed for 2027 Book Sale

We have not yet identified a co-chair for the 2027 sale. Given the nature and scale of this project, our current goal is to expand the committee so that each individual person takes on less work. These are the required tasks:

Planning and Organizing - dividing up tasks such as:



- Arranging for the police officers who monitor the sale during open hours.
- Arranging for the delivery of the port-a-pots.
- Developing instructional materials for sale volunteers.
- Ordering volunteer meals.
- Someone to attend board meetings and report on updates.
- Coordinating groups who will take books left over at the end of the sale.

Floor Monitors during the sale days - This would require a meeting ahead of the sale, as the floor monitor for each shift should be able to answer volunteer and shopper questions.

Several meetings between committee members, especially the planning group, would take place starting in January of 2027. Once tasks are claimed, they can be completed in the volunteer's own time, allowing more schedule flexibility than the current co-chair position. Drop me a line at booksale@aauwstatecollege.org if you would like to become more involved. Thank you!

Kat Miller, AAUW SC Used Book Sale Co-Chair

Volunteer co-chair sought for branch-staffed Arts Fest info booth

AAUW State College has fully staffed the annual Central Pennsylvania Arts Festival Information Booth, located near the corner of College Avenue and Allen Street, for more than 25 years. The Booth is considered the "premier information source" during the five days of the Arts Fest.

Jackie Esposito has been chairing this effort for many, many years and would like to start training a co-chair as part of the branch's succession planning efforts. If you are interested in assisting as a co-chair trainee for the 2027 fest, email Jackie @ archivist122@yahoo.com.

Jackie Esposito, branch liaison to Arts Festival

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Branch scholarship recipient thanks

Since presenting four AAUW State College branch scholarships at our June Awards and Scholarships Brunch, we have received letters of thanks from three of the recipients, [Estefania Suaza](#), [Nastasha Marcos](#), and [Samantha Snyder](#). **Left:** Estefania Suaza accepted her scholarship from Scholarship Chair Leslie Laing.

Applications for 2027 scholarships will be accepted **January 15-March 31, 2027**. Details: [Branch Scholarships](#).

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: [AAUW SC Grants](#).

DIVERSITY

CEW Lunch - *Making Our Voices Heard: Increasing Women's Participation in Public Office*: Thursday, October 8, 11:30 am-2:00 pm



The Community Diversity Group (CDG) and AAUW State College will host the Cultural Empowerment for Women (CEW) lunch and panel discussion on October 8 at the Penn Stater. 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. **Details:** [10-8-2026 CEW lunch flyer](#).

Reservations were due October 1, but a few late registrations will be accepted by **October 5** via online registration (only). The cost to attend is \$25. Register at [CEW Lunch](#) today.

¡Adelante! Book Club: Thursday, November 19, 2:30-3:30 pm (virtual)

At our September 24 meet-up, we changed our regular meeting time from the fourth Thursday of the month to the third Thursday. The next *¡Adelante!* meet-up will be held **Thursday, November 19, 2:30-3:30 pm**, via Zoom. We will be reading *Let Us March On*, by Shara Moon, a biographical fiction novel about the Civil Rights movement, based on the real life of a maid in FDR's White House. **Learn more:** [Thoughts from the Mountaintop Review](#).



Looking ahead, on **January 14**, we will discuss *How to Argue with a Racist: What Our Genes Do and Don't Say about Human Difference* by Adam Rutherford. On **March 18**, we will discuss *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson.

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

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

PLAN TO JOIN US!



Sew It Forward II:

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

See page 1 for full description.

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.

Candace Davison and Kerry Smith, AAUW SC Membership VPs



Thursday, October 22, 6:00 pm, The Rivet

Crafty Chicks, our branch craft group, will meet at The Rivet at Discovery Space (1224 North Atherton) on October 22. Bring your own craft! We will also have some there to share.

United Nations Celebration Dinner Sunday, October 25



Towards Zero Hunger: Innovative Solutions from the Youth Food Lab

AAUW is one of more than 2,500 nongovernmental bodies who consult with various U.N. bodies, and we plan to join the local U.N. chapter, the United Nations Association of Central Pennsylvania, for their annual U.N. Celebration dinner and program. This year's event will be held **Sunday, October 25, 5:00-**

8:30 pm, at The Graduate by Hilton, 125 South Atherton Street. The social hour with entertainment and a cash bar runs **5:00-6:00 pm.**

From **6:00 to 8:30 pm**, international guests will be welcomed, followed by dinner, and a presentation from Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, which was selected to host the prestigious World Food Forum Youth Food Lab. This is a key initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) that addresses global food security and climate change. Penn State is the only site in the United States, part of an exclusive network of labs throughout the world. We will learn how this work connects to the [Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger](#).



Traditionally, we have filled at least one table at this wonderful community event, and hope to do so again. **Online reservations are due October 19; checks are due October 17.** The cost to

attend is \$45/person. Seating is limited and it could sell out, so please make your reservation today. **To sit at an AAUW State College reserved table**, write “AAUW State College” under “Organization” on the info/reservation form: [10-25-2026 UN Dinner info & Registration](#).

Reserve your spot today: *Puzzle Palooza II*, Thursday, November 5

Back by popular demand, we are having our second **Puzzle Palooza** in two years. According to medical research, [doing jigsaw puzzles helps maintain cognition as we age](#), among other benefits. In that spirit, mark your calendar today for the Palooza: **Thursday, November 5, 5:30-8:30 pm**. It will be hosted by **Connie Schroeder**, 315 Hubler Road in Harris Acres, [off South Atherton](#).



As with all branch membership events, *Puzzle Palooza* will bring people together for a chance to get to know each other better, relax, and have fun. We will puzzle in groups of 3-4 people on small (300-piece) jigsaw puzzles, switching groups during two or more rounds.

From **5:30 to 6:00** we will get acquainted during a potluck, so please **bring a favorite dish or snack** for that. Nonalcoholic drinks will be provided or bring your own beverage. After completing a few puzzle rounds, we will have a puzzle exchange, so please **bring a used puzzle**, as well.

Reservations are due **Monday, November 2**, but space is limited to 14 people. Reserve your space today with [Connie Schroeder](#).

AAUW State College - *Our History: A Presentation by Jackie Esposito* Saturday, November 7, 2026, 11:00 am, at Centre Care

Founded in 1916 and actively involved in the Centre County community for 110 years, AAUW



Left: 1916-Penn State College women walked (for exercise) outside the Engineering Building and Railroad Station because they were not allowed to use the track on campus, which was reserved for men; **Center: 1963**-Members received book donations for the Used Book Sale on their front porches; **Right: 2005**-Members traveled to Washington, DC, to lobby for equity for women.

State College has an amazing history of contributions, leadership, and advocacy. Join Jackie on November 7 to participate in a walk down memory lane and savor all the treasures AAUW has to share. It will be held at **Centre Care Auditorium, 250 Persia Road, Bellefonte**. After the presentation, consider a tasty lunch at a wonderful Bellefonte eatery: [Bellefonte for Lunch!](#)

Jackie Esposito, AAUW SC Archivist

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

AAUWStateCollege.org Needs You!



To reduce the number and frequency of handbook printings, we are hoping to get the online directory as up to date as possible, but to do that, we need your help! The online directory is only as complete as our members make it. First, you need to have a login to the Member Dashboard. To get a login, email technology@aauwstatecollege.org with your request; unless you specify otherwise, the email address you send the request from will be the one registered to your profile.

Once you have a login, you'll have access to the Member Dashboard where you can access and update your profile. To access it, you'll click on "Profile" next to the Member Dashboard button in the top right corner, then the Edit Profile button. Your profile allows you to upload a profile photo and choose what info is visible to other members in the directory. There will be a more in-depth tutorial of the online profile functionality coming soon. If you need more assistance in the meantime, contact Angie at technology@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 login? Contact Angie Hughes, 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 directions.

Candace Davison and Kerry Smith, AAUW SC Membership VPs

OUT & ABOUT LOOK-BACK

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

AAUW SC Book-Bees help create a buzz at MSLC Spelling Bee



The Book-Bees: Carmen Vanderhooft, Morgen Hummel, Martha Hummel; **Cheer Team:** Renee Steffensmeir, Jane Stanton, Gail Agans, Sally Kalin, Carline Crevecoeur, Connie Schroeder.



The AAUW State College **Book-Bees** did us proud at the September 30 Mid-State Literacy Council annual spelling bee fundraiser, which netted nearly \$20,000 for literacy. One of 12 teams, *The Book-Bees* included **Martha Hummel, Morgen Hummel, and Carmen Vanderhooft**. The team properly spelled *amethyst, auxiliary, cryptonym, commensality* before hitting a road block with *colure*, and

were finally eliminated after misspelling **I-M-A-R-E-T** in Round 6. Congrats to **The Slaybys**, sponsored by OLLI, who went on to win the Bee in Round 7.

AAUW lends a hand at October 2 STEM Day for Discovery Space



Above: Michele Crowl (Executive Director, Discovery Space) and Kristen Dreyer prepare for the arrival of about 400 middle school students for STEM Day, Day 1 of the 3-day Maker Faire.

AAUW BEYOND THE BRANCH

Branch members benefit from AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference

Eighteen AAUW State College members attended the AAUW Atlantic Region Conference



September 25-27, held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The consensus was that the conference provided a very rich variety of speakers and a beautiful opportunity to network with 175+ AAUW members from the Atlantic states and beyond.

The conference kicked off with remarks from Gloria

Branch attendees, front: *Cindy Hall, Immediate Past AAUW-Pa. President, Carline Crevecœur, AAUW State College Co-President, Ann Echols, AAUW-Pa. President, Jane Stanton, Gail Agons. Back:* *Naana Nti, Candace Davison, Kerry Smith, Suzanne Kerlin, Angie Hughes, Jeysy Gonzalez, Nancy Weinreb, Connie Schroeder, Sherry Crassweller, Leslie Laing.*

Missing: *Ya Anima, Pam Fuller, Denise Rupert.*

Blackwell, AAUW CEO, who congratulated participants on their contributions, and shared updates on the national organization.

Conference highlights included powerful and inspiring presentations from **Andrea Miller** of *People Demanding Action*, **Celina Stewart**, League of Women Voters CEO, and **Danielle Conway**, Immediate Past Dean of Penn State Dickinson Law.



Left to right: *Ann Echols, current AAUW-Pa. President, Cindy Hall, Immediate Past AAUW-Pa. President; Gail Agans and Candace Davison enjoy a conference presentation; Voting Rights panel: Andrea Miller, Executive Director of People Demanding Action, Celina Stewart, League of Women Voters CEO, and Megan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy, Moderator.*



More AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference memories, left to right: Yaa Anima, AAUW Fellow at Penn State-University Park, spoke at a break-out session; Sherry Crassweller, Suzanne Kerlin, and Pam Fuller compare notes; Denise Rupert and Leslie Laing take a break.

BRANCH BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Next board meeting: Monday, October 12, 12:00-1:00 pm

MEET THE BOARD TEAM

Monthly branch board meetings are open to all branch members and are held on the second Monday of each month. Branch board meetings are now held at [Centre Care](#), 250 Persia Road, Bellefonte. The meeting is also accessible 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.

The Branch Bulletin is issued the first Monday of the month



Submissions for the November *Branch Bulletin* are due **October 26** to bulletin@aauwstatecollege.org. The issue date is **November 2**.

AAUW State College named a 5-Star branch



AAUW State College has recently been awarded [AAUW 5-Star](#) certification for performance in advancement, public policy and advocacy, governance and sustainability, programming, and communications. Special thanks to branch member **Marjory Price** for her efforts gathering data for the submission.

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.