November 2026

AAUW State College Branch Bulletin

Advancing equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

info@aauwstatecollege.org

www.aauwstatecollege.org

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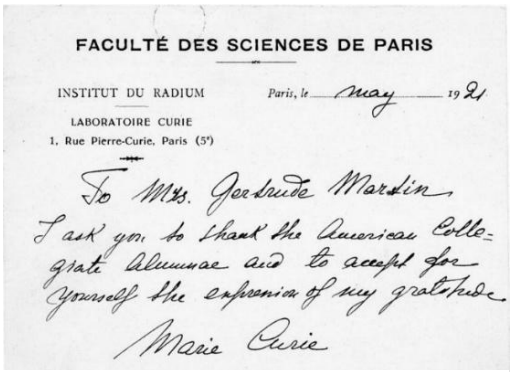
"We must behave as though everything we do matters… because it might."
- Gloria Steinem

If you haven't already done so,
Tuesday, November 3
is the day to vote!



AAUW State College: Our History with Jackie Esposito Saturday, November 7, 11:00 am

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



FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES DE PARIS

INSTITUT DU RADIUM
LABORATOIRE CURIE
1, Rue Pierre-Curie, Paris (5e)

Paris, le May 1921

To Mrs. Gertrude Martin,
I ask you to thank the American Collegiate Alumnae and to accept for yourself the expression of my gratitude.
Marie Curie

Above: (1921**)** *A thank you note from Marie Curie for the branch donation of $5.00, which helped her fundraising for radium.*



Above: *(1945) In the aftermath of World War II, the branch founded a nursery school. It was a precursor to Park Forest Day Care, a group we continue to support today.*

The program will be held at Centre Care, **250 Persia Road, Bellefonte,** in the Auditorium.

After the presentation, consider lunch at a wonderful Bellefonte eatery: Bellefonte for Lunch!

Jackie Esposito, AAUW SC Archivist

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Back by popular demand, we are having our second ***Puzzle Palooza*** in two years. Join us

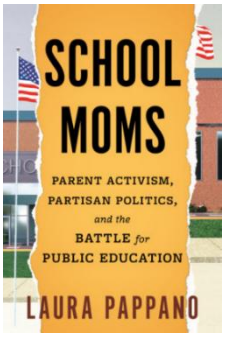


Thursday, November 5, 5:30-8:30 pm. It will be hosted by **Connie Schroeder**, 315 Hubler Road in Harris Acres, off South Atherton.

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 small groups on 300-piece jigsaw puzzles, switching groups during two 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 the puzzles, we will have a puzzle exchange, so please **bring a used puzzle** as well. Reservations are due **Monday, November 2.** We have two spots left. Reserve your space today with Connie Schroeder.

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 haven'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

Join us for our holiday gathering: Wednesday, December 9

Our annual AAUW State College Holiday Gathering will be held on **Wednesday, December 9, 5:30-7:30 pm,** at University Wine Company, off Rte. 45 between Atherton Street and Pine Grove Mills.



Join us for an evening filled with food, drinks, laughter, and great company. Festive attire, ugly sweaters, or a branch T-shirt or sweatshirt are all encouraged. It is time to celebrate a busy year together. The meal will be provided by Taproot Kitchen. Yum!

The cost to attend is **$25 per person**, except for members who have joined since May 2026, whose cost will be waived. The meal includes a ticket for one beverage (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) within the cost of the meal, which has been subsidized by the branch. **Members are**

welcome to bring guests and potential members (for a cost). Those who join AAUW for the first time at the event, or whose membership has lapsed for at least two years, may join for a **half-price membership rate**.

Credit Card – go to aauwstatecollege.org and enter the Member portal at the top right side of the home page. If you need a login to access, contact technology@aauwstatecollege.org.
Checks – send your check made out to *"AAUW State College"* with your name and name(s) of your guest(s) to Finance Officer Gail Agans, 400 Brush Valley Road, Boalsburg, PA 16827.

RSVPs are due Wednesday, December 2. Make your reservation and payment today!

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



Branch lends support to the October 2-4 Maker Faire, sponsored by Discovery Space

Discovery Space's annual Maker Faire ran three days this year, October 2-4, with the first day being STEM Day at the State College YMCA. Thirteen AAUW State College members volunteered to assist at the event. With 450 students from school districts throughout Centre County participating, it was an extremely fun and busy place.

Above: *Branch STEM Co-Chair Michele Crowl and Kristin Dreyer prepare for arriving students.*

For the weekend (October 3-4), the Faire included makers, vendors, and activities at Axemann Brewery and Titan Hollow. AAUW State College co-sponsored internationally known maker Becky Stern, who drew a very enthusiastic audience. It was well worth it for local kids to meet a social media celebrity, and to go home encouraged to keep trying to make things.

October 7 *Sew It Forward II* sets up students for success







Andrea Lowe & Widia Nurmala experienced working on a sewing machine for the first time. Patience is rewarding!

With branch members as trainers, our second *Sew It Forward* was ideal in the sense that we had a 1:1 teacher-student ratio! The students learned to follow written instructions and skills needed to operate a sewing machine. For this session, they made simple tote bags.

After the class, we learned that Schlow Library is holding a brand new Machine Sewing 101 class that

will be held January 9. It will certify students to use Schlow sewing machines on an ongoing basis. We are happy to have given the *Sew It Forward* students some basic skills that will serve them well, going forward. Thank you, **Carmen Vanderhoof**, for organizing *Sew It Forward*!

October 15 *Cider & Donuts:* members gather and learn



Branch Diversity Co-Chair Denise Rupert (left), explained how the Diversity Committee works.

Against a backdrop of jack-o-lanterns, *Cider & Donuts* was a festive and informative gathering of longer-time and first-time members, led by Membership Co-VP **Candace Davison**.

The importance of joining a few branch committees and becoming active was emphasized by the leads of the various areas of the branch. Visit engagement opportunities for a full list of branch committees and interest areas.

October 25 UN Dinner includes talk on *Zero Hunger* campaign

After a delightful dinner getting to know several international women students, we learned about Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences program, the prestigious World Food Forum Youth Food Lab. This is a key initiative of the United Nations, which addresses global food security and climate change.



Seven AAUW State College members attended the annual UN Celebration Dinner, and we sponsored six international women students to join us for dinner and the program. **Students pictured, front row:** *Marina Karpyk (Kazakhstan); Laela Nurbatia (Indonesia); Marcha Reumel (Suriname); Giuliana Avila (Peru): Ilze Martinex (Mexico).* **AAUW members, back row:** *Angie Hughes, Suzanne Kerlin, Jackie Esposito, Connie Schroeder.*

Branch members not pictured: *Angie Miller, Carmen Miller, Naana Nti.*

Penn State is the only World Food Forum Youth Food Lab site in the United States, part of an exclusive network of labs throughout the world. **Learn more:** Zero Hunger Campaign.

DIVERSITY CORNER

October 8 CEW program features women in public office

The Community Diversity Group (CDG) and AAUW State College hosted the Cultural Empowerment for Women (CEW) lunch and panel discussion on October 8 at the Penn Stater. The panel program following lunch, *Making Our Voices Heard: Increasing Women's Participation in Public Office*, featured local women who have served in elected office or who helped in elections. Check out the program via the C-Net taping.





Pictured, left: *Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Co-Chair; Rose Petrunyak, Moderator; Amy Bader and Betsy Whitman, panelists; Carol Eicher, CDG Chair; Carline Crevecoeur, AAUW State College Co-President.*
Right: Amber Concepcion, third panelist.

Hope, frustration, and the status quo

In September, I attended the Regional AAUW Conference in Lancaster. There, I got to meet some incredible women with astonishing stories: stories of change, growth, and triumph, and stories of sadness and loss. I hugged women I'd never met and asked a group of attendees for their pronouns. I learned how the AAUW Lobby Corps works and how women in Hawaii are building connections with nonmember women in their communities.

However, I was also frustrated by some things I saw and learned. My husband listened to me share my frustrations while he was at our home alone, supporting our children. He asked why, if I was so frustrated, did I continue to show up for AAUW and give them my time and resources. I sat with this question. I mulled this question over, and I picked it apart. Then I remembered something I learned during a webinar on language and feelings (I do a lot of those).

Why do I keep showing up? The answer has a lot to do with hope, frustration, and the status quo, and with how our Diversity Committee grew from a Zoom call into something much bigger. To find out what I have learned and where we are headed next, read the full story here: Hope, Frustration, and the Status Quo. Please complete our Short Survey so we can schedule *Coffee & Community* at times that work for you. The next *Coffee & Community* is **Friday, November 20, at 9:00 am,** in the back room at Kitchen Garden, located near the South

Atherton Giant. Come for the coffee and stay for the community. Bring your story or just bring yourself. We simply want you to feel welcome and included.

--Denise Rupert, AAUW SC Diversity Committee Co-Chair

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



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 real life of a maid in FDR's White House. **Learn more:** Thoughts from the Mountaintop Review. **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*

BOOK WORKSHOP & SALE



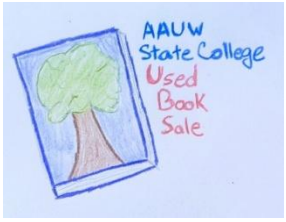
Book donations in bin.

Book Workshop Volunteering: DETAILS

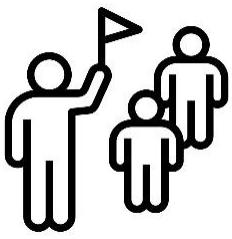
Book Donations: Open 24/7 in outdoor bins.

2027 Used Book Sale:
AAUW State College Used Book Sale

Student Logo Contest to promote 2027 Used Book Sale



We are looking for a creative new logo to help promote our annual Used Book Sale. The contest is open to local students, grades 5-8. The winning design will be featured in book sale promotions. The winner will receive $50 in Book Bucks to spend at the book sale. Please share with young creatives you know. **Details:** https://aauwstatecollege.org/ubs_logo/.



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.

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

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Welcome, new member Sandy Lopez - sandyhlopez@gmail.com

After completing commitments related to my teaching sociology at Trident Technical College in Charleston, SC, I retired and moved to State College to be closer to my daughter. My son lives in Odense, Denmark, with his family.



I have made several military and corporate moves, but the State College area quickly became home for me. Here, there are welcoming neighbors, groups and organizations, all the assets of Penn State, and the beauty of central Pennsylvania. I continued to serve as a National Volunteer Partner for GSUSA (Girl Scouts of the USA) until recently, when I resigned to have more time to stay local. Now I will have the time to be a member of AAUW.

AAUW State College members receive CBICC recognition

At their October 21 business awards meeting, CBICC (Chamber of Business & Industry in Centre County) announced their 2026 Business Awards recipients.

Branch member **Carol Eicher** received the ***ATHENA Champion Leadership Award***, which honors individuals who inspire, mentor, and create paths of leadership for women in our community. Over two decades ago, Carol founded the Community Diversity Group and has served as a leader and mentor ever since. She is committed to making Centre County a welcoming place, particularly for women. Congratulations, Carol!

Branch member and STEM Co-Chair **Michele Crowl** was named as a Finalist in the same category. Michele has been with Discovery Space since its founding in 2011, first as education director, and for many years since as executive director.

The ***Nonprofit of the Year Award*** recognizes nonprofit organizations whose mission-driven work strengthens our community and supports those who call Centre County home. Congratulations to **Discovery Space**, who received top honors in this category. Discovery Space is a children's science center that is continually evolving to identify new ways to educate and entertain children about science. Considering that **Michele Crowl** has been an integral part of Discovery Space since its beginning, the honor rightfully belongs to Michele, too. Kudos!

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.
To date, about fifty branch members have registered on the member portal, and we'd love to continue to build that list before 2026 is over. Check it out to update your profile today.

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.

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

Palmer Museum talk with Cathleen Cahill features artist Kathryn Woodman Leighton: Friday, November 6, 2:00 pm



Cathleen Cahill's talk on ***The Unknown "Hollywood Indian" Paintings of Kathryn Woodman Leighton***, at the Palmer Museum on November 6, will showcase the work of Kathryn Woodman Leighton (1875-1952), a Los Angeles-based artist. Her portraits of Native Americans were dubbed the "Hollywood Indians." **More:** Kathryn Woodman Leighton Talk. Previously, Dr. Cahill presented a talk for AAUW on her book *Recasting the Vote: How Women of Color Transformed the Suffrage Movement.* Learn more about Cathleen Cahill.

Help Altrusa celebrate their 75th anniversary at dinner November 18

Altrusa International of Centre County has invited AAUW State College and other community partners to help them celebrate their 75th anniversary at a banquet on Wednesday, November 18. It will be held at Toftrees, 6:00-9:00 pm, and the cost to attend is $40. To attend, visit Nov. 18 Altrusa Dinner. Altrusa has been a great supporter of the book sale, providing many volunteers to help there over the years.

Invite to December 7 dinner program on Penn State news initiative

The League of Women Voters-Centre County has invited AAUW State College, along with Foxdale residents, to join them for a special dinner program with Dr. Cory Barker, a co-host for the WPSU podcast, News Over Noise, a podcast and radio program about how media shapes what we know, what we believe, and how we understand the world around us. The talk will explore how news is produced, distributed, and consumed, and what that means for public trust, democracy, and everyday life. It will be held on **Monday, December 7, 5:30 pm,** at the **Foxdale Village Dining Room** (500 East Marylyn Avenue, State College).

The cost to attend is $35/person. The deadline to **RSVP is November 30**. Please RSVP to lwvcentrecounty@gmail.com if you plan to attend. Payment may be sent in advance to LWVCC, P.O. Box 962, State College, PA 16804, or made at the door that evening.

AAUW Pennsylvania State Board: Call for Nominations

AAUW Pennsylvania seeks nominations for three officers to serve a two-year term, 2027–2029:

- **Membership Vice President**: Support membership recruitment, retention, and branch growth.
- **Secretary:** Maintain official records and record and distribute meeting minutes.
- **Finance Officer:** Manage state funds, budgets, financial reports, and financial records.

Serving on the AAUW PA board is rewarding, energizing, and fun. Meet people from across Pennsylvania, build friendships, and work alongside members who share your commitment to equity for women and girls. Together, you will provide vision and leadership for our branches while enjoying the connections that make serving meaningful.

The board meets four times per year, in person or via Zoom. Self-nominations are welcome. **Nomination deadline: November 15, 2026.** Step forward or nominate a member. Request information and nomination forms at aauwpanominations@gmail.com.

Next board meeting: Monday, November 9, 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; via Zoom: bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardZoom.

Dial-in numbers: 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 next *Branch Bulletin* are due **November 30** to bulletin@aauwstatecollege.org. The issue date is **December 7**.

AAUW State College is recognized by AAUW National as a 5-Star Branch, exceeding standards in advancement, public policy and advocacy, governance and sustainability, programming, and communications.

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@aauwstatecllege.org.