

Table of Contents

November 7 election	p. 1
Leader Notes	p. 1
Book donations needed	p. 2
Program committee	p. 2
Game night look-back	p. 3
Read Between the Wines.	p. 3
Painting Party postponed	p. 3
Membership matters	p. 4
Diversity Corner	p. 4
Education report	p. 6
Fair Districts PA update	p. 7
Ten Thousand Villages	p. 7
MSLC book fair	p. 7
Welcome new members.	p. 8
Christy Bartley 4-H Award	p. 9
Remembering Bette White	p. 9
Handbook/directory	p. 9
Penn State Forum tickets	p. 10
Board meeting notice	p. 10
<i>Branch Bulletin</i> dates	p. 10

November 7 election



If you have not already voted, tomorrow is the last chance! For a last-minute look at the candidates/issues, the September *Branch Bulletin* contained a comprehensive report: [Candidates Guide pp. 7-14](#)

**Moving forward with 2023-2026
branch strategic plan**

Over the past five months, as incoming AAUW State College Co-Presidents Elects, Liz Kopco and I have learned much about the 107 years the branch has devoted to advancing gender equity for women and girls in our community.



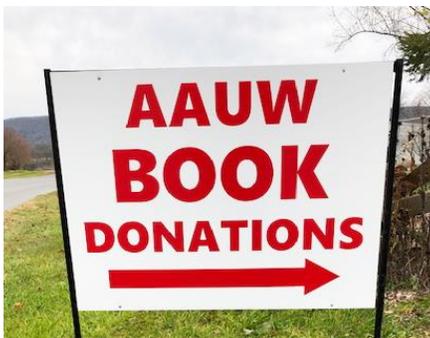
We were especially pleased to learn that the branch has developed a three-year strategic plan containing ideas about furthering our mission here in Centre County.

The 2023-2026 strategic plan calls for appointing a task force to find new and innovative ways to implement the recommendations found in the document. During our October executive board meeting, approval was given to appoint a task force

of five individuals, selected from the branch, to make recommendations to the executive board regarding the implementation of the plan.

A copy of the plan is provided here: [2023-2026 AAUW State College Strategic Plan](#). The first theme of the plan addresses organizational stability and sustainability, with the first goal being to strengthen our organizational model and make it more effective and efficient. Our board is committed to establishing branch priorities every year that are based on the strategic plan, and we feel that the new task force will help us achieve that. After reviewing the plan, if you would like to become part of the task force, please contact [Grace Hampton](#) by **November 15, 2023**. I look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards, Grace Hampton, Co-President Elect



Book donations needed

Have some books that you are through with and looking for a good home for them? Look no further!

The Used Book Workshop is located off 2197 High Tech Road near the airport. Book donations may be made ANY TIME in the outdoor blue bins next to the workshop door. If you need assistance unloading, drop them off **Mondays, 6-8 pm and Tuesdays/Wednesdays, 9 am-2:30 pm**.

Check out the [book donation guidelines](#).

PROGRAM Committee

Program Committee needs you

Do you have an idea for a great speaker or topic consistent with the AAUW mission? **Do you** have ideas for other activities or events that will help advance our mission? **Do you** like to organize events? **Do you** like working with others to achieve a common goal?

As Programs VP, I invite you to join me in planning programs for our branch for the remainder of the 2023-24 year. You can be involved as little or as much as you like. The more input there is on programs, the better they are likely to be.

If you are interested in participating, or just want to learn more, please contact [Betsy Manlove](#) by **Wednesday, November 15**. I will then work on scheduling a meeting (likely on Zoom) for the second half of November.

Please feel free to contact me (email or telephone) if you have any questions or just want to chat about the role of the Program Committee within AAUW State College.

--Betsy Manlove, Program VP

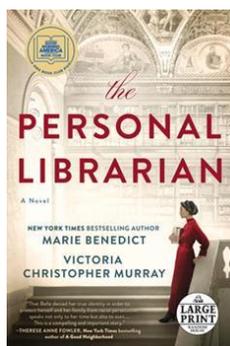
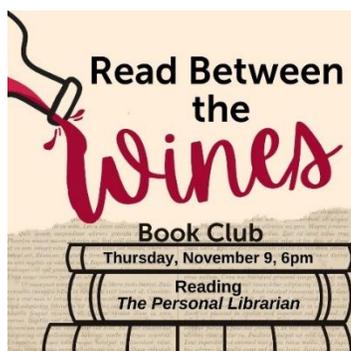


October 11 Game Night memories

Game Night at Carline Crevecoeur's house was...a blast. About 18 women attended, and a few came as potential members, a guest of a member. After some hearty snacks and networking time, we got right down to rotating between four different games and private readings with [Jumeau Tarot](#).

The consensus on the games was that Codenames was the clear winner. It was only surpassed by getting to know each other better, which was wonderful.

Special thanks to Carline for hosting and to both of our Membership Co-VPs (Carline and Susan) for organizing a wonderful evening.



Read Between the Wines Book Group to meet November 9

Our next branch membership event, the *Read Between the Wines* book group, is just around the corner! Originally planned for November 8, it has been moved to **Thursday, November 9, and will start at 6 pm.**

Held and hosted by Membership Co-VP Susan Chyczewski, this gathering will live up to its name (...Wines), paired with the sweet potato pie (along with cheese and crackers) that is mentioned in *The Personal Librarian*, our official focus of the evening. Please RSVP your plans to attend to [Susan Chyczewski](#) by **Monday, November 6**. Susan's address and parking directions will be provided when you RSVP.

December Painting Party postponed; Holiday Membership Mixer planned for December 12 – Save the Date



Due to some scheduling challenges, the Painting Party, originally planned for December, is being postponed until 2024. We know that when it happens, this will be a wonderful event.

In the meantime, we are planning a *Holiday Membership Mixer* for **Tuesday, December 12** (early evening) at [University Wine Company](#), located off Shingletown Road. Details forthcoming later this month and in the December issue of the *Branch Bulletin*.

--Susan Chyczewski and Carline Crevecoeur, Membership Co-VPs



Membership renewals & member engagement

Quick links to get you where you need to be:

- [Online membership renewal through AAUW National](#)
- [Paper membership form to mail with check](#)
- [Member engagement opportunities](#)
- Questions? Contact [Carline](#) or [Susan](#)

-- Susan Chyczewski and Carline Crevecoeur, Membership Co-VPs

DIVERSITY CORNER



Panelists Vicki Fong (left) and Melissa Landrau Vega (right) visit with AAUW State College and CEW committee member Naana Nti, center.

Cultural Empowerment for Women lunch draws a crowd

Held on October 18 at the Penn Stater, the Cultural Empowerment (CEW) lunch, co-sponsored by the Community Diversity Group and AAUW State College, brought out a great crowd. Following networking and a lunch buffet the group was treated to a panel discussion, “*Conversation with Diverse Women of Influence*,” with AAUW State College member **Carolyn Donaldson** as moderator, and panelists **Vicki Fong, Melissa Landrau Vega, and Ja Nae Wian**.

Thank you to the panelists for their inspiring stories, and to Community Diversity Group. The program is available to view courtesy of C-Net: [10-2023 CEW Program](#). The next CEW lunch will be held in March.



November is Native American Heritage Month

View the listing of Native American Heritage Month events on Penn State campuses: [Penn State Native American Heritage Month activities](#). Check out ‘**Friendsgiving**’ — to be held **Thursday, November**

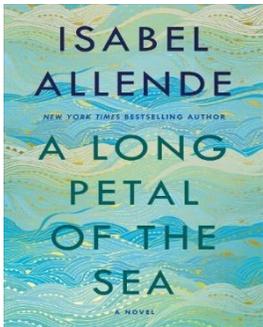
16, in the HUB-Robeson Center in Heritage Hall, 6-8 pm. Join us for spoken word poetry, original music, dance, and more! This event is free for anyone to attend, and dinner will be provided.



Invite to International Holiday Potluck, December 7

You are invited to the Community Diversity Group's annual **International Holiday Potluck** on **Thursday, December 7, 6-8 pm**, at South Hills School of Business and Technology, 480 Waupelani Drive, State College. The event is free and open to the public. Please bring a cultural holiday dish to share.

Register: [December 7 CDG Potluck](#)



¡Adelante! Book Club to meet Thursday, January 18

Our book club is modeled after the AAUW Diversity Outreach for Impact Program, featuring diverse cultures in both fiction and nonfiction books.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, January 18, at 2:30 pm**. We will discuss ***A Long Petal of the Sea*** by Isabel Allende. The book follows a pregnant young widow whose life becomes intertwined with an army doctor who is her deceased love's brother. In order to survive, the two must unite in a marriage neither of them desires.

To participate with the group, please contact info@aauwstatecollege.org. We warmly welcome new members. **Join Zoom:** [January 18 Adelante Meet-up](#)

National Day of Racial Healing January 16 - *Save the Date*



January 16, 2024, marks the eighth annual National Day of Racial Healing. On this day, groups across the country come together to explore their common humanity and build the relationships necessary to create a more just and equitable world. It falls the day after Martin Luther King Day.

AAUW State College is partnering with the Borough of State College, Community Diversity Group, and the Racial Equity Advisory Commission to sponsor the 2024 National Day of Racial Healing. Information on the first of two events follows:

Title: *Conversations to Identify Barriers to Racial Healing*

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 11:30 am-1:30 pm (lunch provided)

Location: State College Municipal Building, Room 201 (Community Room)

Watch for more information about both events in the next two Branch Bulletins.

Branch-led Humphrey Fellows program January 25 - *Save the Date*



AAUW State College will host its annual *International Perspectives on Women in Society* program featuring the Penn State Humphrey Fellows on **Thursday, January 25, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm** at the Graduate State College (formerly The Atherton Hotel).

This annual event features a panel discussion with two of the current year's Humphrey Fellows. **Panelists include Carolyn Donaldson**, AAUW State College (Moderator), **Dr. Odgerel Batsaikhan**, Vice Director of Otgontenger University in Mongolia, and **Ninoska Leiva**, Professor, University of Chile and the University of Santiago de Chile.

To attend, please send a check for \$24 payable to "AAUW State College" c/o Christine Bishop, 205 First Avenue, State College, Pa. 16801. Late payments will be accepted at the door, but **advance reservations are required by Thursday, January 18**. Please direct questions to Contact [Christine Bishop](#), (814) 441-3571.

--Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Chair

REPORT CARD

Basic Education Funding Commission

CRITERIA

- set adequacy target for ALL 500 school districts
- include pre-K, special education, facilities, and transportation
- set state share target
- lay out reasonable timeline



Education Committee updates

Be sure to vote. There are many important offices up for a vote, and school board directors in particular have a great effect on education.

Level Up funding for those school districts that are underfunded is another priority. Underfunded schools are more likely to produce poorly educated students, which is not beneficial to the citizens of Pennsylvania. Susan Spicka from Education Voters PA invites us to join them with PA Schools Work **on the Capitol steps on Tuesday, November 14, at noon**. She states, "We will demonstrate powerful support for a constitutional school funding

system that will ensure that ALL public-school students in Pennsylvania have access to the comprehensive, effective, and contemporary public education they are guaranteed by the Pennsylvania constitution."

Learn more: [November 14 Harrisburg Rally](#). It would be great to go as a group. Please contact [Sue Johnston](#) if you are interested. There will also be a meaningful activity you can do from home. We will share details as they become available.

There has been no activity on House Bill 27 on the EITC/OSTC school voucher funding and accountability in Harrisburg. The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) funding has increased “seventeen-fold” to \$340 million.

Presently state law prohibits the collection of data to evaluate the effectiveness of the vouchers. HB 27 requires additional reporting by scholarship organizations in addition to an increase in funding. Why an increase in funding? We have a divided government and must compromise to move forward. This is a talking point when communicating with your state senator. Please do so.

--Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Education Chair



Fair Districts PA update

Fair Districts is continuing with the Fix Harrisburg campaign. The main priority is to establish mechanisms to get bipartisan votes. Presently the PA Legislature is one of the least effective, most expensive full-time legislatures in the country. About 7% of the bills introduced get a final vote. Please go to [Fix Harrisburg](#) and sign the petition if you have not done this already. Also, communication with your legislators on the matter is always good. Watch for more information on additional campaigns.

--Sue Johnston, liaison to Fair Districts PA



AAUW State College – Ten Thousand Villages look-back

Thank you to our friends at Ten Thousand Villages for making our November 3-5 Community Shopping Event possible! We'll share some look-back photos from the event in the December *Branch Bulletin*. Learn more about the store at [Ten Thousand Villages State College](#).



Check out the November 17-19 Mid-State Literacy Council bookfair at Barnes & Noble

Through an AAUW State College Community Action Grant, Mid-State Literacy Council provides scholarships and instructional materials to women on the road to literacy. This month, plan to join Mid-State at Barnes & Noble, November 17-19, for their annual bookfair.

MSLC uses bookfair proceeds to award thousands of new books to children in our community. At the bookfair's MSLC table, shoppers may select from a wish list of books to add to the holiday book drive and support children in our community. **Remember to mention Mid-State Literacy Council or Bookfair ID# 12653556 at the checkout register.**

The fair features several fun events for both children and adults, including author readings, children's drum circle, a cupcake and thankfulness celebration, and more. For the event schedule and all details, visit: [Friday – Saturday 2pm](#); [Saturday 2pm – Sunday 5pm](#).

If you are unable to attend the bookfair in person, support MSLC by visiting BN.COM/bookfairs online from November 16-24 and use the Bookfair ID# provided above.

Welcome
New Members

Sherry Lonsdale –
sherrylonsdale@gmail.com

Hello, I realized in writing this that I wrote mostly about work but now that I am finally retired, I am changing all that! I worked at University Libraries, Human Resources, and Development/Alumni Relations for over 26 years. In each role I thrived in making improvements, finding innovative solutions, and helping people.



I loved being co-chair of the Commission for Women. I had the opportunity to advocate for women's issues – safety, equity, family/work-life balance, family leave, and mentoring. My proudest moment was receiving the University Libraries Diversity Award.

I have worked hard for my family – my husband, Cameron, children Lexi and Johnny, and mother, Susi. It has been a juggling act between work and family.

After retirement I have focused on taking care of myself by joining a gym and enjoy walking and reconnecting with friends. I have volunteered with the State College Quarterback Club as I am a big PSU football fan. I have also enjoyed traveling more and would like to visit my alma mater UTEP in El Paso, Texas. I look forward to being part of AAUW to support our initiatives, meeting new members, and learning how I can continue to help others.



Sriya Vontela – sqv5214@psu.edu

As a newcomer to State College, I am excited to meet people and get involved with this organization! I grew up around the King of Prussia area before going to Elizabethtown College for my bachelor's in psychology and biology. After graduating in 2021, I moved to New York City to spend a year working in an infertility clinic and helping patients receive fertility

care such as IVF! It was such an enlightening and powerful experience to help these women through the often invisible but emotionally difficult fertility journey and made me a passionate advocate for women's health.

Since then, I was accepted into and started my first year in Penn State University's College of Medicine for my MD, and I can't wait to see where this journey takes me! In my free time, I enjoy reading (and can hardly wait for the Used Book Sale!), dancing, and getting involved in the community, and I look forward to getting to know the AAUW members.



Christy Bartley receives national 4-H award

Congratulations to **Christy Bartley**, branch member and former program leader for the 4-H, for induction into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. She served in various roles within the Pennsylvania 4-H youth development program for 28 years.

Christy was engaged at both the state and national levels during her tenure, serving on several committees and boards related to youth development and safety. She continues to serve Penn State, pledging \$25,000 to create an endowment in support of the 4-H program.

More: [Christy Bartley – 4-H Award](#)

Remembering Bette White

Condolences to the family of branch member **Bette White**, who died on August 31 after a severe fall. She was 87 years old. Bette earned her Master of Science and PhD in civil engineering at Penn State and was later employed in research positions in Penn State's Materials Research Laboratory and Department of Civil Engineering. Bette was a regular volunteer at AAUW State College Used Book Sales and will be missed.

More: [Bette White obituary](#)



2023-2024 Branch handbook/directory mailed: Thank you, Suzanne Kerlin!

Great news! The 2023-2024 branch handbook/directory was mailed via USPS the third week of October. A heartfelt thank you to Editor [Suzanne Kerlin](#) for her work behind-the-scenes creating this vital communication piece. Let Suzanne know how her work as editor has been appreciated.

After countless years of singlehandedly producing the handbook, Suzanne is stepping down as editor. The position of Handbook/Directory editor is a great behind-the-scenes job. If you are interested in taking on this role, please contact [Connie Schroeder](#).

The handbook is also available electronically at [2023-2024 AAUWSC Handbook/Directory](#). A new feature of this year's edition is that it includes information from new members about their AAUW interest areas. We plan to include the online version of the directory on the coming *Member's Only* page on the branch website.



Branch Centennial Speaker: Lisa Salters

March 29, 2024

Purchase your ticket today

[Lisa Salters](#), ESPN sports broadcaster, will be the AAUW State College Centennial Speaker at the 2024 Penn State Forum on Friday, March 29. A Penn State alumna, Salters has broken glass ceilings both as a woman and as a woman of color in a mostly male-dominated field. Learn more about her: [Lisa Salters: Sideline Reporter](#). We have purchased three

tables for the event. **Buy your ticket now:** [March 29 Forum](#)



Branch leadership team & board meeting invite

Want to connect with the branch leaders? They would love to hear from you – reach out here: [2023-2025 AAUW State College Leadership Team](#). The branch's Board of Directors met on October 9. For a summary of that meeting, see [October 9 Board Meeting Notes](#).

Branch board meetings are held the **second Monday of each month** in the College Township Council Room (2nd floor) from 11:45 am to 12:45 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, November 13**. Members are welcome to attend board meetings in person or via Zoom. Click *here* to attend: [November 13 Board Meeting](#). We are working to improve the audio for remote attendees; please be patient.



Branch Bulletin Dates

The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **Monday, December 4**. The submission deadline is **Monday, November 27**. Send items to *Branch Bulletin* editor [Connie Schroeder](#). The bulletin is also accessible on the branch website: [AAUW State College](#) under [NEWS](#).