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Undergraduate Scholarship applications due March 15

We believe that education is a critical and essential pathway to equity. AAUW State College scholarships assist women who have interrupted their studies for at least two years and who wish to resume them at this time.

The branch awards up to **four \$3,000-\$7,000 scholarships** each year. Eligible applicants must be Centre County residents seeking a first associate or baccalaureate degree on a full-time or part-time basis, having completed 15 credits toward an associate degree or 30 credits toward a baccalaureate. Please pass this along to women you know who are considering going back to finish their degrees.

Details: [AAUW State College Scholarships](#)



AAUW State College Community Action Grant applications due April 1

Collaborative community-based initiatives form a robust foundation for advancing equity.

Grant applicants must be a non-profit organization with programs in Centre County. More than half of the clients in the program funded must be women or girls.

Details: [AAUW State College Community Action Grants](#)



True Stories of Women in Office: Past and Present **March 14 Cultural Empowerment for Women** **program – RSVPs due March 7**

The next Cultural Empowerment for Women luncheon event will be held **Tuesday, March 14, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm at the Penn Stater Conference Center**. It is sponsored by the Community Diversity Group with financial assistance from AAUW State College.

A diverse panel of women who have served or are currently serving in various local offices will share their rich experiences with attendees, inspiring them to consider running for local office. The panel will be moderated by **Charima Young**, Assistant Vice President for Local Government and Community Relations at Penn State. Panelists include: **Amber Concepcion**, Centre County Commissioner and former Board President for the State College Area School District; **Vicki Wedler**, First female (3-term) Centre County Commissioner; **Nalini Krishnankutty**, State College Borough Council member.

The cost for the lunch is \$15 (pay at the door). Reservations are due March 7. Questions?
Contact: [Naana Nti](#) **Register:** [Cultural Empowerment for Women Lunch Registration](#)



Nominations urgently needed for leadership positions

AAUW State College is a thriving and growing branch, but it faces the same leadership challenges as many non-profits - not enough people stepping up to share the responsibility of leading the group. Most of the current branch leaders have held several different offices over time, or served multiple terms *in the absence of others stepping forward*.

The Nominations Committee is still seeking nominations for two top leadership positions – **Co-President and President Elect**. Those who are elected will receive a thorough orientation to the position.

The rewards of a leadership position are clear, from sharing a valued skill, gaining new skills, working together as a team, to addressing our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. To learn more about any of the positions listed, **please contact** [Mary Dupuis](#) **by March 1** with a self-nomination or to nominate fellow branch members. The name(s) of those nominated and their nominators will be kept confidential and the final slate will be presented to the board at the April 3 board meeting.

--Mary Dupuis, Nominations Committee Chair



2023 branch award recipients announced

The AAUW State College Awards Committee met in February to select the following branch members to be honored for their contributions this past year, based on nominations from branch members. Congratulations to all! They will be acknowledged at recognition events this spring and summer.

This year's Centre County Council of Human Services Volunteer of the Year recognition dinner will be held on April 27. We plan to fill a table there to honor Vasundara Varadan. Details will be provided via e-blast later this month, and in the April bulletin.

Outstanding Women



SALLY KALIN

During a challenging officer transition last summer, Sally, Immediate Past Co-President, stepped in to coordinate the board to keep the branch running smoothly. She is the prime motivator behind improvements to our website, strongly supports our Marketing & Communications effort, persevered in forming a Nominating Committee, continues pricing for the book sale, and promotes the development of mission-driven programming that the branch is well known for, while also taking on a role at the state level.



CONNIE SCHROEDER

As VP for Marketing and Communications, Connie's attention to promoting the branch and keeping the membership informed has been exceptional. Her role has become more critical over the years because of the need to enhance our visibility and spread our mission. Much of our migration to social media and the enhancement of the quality of our postings is due to Connie. Connie can be a force who doesn't shy away from identifying problems while also suggesting solutions.



Member Making a Difference

MARY ANN BLAIR

After working just one year at the workshop Mary Ann accepted the position of Used Book Sale Co-Chair. She is a dynamic and reliable leader who takes initiative and makes things happen. Mary Ann has a wonderful and welcoming attitude and is a delight to work with. She has really made a difference at the Used Book Workshop and will be terrific at the sale.

Gateway to Equity



LESLIE LAING

Leslie is an exceptionally strong advocate for equity, offering her time selflessly to AAUW State College initiatives, as well as several other community organizations and events, to advance the cause of equity. She can always be counted on to speak her mind, offer constructive ideas, and stand up for diversity, equity, and inclusion. She has been a very active member of the Community Diversity Group, Juneteenth National Freedom Day, Penn State Martin Luther King Jr. Day events, and the local NAACP.

Centre County Council of Human Services Volunteer of the Year



VASUNDARA VARADAN

Vasu has served as branch treasurer for two years and has done a wonderful job tending to her duties as treasurer, and most especially, keeping things running at the Used Book Sale. She has helped volunteers adjust to the credit card system used there, cut through a lot of red tape to open up a branch Zoom account, and has set up an ACH account that adds flexibility for members to request and receive payments. Vasu is a terrific team player!

--AAUW State College Awards Committee: Chriss Schultz and Suzanne Kerlin, Co-Chairs; Sue Poremba, Sue Werner, Anne Ard, Betsy Manlove

Used Book Workshop to close March 7 for the season

Sincere thanks go to workshop leaders **Sherry Crassweller, Suzanne Kerlin, Dina Liberatore**, and all of the volunteers processing books over the past ten



months! With mostly just pricing to do on the last of the donations we are nearly ready for the 61st Used Book Sale (May 13-16). We will bring approximately **4,100 boxes of books** (a record) to the sale. **The workshop closes March 7 to give volunteers time to process final donations, and will reopen in June to start receiving books for the 2024 sale.**

Sign up to volunteer at the May 13-16 Used Book Sale

It is that time of year again! Our 61st Used Book Sale is just around the corner, running **Saturday, May 13 through Tuesday, May 16**. As you know, the sale is a huge endeavor and we need people to volunteer as cashiers, table sorters, and in the hospitality area. Many people have already committed to helping out with the annual Used Book Sale but we can use more help.



Keeping tables neat and cashiering are two key positions.

Help is also needed at **Move-in Night, Thursday May 11** – it is a lot of hard work but a lot of fun as well. We will be assisted by many community volunteers who are a great help.

Please take a moment to look at your schedule and if you have availability, follow this link to sign up today: <https://forms.gle/AjsPcvuufdbvjYin7>

Please contact [Donna Trapp](#) or [Mary Ann Blair](#) if you have any questions. Thank you for your commitment to this sale – we could not do it without you!

--Donna Trapp, AAUW State College Used Book Sale Co-Chair

Dues Increase Alert



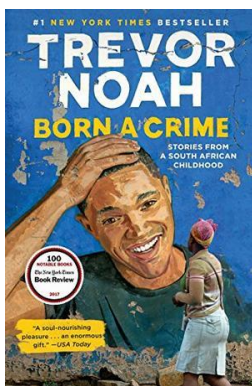
When Julia Brown, AAUW's Board Chair, announced a series of three AAUW dues increases in the fall of 2020, she noted that AAUW would have held dues stable for three years before the first increase would go into effect for 2021-2022. She added that inflation and rising expenses threatened the viability of AAUW and action needed to be taken to increase income.

With this background, national dues for fiscal year 2024, or our 2023-2024 membership year, will increase to \$72. **State and local dues will remain at \$10 and \$8 respectively so the total owed will be \$90.** This is the last of the three dues increases that Julia Brown announced.

If your AAUW Membership expires on June 30, 2023, you may renew your local, state, and national AAUW dues as of April. Next month we will share more on dues payment options. In the meantime, tweak your budget in order to prepare for this upcoming increase.

--Charlene Harrison, Membership Co-Vice President

¡ADELANTE! Book Club to meet Thursday, April 20



The book club is modeled after the AAUW Diversity Outreach for Impact Program, featuring diverse cultures in both fiction and nonfiction offerings. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, April 20 at 2:30 pm**.

The group will discuss *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah. Trevor Noah gives a heartfelt and funny recounting of his experiences growing up in South Africa as an oppressed person. Stories of Noah's life are interspersed with insights into South Africa's culture, systems, and history.

To participate with the group, please contact info@aauwstatecollege.org

We warmly welcome new members. **Join Zoom Meeting:** [April 20 Adelante Meeting](#)

February 13 Humphrey program provides international perspective



The branch-sponsored *International Perspectives on Women in Society* program, held on February 13, brought out nearly fifty attendees who gathered for a lunch and program offered by two of the Penn State Humphrey Fellows.

Afterwards, one presenter commented how nice it was to have such an attentive audience who were there to learn.

Pictured above: Panelists **Abby-Gail Sharonne Blanchard** from Suriname and **Shehrenna Gulamani** from Pakistan, with panel moderator **Charlene Harrison** (left) and program lead **Naana Nti** (right).



Branch member **Star Campbell** serves as a mentor in the program, and has introduced many Humphrey Fellows to volunteering at the Used Book Workshop through the year.

Pictured: AAUW State College member **Star Campbell** with Humphrey Fellows **Andrea Mateos** (Mexico), **Duyen Le** (Vietnam), and guests **Sue Kuo** and **Cora Martz**.



In a recent conversation with branch Diversity Chair **Naana Nti**, she quoted an old Ghanaian proverb, ***“The one who fetches the water is the one who is likely to break the pot.”*** I asked her to interpret the proverb for me and she said it refers to the fact that when we stand up to lead, we will sometimes make visible mistakes, so others must be careful not criticize those who are doing the work. She added that when she was a young girl growing up in Ghana, before her household got running water, she was often sent to fetch water. It was considered “women’s work.”--*Connie Schroeder, Branch Bulletin editor*

--*Naana Nti, Branch Diversity Chair*



A Win for Students

In early February, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court **Judge Renee Jubelirer**, who is the eldest daughter of a former AAUW State College president the late **Trudy Levine**, ruled that the current state system for funding public education violates the students’ constitutional rights by shortchanging poor districts. Jubelirer’s 800-page ruling notes that the state has a constitutional obligation to provide a “comprehensive, effective, and contemporary education” for all students regardless of zip code. Barring an appeal to the state Supreme Court, the ruling is expected to have a positive impact on our state’s educational system. The main points of the court ruling are found on the PA Schools Work website: [PA Schools Work – Victory for Students](#)

--*Carol Hodes, Education Committee*



Members of the State College Area School board will hold an open meeting for community members at **Wegmans Café on Tuesday, April 25 at 8:00 am**. This is a good opportunity to address any district-related comments or questions to the local school

board outside of a formal meeting. The RSVP will be available on the SCASD Facebook page.

Those with Facebook can view the event virtually: [SCASD April 25 Facebook Meeting](#).

Questions and input may also be sent to all-board@scasd.org.



Join Community Conversations on *Equity in Housing*, March 29-30

The State College Borough and Community Conferencing community members to attend the next Community Conversations Series event titled: *Equity in Housing: A National Issue Viewed Through a Local Lens* on **Wednesday, March 29, from 6-8:30 pm** at The State Theatre followed by a breakout discussion on **Thursday, March 30, from 5-7 pm** at the State College Municipal Building Council Chambers. The event at The State Theatre will be live-streamed via C-NET.

This event is meant to educate the public on all the services that State College has to offer

regarding housing, along with discussing the challenges that organizations and individuals face. To register for the event and pose questions to the panel in advance, please complete this brief survey: [Community Conversations event registration](https://www.statecollegepa.us/communityconversations).

--Elizabeth Siegelman, PhD, ersiegelman@cacj.us, (814) 810-7196
AAUW State College member & Community Conferencing
of Centre County Program Coordinator



July 28-29 AAUW Pennsylvania retreat

This July marks the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. During that historic battle, townswomen showed their mettle by risking their lives to nurse the

wounded, turning churches and schools into makeshift hospitals, provisioning food and supplies, and administering medicines. Other women defied social norms by fighting as soldiers on the battlefield.

Commemorating this event, the **AAUW PA Summer Retreat will be held at Gettysburg College, July 28-29, with a full program, luncheon and guest speaker on Saturday, July 29.**

Options for pre-retreat excursions are planned for Friday evening as well as choices for post-retreat excursions on Saturday afternoon. Lodging has been arranged at the Gettysburg Wyndham Hotel for those arriving on Friday.

Today, we acknowledge the continued efforts of women on the front lines --- healthcare providers, nurses, personal care aides, first responders, teachers, social workers, and others in public service, who put themselves at risk to help those in need.

Please plan on joining us next July and circle these retreat dates on your calendar. More details will be provided as they become available.

*--Lori Woods (Indiana County)
Program Vice President, AAUW Pennsylvania*

Share your news on branch social media

Facebook:
@AAUW-StateCollege
Instagram
@aauw_statecollege
LinkedIn:
@aauw-statecollege

We're starting to see more followers but we need your help! Please make sure to follow, like, and share our content on [AAUW State College Facebook](#); [AAUW State College Instagram](#); [AAUW State College LinkedIn](#)

To make our pages a little more personal and reach even more people, we invite members to share news and upcoming events *that relate to our AAUW mission to advance equity for women and girls*. Please send to [Connie Schroeder](#) and we'll do our best to make room for them. We'd love to highlight our members and their successes!

This month is Women's History Month, and we are featuring social media posts around the theme of *Inspiring Women Storytellers*. They are inspiring – check them out.

--Liz Kopco, Social Media Lead



February 2023 Executive Board Meeting

The board approved up to two scholarships of \$565 for talented students to attend NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) from May 31- June 3 at the University of Maryland. Recommendations for student leaders are needed.

Based on anticipated 2022 branch donations to AAUW of just under \$10,000, the branch can name up to 17 Named Gift Honorees.

The board approved the Awards Committee recommendations for four awards: Outstanding Women (Sally Kalin and Connie Schroeder); Member Making a Difference (Mary Ann Blair); Gateway to Equity (Leslie Laing); Centre County Council of Human Services Volunteer of the Year (Vasundara Varadan).

The Nominating Committee has begun meeting; members are encouraged to forward names.

The Used Book Sale already has 3200 boxes of books processed and has set a cutoff date of March 7. Jan Jenkins has stepped forward to assist with volunteer recruitment for the sale.

The January 14 Watch Party program on reproductive rights had a small but very engaged audience for nearly three hours. Thanks to Vasundara Varadan for hosting and to Anne Ard and Carline Crevecoeur for facilitating. Another branch program is being considered for April. The annual banquet/membership meeting will be scheduled for May or June. AAUW-PA wants to highlight branch programs on its website and in the *Keystoner*.

The Scholarship Committee has launched its application cycle with a deadline of March 15.

Four strategic planning teams have been appointed and given a deadline of April 1 for their recommendations. A special board meeting will be in April (still TBD) to consider the teams' recommendations and to craft a final strategic plan.

Branch members are encouraged to attend the AAUW Pennsylvania retreat to be held at Gettysburg College on July 29. Proposals for programs are being solicited. The branch should consider underwriting some of the cost for attendees.

--Sally Kalin, Immediate Past Co-President



Remembering Kathy Detwiler

Branch member Kathy Detwiler died on February 24 and will be greatly missed. She priced math books for the Used Book Sale and she and her husband Wayne cashiered at the sale every year. Wayne also drove a truck on Move-in Night, to transport books to the sale. Kathy was a math teacher at State High. She was a strict teacher but very well liked.

[Kathy Detwiler obituary](#)

Branch Bulletin deadline and publication date



Items for inclusion in the next issue should be sent to *Branch Bulletin* Editor [Connie Schroeder](#) by **Monday, March 27**. The Bulletin will be issued by **April 3**. Bulletins are also available at [AAUW State College](#).