

Table of Contents

- p. 1-2 Lobby Day for public education funding
- p. 3 AAUW-PA Convention Highlights
- p. 4 June 8 Award & Scholarship Banquet Memories
- p. 5 Diversity Corner
- p. 6 American Indian Powwow June 25-26
- p. 6 Mid-State Literacy Council seeks tutors
- P. 7 *Let's Read Math* summer program; volunteers needed
- p. 7 Arts Fest Sign-up
- p. 8 Used Book Workshop reopens; volunteers welcome
- p. 9 Meet new member Oleksandra Pyrozhok
- p. 9 Spotlight on Social Media
- p. 10 Title IX at 50
- p. 10 Leadership Elected
- p. 10 Carnegie Hall Bound
- p. 10 *Branch Bulletin* dates to remember

BRANCH MEMBERS LOBBY for PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING on MAY 24 LOBBY DAY



Susan Chyczewski (left) & Carol Hodes enroute to meet legislative staffers.

Branch members, **Carol Hodes** (Education Chair), **Susan Chyczewski**, and **Leslie Laing** spent May 24, "Lobby Day," at the state capitol. They met with legislative staff to discuss education-related issues. Especially the need for more state education funding as Pennsylvania ranks near the bottom--45th in the country.



Leslie Laing (left) with Susan Spicka, Executive Director of Education

The capitol was alive with advocacy groups who joined this effort to increase awareness of the need for better funding for public education. Susan Spicka, Executive Director of Education Voters of PA, and her Advocacy Coordinator, Sandra Miller, arranged meetings with legislative staff. State College native, Katja Krieger, a consultant

with the Partnership for the Future of Learning, works as outreach coordinator with Education Voters, PA (Spicka's group).

The first appointment was in the House of Representatives with Scott Conklin's executive director, Nick Himebaugh, who reinforced Representative Conklin's stance on charter schools and support of the charter school reform legislation. Himebaugh noted that the governor's budget commits \$1.75 billion to public education, including \$1.25 billion in Basic Education Funding, \$300 million in Level Up funding, \$25 million for CTE, and \$200 million in special education funding. The challenges are inequities in education and applying special education funds to charter schools.



Susan Chyczewski reviewed notes in Senator Corman's conference room.

Next stop was the office of Senator Jake Corman, President Pro Tempore, to meet with Ashley Albert, his legislative assistant. She reminded the group that debate about practices of public charter schools has been ongoing and that finding the middle ground to arrive at a consensus is the main job of the President Pro Tempore. Thus, the need to balance the "asks."

Also present in this meeting was Luke Strawser who represented the advocacy group, Teach Plus. Strawser teaches 8th grade at Mount Union Area School District in Huntingdon County. He spoke of the dire teacher shortage, how his district lost 18 teachers in the past two years, and that two high school math teaching positions went unfilled for a year. Statewide there were only 6,000 teaching certificates issued last year compared to 20,000 several years ago. Due to poor conditions in schools, students leave school with a negative perception and no desire to become teachers, Strawser noted. Ashley Albert thanked the

group for their stories and mentioned that visits from constituents help inform their work.

The day concluded with a meeting where Eric Hagarty, Pennsylvania Acting Secretary of Education, who took questions from the audience including representatives from districts, IUs, and advocacy groups. Hagarty had been on the job only 17 days and willingly answered questions on educational equity, diversity, student testing, IEP implementation and teacher certification.



With this being an election year, now is the best chance in 15 years to increase state funding for public education. The projected state surplus of \$8 - \$9 billion dollars is more likely to be spent on immediate needs.

We thank Susan Spicka and Sandra Miller of PA Schools Work for organizing this day for us. PA Schools Work is a coalition of organizations from across Pennsylvania representing teachers and other educators; urban, suburban and rural communities; and parents and other community members working together to advocate for PA public schools, their students and the communities they serve. To receive updates and learn more about this organization, sign up here: <https://paschoolswork.org/join-the-work/>.

--Carol Hodes, AAUW State College Branch Education Chair



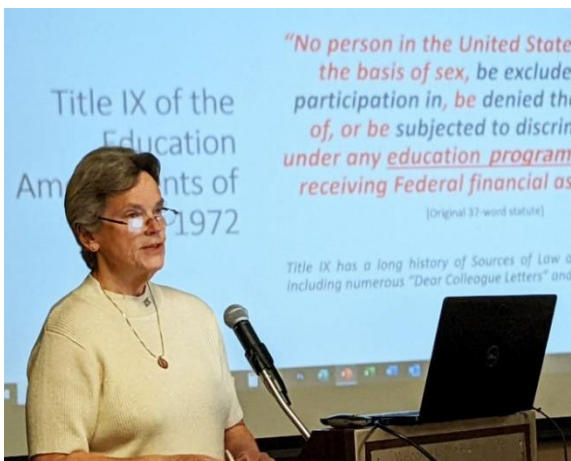
Outgoing AAUW-PA President Ann Pehle welcomed newly elected state president Cindy Hall. Through this month, Cindy serves as Immediate Past President for AAUW State College. Best wishes leading AAUW-PA, Cindy.

AAUW STATE COLLEGE MEMBERS ATTEND AAUW STATE CONVENTION

Ten AAUW State College members attended the AAUW Pennsylvania meeting, held in Harrisburg June 3-5. They were joined by about 70 members from other AAUW branches in Pennsylvania.

The meeting featured networking opportunities, several inspirational speakers, and culminated with a session led by Gloria Blackwell, AAUW National CEO, where she provided an update on the challenges and opportunities AAUW faces.

Discovery Space, an AAUW State College community grant recipient, contributed a basket of handmade items from their Maker Space (The Rivet - <https://therivet.org/>) for the meeting's basket auction fundraiser. In total, the fundraiser raised over \$1100 for AAUW National's Greatest Needs (unrestricted dollars) fund.



AAUW SUPPORTS VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT of TITLE IX...and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education.

Title IX consultant Peg Pennepacker spoke at the AAUW-PA meeting and provided a fascinating look at Title IX's 50-year history. Prior to retiring to do more work to advocate for Title IX enforcement, Peg was an AAUW State College member and State College Area High School Athletic Director from 2011-2017.

(TITLE IX, see page 10)



Outgoing Presidents Linda Friend and Sally Kalin were happy to relax.

SPRING BANQUET MEMORIES

About sixty members and guests attended the June 8th Award & Scholarship Banquet, held at Centre Hills Country Club. With almost no in-person gatherings since Covid began, this was the first banquet since 2019. It was fun to be together again.



Time to socialize!



Scholarship Co-Chairs Leslie Laing and Maria Schmidt were joined by recipients Kiana Leija and Kendra Fonash-Napier, two of four women receiving \$7,000 educational scholarships.



Linda Higginson achieved her 50-year honorary life member status. Kudos, Linda, and thanks for your inspiring words.

BELOW: When Carline Crevecoeur and Ann Echols attended the AAUW-PA state convention two weeks ago they were moved by the opportunity to carry on the empowerment message shared there. At the June 8th banquet, they were elected officially as Branch Co-Presidents for 2022-2024. Congrats, Carline and Ann!



LEFT: Naana Nti, Diversity Chair, received the Outstanding Woman Award from Awards Co-Chair Chriss Schultz.

Other awardees included Estelle Call, Member Making a Difference; Jordan Glover, CCCHS Volunteer of the Year, and Ten Thousand Villages, Gateway to Equity Award recipient.

[Visit: Banquet Photo Album](#)





DIVERSITY CORNER

LAST CALL to REGISTER for the JUNE 21ST COMMUNITY DIVERSITY CONFERENCE



COMMUNITY DIVERSITY
CONFERENCE

Embracing & Implementing Inclusion

The Community Diversity Group announces the opening of registration for the Fourth Community Diversity Conference, to be held on June 21st. In addition to Penn State's 19th President Dr. Neeli Bendapudi's welcoming address and a dynamic keynote kick-off by Dr. Stacey Reicherzer, this one-day, in-person conference is filled with a cadre of leading experts, authors and exhibitors. It centers on an evolving world of *Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Belonging*. **Register:** www.CommunityDiversityGroup.org

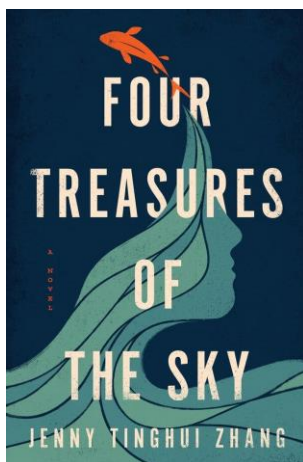


JUNTEENTH FESTIVAL: CELEBRATE and LEARN JUNE 13-18

A week of events are planned in State College to commemorate Juneteenth, which marks the emancipation of the last remaining enslaved African Americans on June 19, 1865.

The State College Chapter of the NAACP, in partnership with the Penn State Center for Performing Arts, The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau, Institute for Development and State College Borough, will host *Juneteenth 2022: Reflections of Black Experiences; Voices of Freedom Through the Ages*, June 17-18, including an art exhibition and block party.

Event Schedule: [Juneteenth Info and Schedule](#)



¡ADELANTE! BOOK CLUB to MEET THURSDAY, AUGUST 11th

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

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, August 11th at 2:30 pm**. The group will discuss *Four Treasures of the Sky* by Jenny Tinghui Zhang. The novel, set against the backdrop of the Chinese Exclusion Act, is about a Chinese girl fighting to claim her place in the 1880s American West.

To participate in the group, contact info@aauwstatecollege.org. We welcome new members. **Join Zoom Meeting:** [August 11th Book Club](#)

--Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Chair



Scene from the 15th Annual Penn State Powwow.

JOIN ANNUAL AMERICAN INDIAN POWWOW, JUNE 25-26th

Traditional American Indian dancers and Native Drum Groups from across the U.S. and Canada will travel to State College for one of the finest powwows both in or outside of Indian Country.

Powwow coordinator John Sanchez (Apache) says, “everyone, Native or non-Native, is welcome and admission is free.” In addition to enjoying traditional dances, non-Natives will be invited into the dance arena to share an inter-tribal dance.

Location: Mt. Nittany Middle School, 656 Brandywine Drive

Hours: 11:00 am – 9:00 pm Saturday and 11:00 am – 5:00 pm Sunday

Native foods available for purchase.

Learn more: <https://www.bellisario.psu.edu/powwow>

Share event flyer: [16th Annual Penn State Powwow](#)

--Victoria Sanchez, AAUW State College member



MID-STATE LITERACY COUNCIL SEEKS SUMMER TUTORS

Seeking In-person ESL and Cellphone Tutor Volunteers

Mid-State Literacy Council (MSLC) has an immediate need for short-term, in-person ESL (English as a Second Language) and cellphone tutors. Days and times are flexible depending on volunteer and student availability. Tutoring sessions will be held at the MSLC office suite (248 E Calder Way Unit 307, State College) or another public location.



- **ESL tutors** will meet with a multilingual student twice a week for about 1.5 hours, over an eight-week period starting in July.
- **Cellphone tutors** help adults learn how to use their mobile phone. This is a short-term volunteer opportunity for individuals who are comfortable with cellphone technology.

Details: [MSLC Volunteer Tutor Info](#)



BRANCH SPONSORS *LET'S READ MATH*, JULY 11, 18, 25

Let's Read Math, the Branch-sponsored summer math program for elementary-age children, resumes next month after a two-year absence due to the pandemic. It will run three Mondays in July, featuring 30–45 minute sessions that begin with the reading of a children's book, highlighting an interesting math or science concept, and an activity. The sessions will be held at Schlow Centre Region Library.

Branch members interested in volunteering for the sessions should email Candace Davison, ccd2@psu.edu with their availability. The *Let's Read Math* program is free. Advance registration is required for all programs and space will be limited. Register online or call (814) 237-6236. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For more details see [Let's Read Math July Schedule](#).



Central Pennsylvania
Festival of the Arts™

VOLUNTEER for AAUW STATE COLLEGE-STAFFED INFORMATION BOOTH at ARTS FESTIVAL, JULY 13 – 17

AAUW State College has regularly supported the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts by volunteering to staff the Information Booth at the corner of College Avenue and Allen Street. To date, a handful of shifts remain.

To sign-up, visit [Arts Fest Sign-up Sheet](#) today and add your name to a yellow-highlighted opening. For additional information, contact Jackie Esposito, Archivist122@yahoo.com.



TIME to RENEW AAUW MEMBERSHIP

The total cost of AAUW membership for 2022-2023 is \$85, which includes national, state, and local membership. Renewals are due June 30th, with the new membership year commencing **July 1st**. (Members who joined starting April 1, 2022 are covered through June, 2023.) Thank you in advance for your continued support. Those

who have not yet renewed their membership to date should do so now.

RENEW ONLINE: [AAUW State College Online Membership Renewal Instructions](#)

RENEW BY CHECK: Make out check to “AAUW State College” and mail to P.O. Box 735, State College, PA 16804.

Questions? Contact Branch Membership Co-VPs: Charlene Harrison, chh1@psu.edu or Jordan Glover, jmg6097@gmail.com.

WORKSHOP VOLUNTEERS GATHER for WRAP-UP LUNCHEON

About 25 Used Book Workshop volunteers gathered on May 26th for a follow-up to the past year of gathering and processing of books for two sales that were spaced only eight months apart. It was a remarkable year, after having had two sales cancelled or postponed due to Covid. There was an interesting feedback session after lunch where several new or renamed book categories were suggested. Customer and volunteer feedback is valuable.



LEFT: *Estelle Call stepped down as volunteer coordinator for the sale. She did a great job. Thank you, Estelle!*
MIDDLE: *Sherry Crassweller (workshop lead), Sue Hiester (workshop lead), and Mary Atchley (CDs and DVDs).*
RIGHT: *Donna Trapp and Mary Ann Blair stepped up to co-chair the 2023 sale. Welcome, welcome!*



AAUW STATE COLLEGE USED BOOK WORKSHOP OPEN for BOOK DONATIONS!

2197 High Tech Road

(across from University Park Airport - ½ mile
down High Tech on right behind Handy Delivery)

Mondays 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Tuesdays & Wednesdays - 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
(Tue./Wed. hours extend to 2:30 pm after Labor Day.)

Before packing up books to donate, check to make sure that they can be accepted by visiting https://aauwstatecollege.org/used_book_sale_donations/. Books that cannot be accepted may be recycled through CCCRA recycling bins once their hard covers are removed.

Mark your calendar for the next Used Book Sale: May 13-16, 2023

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Oleksandra (Lesia) Pyrozhok

lesiavpyrozhok@gmail.com

My name is Oleksandra. I am from Ukraine.



The war in Ukraine began suddenly and I was forced to flee to the United States where my only sister lives, leaving my husband and my only son in Ukraine. They had no right to leave Ukraine due to the general mobilization of men.

I did not know English very well, or let's just say that I did not know it at all when I came here. It was very difficult for me to communicate in English with different people because I was scared and nervous. My life and my family's life changed in one day. But that's another story.

My sister's friend contacted an acquaintance who recommended I volunteer with AAUW. It was a good idea because I needed to communicate with people so as not to think about what was happening in my country.

A few days later I received emails from Dina Liberatore and Estelle Call. Then I registered on your site and became a volunteer. I really enjoyed being a bookseller. I was busy all the time, my thoughts were focused on books and not on events in Ukraine. I met many good people, tried to communicate with them. You are doing a very good job. Thank you to everyone who joined the book sale and helped me in joining you. You were one of the first to help me get back to normal. The main thing I saw was that American people read books and were interested in them.

Now briefly about me. By profession I am a teacher of geography and a specialist in organizational management. I have two higher education diplomas. I have been working as a realtor for the last 4 years. I like to knit, embroider, read books, and walk. And in general, I love life! Peaceful life without war!



SPOTLIGHT on SOCIAL MEDIA

Hi there! My name is Mary Wolfin. I'll be helping our Marketing team by managing our social media pages. Whether or not you are a frequent social media user, you probably already know the reach and importance that a good social media page can have. But what makes a "good" social media page?

The best social media pages are those that post frequently, but not too much. They post relevant content that informs current followers, and attracts new ones. They stay on

brand, but also keep up with current happenings in their community. Our social media pages have been a good source of information for our followers in the past, and I'm looking forward to making them even better.

That's where you can help! Our social media pages are the best way to reach our community and extend our visibility, since we don't do paid advertising for our branch. With that in mind, I'm asking you to keep us informed about events and other happenings in and around our branch. Branch-sponsored events will receive top priority postings, but anything that corresponds to the AAUW mission to advance equity for women and girls will be considered. Keep in mind that our social media pages are not just for current members, but also for potential new ones. Help us show everyone the great work we do.

How else can you help?

Photos! Social media posts that include pictures are far more likely to get shares, likes, and comments - all which boost our reach and visibility. So please feel free to send photos from branch and branch-sponsored events that we can post!

Engage! Social media posts with high engagement extend our reach. When you share, like, and comment on AAUW posts, you are giving our posts a "boost," and increasing the chance that more people will see them, too.

Send people our way! Encourage friends, family, and community members who might be interested in the AAUW mission to interact with us on social media - just giving us a "follow" is helpful, but we are always happy to answer any questions that come our way as well.

My email address is marywolfin@gmail.com, and you can also contact Connie Schroeder, connieschroeder@gmail.com. I will look forward to seeing (and posting) the wonderful things we will be up to in the coming months.

--Mary Wolfin, AAUW State College Social Media Lead

(TITLE IX from page 3)

Title IX: Half a Century of Expanding Access to Education

Title IX is a landmark federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in education. It protects staff and students in any educational institution or program that receives federal funds. Because the legislation requires schools to guarantee that all their policies and practices equal access, it affects everything from admissions and athletics to STEM training and sexual-harassment policies. AAUW is integral to its history. Learn more: [Title IX at 50](#)

Join AAUW's Title IX 50th Anniversary Celebration Webinar, June 23rd, 4:30 pm

Join AAUW as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Title IX, highlight AAUW's role leading up to Title IX's passage, and reflect on its continued challenges and evolution. The program will

include inspiring speakers and a recognition of our members and supporters who have made significant contributions to AAUW throughout the past 12 months.

Register Today: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_plHsRyu4RrSeaYPkItm3Sw

BRANCH OFFICERS ELECTED



New branch officer for 2022-2024 were elected by e-vote in early June. The e-vote was a strong endorsement of the candidates--there were no negative votes and two abstentions. Elected officers include **Ann Echols** and **Carline Crevecoeur**, Co-Presidents, and **Connie Schroeder**, VP

Marketing and Communications. In addition, **Nina Cowart**, VP Programs, and **Chriss Schultz**, Co-Secretary agreed to continue for a second two-year term. Congratulations, all.

Carnegie Hall Bound

Later this month, branch member **Morgen Hummel**, along with nine other State College Choral Society members, will join singers from Eugene, Oregon in a performance of Brahms's German Requiem on the stage of New York City's Carnegie Hall. Bravo, Morgen!



After a brief summer hiatus, the next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **Monday, August 15th**. Please send submissions for inclusion in that issue by **Monday, August 7th** to *Branch Bulletin* Editor Connie Schroeder, connieschroeder@gmail.com. Bulletins are sent electronically to branch members and friends and also are accessible at <https://aauwstatecollege.org/blog/>.