

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Before the impact of COVID-19, I wrote a newsletter article to invite you to our Higher Education Scholarship Banquet on April 28. It is always a highlight of our year, and the Scholarship Committee is especially excited about the recipients. Regrettably, this year we must cancel. We will not be able to celebrate our recipients in person—but we will celebrate. Read on for details.

On March 10, six scholarship candidates were presented to Board for approval. All the young women presented well and represented schools from University of Pittsburgh to Shippensburg University to Penn State and Salus University. The committee was impressed with the diversity of concentration of studies as well as the individual family situations and yet, the students are striving for success! Included was a previous winner of the scholarship from 2019.

Six is a record number of \$1500 scholarships awarded in one year. The generosity of this branch continues to reflect the mission of AAUW to promote higher education for young women. (See next article for details). Thank you everyone for making this a reality for these deserving students.

Without a banquet to celebrate, the Scholarship Committee will present the recipients in a special publication around the time of April 28—the banquet date. This publication will include the committee member’s introduction to the recipient, a photo of the recipient and her remarks that she would have delivered in person. We will also send a press release to The Sentinel and update our website. Take a look at our [2019 celebration](#) and know that we will gather again in 2021.

Thank you committee members, Stefanie D’Amore, Gail D’Urso, Linkey Green, Rose Smith and Cindy Sutton, for your time and dedication for reading, calling and interviewing. Thank you Bosler Memorial Library for providing the facility.

Lillian Wong
Chair, Scholarship Committee

AAUW Carlisle members rock!! We raised over \$6500 from more than 60% of our membership for the scholarship fund this year—outstanding! This includes donations from the Women of the Army War College (branch members and non-members) funding one scholarship. Adding this year’s donations to the reserve from past years, the Scholarship Committee was able to award a phenomenal SIX scholarships to some amazing young women.

Thank you for your support of our Higher Education Scholarship program.

Carol McAnulty
AAUW Funds Chair

April 2	1:-00 pm	Public Policy Committee meeting	Video conference; contact Nancy Sigrist for details
April 6	1:00 pm	Trailblazers CANCELLED	See Page 6 for details on how we will celebrate the deserving students.
April 6	7:00 pm	Book Group – Conference Call	Dial-in Number: (712) 770-4598 Access Code: 825160#
April 28	6:00 pm	Scholarship Banquet CANCELLED	See Page 1 for details on how we will celebrate the recipients.
WATCH EMAILS from aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com for updates on May events			

From the President

What a difference a month makes. The March newsletter calendar was exploding with activities. Heeding guidance from the national health agencies and Pennsylvania Governor, and reacting to the closure of Dickinson College and Carlisle Area School District, and wishing to ensure the health and well being of our members, the AAUW Carlisle Board made difficult decisions to cancel the following: One thing we can say for sure -- we are a vibrant branch and this is a busy time of year for us!

March 14	New Member Social
March 24	Branch Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarding Gateway to Equity Award to Safronia Perry of Hope Station Member vote on branch dues increase. See page 4 Member vote on AAUW Pennsylvania officers. Thank you for voting online or by paper ballot.
March 31	Beyond Suffrage: Steps to Economic Security -- POSTPONED to Fall 2020
April 6	Trailblazers See page 6
April 6	Book Group
April 28	Scholarship Banquet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See page 1 Voting on AAUW Carlisle officer slate. See page 4

At the writing of this message, May events are proceeding. The AAUW Carlisle Board is meeting via teleconference in early April to discuss the remainder of the fiscal year. Watch for emails from aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com for updates.

On March 6, about fifteen AAUW Carlisle members attended the Exchange Club dinner to witness Marjie and Don Mowery being honored with the Molly Pitcher Award for their lifetime contributions to the success of the Carlisle community. Read this [Sentinel](#) article for full recap of the evening and deserved award. Marjie and Don – we are so pleased to know and work with you in AAUW.

Thank you for your support of increasing the branch dues from \$13 to \$20. Your confidence in and support of the work we do is much appreciated. See page 4 for full update.

Please stay safe. Looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Ann Pehle
President

AAUW CARLISLE STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The FY20 plan is in three parts: Board discussions to occur throughout the fiscal year; Branch projects; Board member/role specific projects. Go [here](#) to read the entire plan. Share your feedback with Ann Pehle (apehle@outlook.com)

Board Conversations

Two topics were slated for discussion and now completed.

- Diversity and Inclusion
- Member dues

Branch Projects

Fundraising Strategy

No update.

Member Survey

The Board is using the results to guide our decisions. Recently – dues increase (page 4), and the Beyond Suffrage:

Steps to Economic Equity event, postponed from March 31 to Fall 2020.

Member Engagement

This is an agenda item for every Board meeting. It is our responsibility to ensure you are able to engage with branch activities at the level you wish. Watch for volunteer opportunities in varied sizes. Don't see anything of interest? Tell us what you need.

News from National AAUW Update

AAUW and the Impact of the Coronavirus

Our mission to advance equity won't change; we'll just adapt how we get there. Our work has never been more relevant. AAUW's research shows that women stand to lose the most when financial disruptions hit, since they have more debt, lower pay and less retirement savings than men. Watch this webinar where AAUW CEO Kim Churches and members of the leadership team discuss the impact and AAUW's role.

<https://www.aauw.org/event/2020/03/aauw-and-the-impact-of-the-coronavirus/>

NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders)

As a result of the ongoing concerns regarding COVID-19 and the impact from travel restrictions and need for physical distancing, AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) 2020 that was scheduled to take place May 27-30, 2020, at the University of Maryland, College Park has been postponed. This heartbreaking decision is responsive to the advice of health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO) who have declared a global pandemic. AAUW's first priority is the health and welfare of our dedicated staff, NCCWSL participants and the campus community.

NOTE: AAUW Carlisle donated \$500 to AAUW Pennsylvania to provide a scholarship for NCCWSL. It will be held for 2021.

Equal Pay Day – March 31

Kim Churches, CEO of the American Association of University Women, issued this statement in advance of Equal Pay Day, which will be marked on March 31.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is creating a seismic shift in our lives and in the U.S. economy. Our hearts go out to everyone impacted by this crisis — as does our promise to work even harder on their behalf. In these challenging times, we are doubling down on our efforts to fight for the economic security of American women and their families, as we have done for the past 140 years.

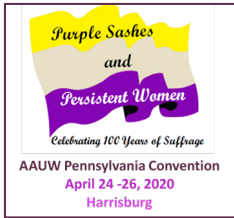
This is typically the time we mark the annual Equal Pay Day, when women symbolically catch up to men's average earnings from the previous year. In addition to noting this date (March 31), this year we are taking a wider view to focus on how the pandemic is amplifying and exacerbating all of the nation's economic inequities.

The issues we have long been fighting for are now alarmingly urgent: Low-wage workers — 54 percent of whom are women — are bearing the brunt of the coronavirus pandemic as they lose jobs by the millions. Those who've been working part time — again predominantly women — often don't have basic employee benefits, including health insurance coverage. The increasing numbers of gig workers also have no benefits.

The nation's lack of paid sick and family leave is endangering both the physical and economic wellbeing of countless American families. Retired women — who are twice as likely as men to be living at or below the poverty line — are more vulnerable than ever. And the burden of student debt — two-thirds of which is held by women — feels especially onerous for those who are unemployed.

We are confident that the severity of the crisis will eventually lessen, and as it does, society will turn its collective attention to rebuilding the economy. Throughout the coming weeks, months and years, AAUW will accelerate our efforts to address the persistent and underlying inequities that are crucial for a full recovery. Together we can ensure that we end up with a better, more economically secure world for women, their families and society as a whole."

What's Up in Pennsylvania? News from AAUW Pennsylvania



2020 Convention -- POSTPONED

We take the health and well-being of our members and invited guests as our highest priority. We also must consider the financial well-being of our organization. Through discussions with the Central Hotel and Conference Center, we have determined that the best course of action is to postpone the Convention until July 13, 14, 15. Full convention information is at <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/2020-state-convention/>.

AAUW Carlisle Nomination Committee Report

A new membership year brings new leadership to the AAUW Carlisle Board of Directors. The following members have been nominated for a two-year term. The slate was presented to the board and approved at the March 2020 board meeting. Typically, members attending the April Scholarship Banquet vote on the candidate slate. With the banquet cancelled, we are asking for your VOTE via electronic ballot for these fine candidates. Please watch for an email from aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com for details.

- **Linda Brunski-Finance Co-Chair:** Linda has agreed to serve a second term as Finance Officer. For the past two years she has worked with co-chair, Barb Attivo, making sure AAUW Carlisle is in good financial standing and has steered the organization with initiatives like the increase in Carlisle branch dues. Linda has a BS in Business & Economics and is a volunteer with the Bosler Library and a member of the local Rotary.
- **Gail D'Urso-Membership Co-Chair:** Gail has also agreed to serve a second term as Membership Co-chair. You see Gail's smiling face at all AAUW Carlisle events handing out name tags. Gail also spearheads the Trailblazers Girls Recognition program. She has a degree in Home Economics and a masters in Public Health. Gail loves to garden and shares her iris bulbs for the silent auction during the August Social.
- **Judy Wheaton-Programs Co-Chair:** Judy is new to Carlisle and to AAUW but not new to women's advocacy issues. She has worked with the public policy committee the past year on their local initiatives. Judy has a degree in Elementary & Special Education and studies Criminology. She is looking forward to meeting more AAUW Carlisle members and bringing informative and exciting programs to membership during the 2020-2021 year.

Mary Brunski, Programs Co-Chair will be stepping off the board. She has started her own business, Demeter Financial Services offering health insurance and financial planning. Thank you Mary for all the time you spent bringing our membership quality programs over the past few years!

Special thanks also to the Nomination Committee, Pat Markowski, Robin Turner and Kathleen Gorak. Their knowledge of our membership and guidance brought you these candidates for your support and VOTE. These new board members will be installed during the August Social.

Virginia Mauk
Nomination Chair

Branch Dues Increase

Our dues have been at \$13 since the late 1980's. As our branch grows, members have expressed interest in expanding our reach, increasing our visibility, and partnering with other organizations. At the heart of it all is our mission to advocate on behalf of women and girls. Evaluating our dues amount was a topic identified in the branch's member survey. At the January 14 Board Meeting, a motion was made to increase branch dues to \$20 per year. This is a \$7 increase overall, from \$82 to \$89 per year. With consideration to increases in spending to support these many new initiatives, the Board voted unanimously to recommend this increase in branch dues. Members voted in March via survey to approve the increase (38 yes and 2 no). This will be effective for July 1, 2020 renewals. We are grateful to everyone who participated in this process.

Barb Attivo & Linda Brunski, Finance Officers and Gail D'Urso & Virginia Mauk, Membership VPs

Exploring DIVERSITY and INCLUSION

AAUW Carlisle Board committed in the Strategic Plan to discuss the topic of Diversity and Inclusion. Click [here](#) to read the plan. Important components of diversity and inclusion are the types of programs that we offer and with whom we build relationships. The Board agreed to purposefully design programming to cover diversity themes and encourage members to be present at events that support diverse collaborators. We must be open to unfamiliar concepts and visible in the entire Carlisle community. This section will include activities, events, discussions etc. for our exploration.

To support our Board decision to be more intentional about discussing diversity and inclusion topics, we decided to have a joint Public Policy/Interest Groups project called "**Racism: Let's Begin the Dialog**". At this event, members and guests will come together to discuss racism, its impact broadly, to our own community and to ourselves. We don't have a date yet, but we will let you know when we do! In the meantime, you can use your free time at home to delve into and enjoy some, or all, of the literary works that will inform our discussion:

Film

"Just Mercy" starring Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx and Brie Larson (We are in luck as this film was just released for on-demand viewing and seems to be offered for rent or purchase on most major streaming sites)

Books (read the book or look for one of the detailed summaries online if you are short of reading time!)

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stephenson

How to Be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi

Lecture (Sorry, this is one you can't do from home...)

"How to Be an Antiracist" with author Ibram X. Kendi. Note this lecture has been twice postponed. Our latest information is that it will be rescheduled by The Clarke Forum at Dickinson College for sometime in the Fall. We will keep you posted.

We hope this sparks your interest! Enjoy and we will let you know about timing for our discussion group, once the COVID-19 aggravation settles down!

*Wendy Armour Dickinson, Interest Group Chair
Nancy Sigrist, Public Policy Co-Chair*

New Members

Pat Markowski, Communications Chair

Katie Perkowski

Katie and her family are newcomers to Carlisle, having moved into the area last fall from Montgomery, Alabama. Her husband is an active duty USAF colonel, currently teaching at the Army War College. While his postings have taken them to many domestic and overseas assignments, he is a native Pennsylvanian, and is happy to be back in the area. Their sons, aged 11 and 7 attend Moreland Elementary school, play basketball and soccer, and love history and science, puzzles and math, respectively..

Katie holds a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Toledo, and an MA degree from Eastern Michigan University, focusing on arts administration and theater. Due to her husband's military career, Katie has had many diverse experiences working in Michigan, Ohio, Germany, England, Georgia and Alabama with theaters, government, foundations and higher education with a focus on event and project management, fundraising, public relations, marketing and community programming. Most recently, she was Director of Marketing and Communications for Alabama Shakespeare Festival, one of the largest theaters in the U.S. She has also worked at Kent State and Oberlin College as assistant director for their opera program, and as an arts management consultant for Opera Cleveland, Atlanta Opera, Arcanum Productions and several individual artists.

Her volunteer activities include serving on the Board of Directors of Montgomery Chorale, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, Montgomery Humane Society, and grassroots political organizing with Organize Alabama. She was a founding member of Arbor Opera Theatre, a non-profit professional opera company in Ann Arbor, MI, now in its 20th year.

She was recently elected to the Vestry at St. John's on the Square, and sings in the Parish Choir. She also enjoys reading, and is interested in civil discourse and social justice.

Katie joined AAUW Carlisle because it seems like a good group through which to engage with the greater Carlisle community. She has already joined the Public Policy Committee.

INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES

Wendy Armour Dickinson, Interest Group Chair

I am sorry that the New Member Social has been postponed. I was looking forward to meeting our new members.

The Carlisle Branch has grown so much in the last two years. I am thrilled about it. With growth, sometimes personal connections are harder to make. Let me share my story.

Many years ago when I joined the Harrisburg Branch, I did so to make new friends since I am not from this area. I considered not renewing my membership. I was having trouble meeting members at the monthly branch meetings. Fortunately, I signed up to sort books for the annual branch book sale. While sorting books, I got to meet and interact with other branch members. Most of the women that I met are still good friends.

While the Carlisle Branch no longer has a book sale, (please support The Bookery), we have 4 wonderful interest groups to facilitate interaction between new and established members.

1. Bridge Flight - contact Darlis Simonton if you are interested.
2. Book Group - Our next discussion is April 6 at 7 pm via conference call. Dial-in Number: (712) 770-4598 Access Code: 825160# We will talk about Still Life by Louise Penny.
3. Breakfast Club - Branch members, their significant others, gather for breakfast and conversation on a Saturday morning. We generally get together once a month, but due to social distancing, the next breakfast has not been scheduled.
4. Dine Out - This group is open to branch members and their significant others. We have been gathering every other month or so for dinner at a local restaurant. The next dining opportunity has not been scheduled.

We are open to starting additional interest groups based upon members' interests. Possible new interest groups could be centered around walking/hiking, non-fiction book group and a gourmet group where members cook dinner.

If you have any questions or would like to join one of our established groups, please contact me, Wendy Armour Dickinson (717-514-3322 or warmourdickinson@hotmail.com).

Trailblazers Girls' Recognition Try Another Way....

During challenging times, it is important to remain creative and resourceful so we can continue to move forward. A coronavirus pandemic is one of those times.

We will not be able to hold the celebration, as planned, on April 6 at the Carlisle Area High School Fowler Auditorium. Since our second annual Trailblazers Girls' Recognition Event has been cancelled for this year, we still plan to recognize our honorees, just the same. Embroidered stadium blankets and certificates will be mailed to each of the eleven girls we planned to recognize at the event. A special article in our newsletter with pictures of each girl will highlight her interests, ambitions, and plans for the future. We will submit this article for publication to the Carlisle Area School District for inclusion on their website and to our local newspaper.

For more information about Trailblazers and to see learn about the 2019 inaugural celebration, go to <https://carlisle-pa.aauw.net/trailblazers/>.

We are grateful to Dr. Albert Parrillo and Leigh Hamilton for all of their help and support throughout this process and we look forward to Trailblazers, Year 3, in the spring of 2021.

Barb Attivo, Gail D'Urso (Chair), Carolyn Freberg, Jeanna Som, and Lillian Wong

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

Nancy Sigrist and Kate Elkins, Public Policy Co-Chairs

Advocacy Visits to Local PA Representatives

In 2019, AAUW Carlisle rallied our troops and successfully visited all of our local Pennsylvania Representatives to advocate for equal pay for equal work. This project was planned to coincide with Equal Pay Day and the AAUW PA State Rally at the capitol rotunda. We had such a wonderful experience and turnout for this important advocacy work that the Public Policy Committee is determined to continue this year. We had targeted the month of April for advocacy visits, which would begin with training for our volunteer members prior to meeting with their state reps. Well, in the meantime, we all know what arrived on our doorsteps to make this not possible! The COVID-19 virus restrictions will mean a delay but not an end to our efforts. ***Please watch for updates as we will be in touch as soon as new dates can be confirmed.***

This year we will focus our advocacy on economic security for women in Pennsylvania. There are several good bills pending that we support. Join our advocacy team and we will give you all of the details you need to make the case to your Pennsylvania Representatives!

Pay Equity (HB850/SB721)

Pennsylvania saw a one-cent change in the pay gap from 80 cents in 2017 to 81 cents in 2018. The state also moved from 24th in the country to 21st. Equal Pay Day this year was March 31st as compared to April 2nd last year. While going in the right direction, narrowing the pay gap by one cent is just not enough!

Raising the Minimum Wage (HB1215/SB12)

Every state surrounding Pennsylvania has raised their minimum wage and continues to do so with incremental increases over the next four to five years until reaching the total approved minimum wage. Thereafter, there will be cost of living increases, putting Pennsylvania even further behind.

Paid Leave – The Family Care Act (HB1739/SB580)

A priority for AAUW in 2020 is Implementing Paid Leave. The U.S. is the only developed country without paid family and sick leave. We need to adopt policies to give workers paid time off for illness and caregiving.

Julia Jennings: Feminist: One Women's Pursuit of the Vote

7pm, May 26, 2020

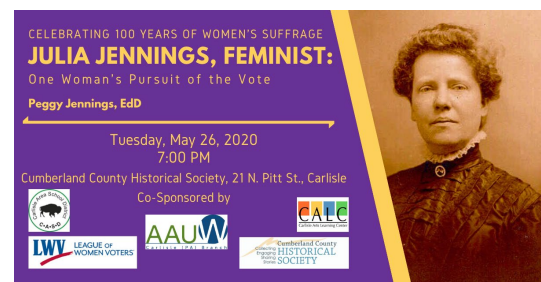
Cumberland County Historical Society

We are excited to announce that our May 26 branch meeting has taken on a new and expanded format! The Cumberland County Historical Society, along with the Carlisle Area League of Women Voters, are joining us in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage. Our very own AAUW Carlisle member, Peggy Jennings, will be giving a presentation on her great aunt, Julia Jennings, a prominent suffragist.

Julia served as the Virginia legislative chair for the National Women's Party. Her advocacy for women's suffrage included participating in the now-famous demonstrations at the White House gates, and frequent lobbying efforts with state and national legislators.

Adding a wonderful dimension to the evening, Mr. Wagner from Carlisle High School has invited students to display the projects that they completed for CASD's History Day, with the theme of 'Women Breaking Barriers'. Also, the Carlisle Arts Learning Center (CALC) has invited their artists to create art with that same theme, to be displayed at this event.

While the evening aims to celebrate the 100th anniversary, we also think it is important to show the legacy of suffrage and include other ways women have blazed the trail. This terrific collaboration with CASD and CALC is a wonderful way to do that!



**AAUW Carlisle
2019-2020 Board Members**

Elected Officers

President – Ann Pehle

Membership VPs –Gail D’Urso, Virginia Mauk

Program VPs –Mary Brunski, Stacey Gatch

Finance Officers –Linda Brunski, Barb Attivo

Secretary – Angelica Mishra

Past President – Linkey Green

Standing Committee Chairs

AAUW Funds – Carol McAnulty

Communications – Pat Markowski

College/University Liaison - Jennifer Connell

Community Activities – **OPEN**

Diversity and Inclusion – **OPEN**

Historian – Rosemary Smith

Interest Groups – Wendy Armour Dickinson

Newsletter – Shirley Gehringer

Public Policy –Kate Elkins, Nancy Sigrist

Scholarship – Lillian Wong

Social Media – **OPEN**

STEM – Barb Attivo, Lillian Wong

Yearbook – Carmen Eiserman

Branching Out is published August to June by the AAUW Carlisle (PA) Branch.

Articles and photos should be submitted to Shirley Gehringer at shirleygehringer@gmail.com by the 20th of the month. Include the word newsletter and month in the email subject.

Branch website is: <http://carlisle-pa.aauw.net/>

Like us on Facebook: @AAUWCarlisle

The Board welcomes questions:

aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com

Not receiving branch information?

Make sure emails from

aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com

aren't going into your junk or spam folder.

Volunteer Opportunities

If interested, please contact the appropriate Board member.
(Time commitment)

Projects (point of contact)

- Join the **ad hoc fundraising committee** to explore branch fundraising needs and new ways to raise money. (Carol McAnulty, AAUW Funds Chair)
- Serve on the Board as **Diversity and Inclusion Chair**. (Ann Pehle, President)

Membership

- Greet members/guests as they arrive to branch meetings. (30 minutes prior to meeting)
- Call members to follow-up periodically. (2 hours per month)
- Write notes to welcome new members. (2 hours per month)
- Assist with gathering member interests. (Various)
- Sew scrap material into new member bags. (Various)

Historian

- Take photos at meetings, events for archive and website. Use Office Depot discount card to print photo; submit reimbursement; send via email to Social Media lead. (Various)
- Organize items for archive. (Various)
- Harvest photos from Facebook and website and print. Use Office Depot discount card to print photo; submit reimbursement. (Various)

Programs

- Be the Audio/Visual expert at branch meetings. Understand the Dickinson equipment; assist speaker before meeting begins. (30 minutes prior to branch meeting)

Interest Groups

- Start a second dining group. (Various)

Community Activities

- Research ideas and assist with organizing an event. (Various)

General

- Branch photographer to take photos at meetings and events. (Various)



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