

# **BRANCHING** Out

A Publication of the AAUW Carlisle (PA) Branch - Organized

AAUW - Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research

#### Volume 58, Number 9

April 2022

# AAUW Carlisle Higher Education Scholarship Banquet Tuesday April 26, 2022

Each year we recognize the recipients of AAUW Carlisle Higher Education Scholarship at a festive banquet on the campus of Dickinson College. This year we are extremely pleased to be in person to meet the recipients, to hear their acceptance remarks, to celebrate their achievements and to learn about their academic endeavors.

We are awarding three scholarships this year and are thrilled to announce that we have increased the scholarship amount to \$2000. Thank you, branch members, for your continued generosity and optimism for future generations of girls and women!



The evening begins on the Dickinson Campus in Stern Hall at 6:00 p.m. with social time followed by dinner at 6:30. A brief business meeting precedes the scholarship presentation.

We invite all of our members to join us for this joyous occasion. Reservations are needed and we ask that you RSVP no later than April 16<sup>th</sup>. Please see <u>page 15</u> for the dinner menu and RSVP instructions. Also, additional details about the scholarship recipients can be found on <u>page 12</u> in my April Newsletter update.

Lillian Wong Chair, Scholarship Committee

# **Another Local Scholarship Opportunity!**

The **Cumberland County Commission for Women has a \$500 scholarship opportunity** for one Cumberland County female, 21 years of age or older, who wishes to pursue a leadership-oriented educational/personal enrichment opportunity. The application can be found at <u>https://www.ccpa.net/4951/Scholarship</u> and should be emailed **no later than Monday, May 2, 2022 by 4:00 p.m.** to: <u>cumberlandwomen@gmail.com</u>.

Please share this information and help our friends at the Cumberland County Commission for Women get the word out!

Pat Markowski Communications Chair

# **From the President**

The Board had a very busy March, and it does not look as though we will be slowing down anytime soon! We began our month with a Special Saturday Meeting to focus entirely on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Committee's External Review of community organizations' perceptions of AAUW Carlisle as well as our own perceptions of the Branch. The meeting yielded new insights, ideas and concrete suggestions about how we, the Board, might make our Branch more inclusive and welcoming. One of the concrete suggestions I received was to keep the Branch members informed of our work on the Board. Here is a short summary of our work during this past month:

- The Governance Review Committee wrapped up our ten week project and sent our proposed revised Bylaws to all members to review in preparation for a vote at our March meeting. We also sent a proposed revised Policies and Procedures to the Board for their review prior to the Special Zoom Meeting and vote at the end of the month. This governance review project is undertaken at the beginning of each new President's term per our Bylaws.
- Our March Board Meeting was packed with many motions to include the one approving the proposed revised Bylaws so I could then send it to the wider Branch membership for review. The Board also approved sending the funds for a National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) registration scholarship to AAUW-PA so a Pennsylvania college student may attend this enriching leadership Zoom workshop put on by AAUW free of charge. We also approved the catering plans for our upcoming, in person Scholarship Banquet as well as a springtime New Member Coffee at a local restaurant. The slate of Executive Officer nominations from the Nomination Committee and the slate of Higher Education Scholarship recipients from the Scholarship Committee also approved. The Scholarship Committee also moved to increase the scholarship amount to \$2000 for this year owing to the wonderful generosity of your donations to the fund. This was approved unanimously.
- The March Board meeting was notable as well since this was the first time in years that we had the pleasure to honor a Dickinson AAUW Student Organization graduating senior with an AAUW Graduation Cord. Student Organization President Sofia Perrone and Junior Charlotte Goodman accompanied Senior Emily Bazelak when she joined us on the 8th to receive the cord. We hope this will be the first of many such opportunities with our revitalized Dickinson College Student Organization! (Senior Emma Latham, who is currently studying in Italy, will receive her cord upon her return in May for graduation.)



Cord recipients Junior Charlotte Goodman, Senior Emily Bazelak and President Sofia Perrone

Additionally, I shared a lot of information with the Board in my President's Report; here are a few of the highlights:

- It is my great pleasure to announce that Jean Foschi and Jeanna Som will Co-Chair our ad hoc 100th Anniversary Committee! I cannot think of two better leaders to take on the enormous task of planning our big event scheduled for 2024! (And if you want to be at the center of the action, be sure to contact Jean or Jeanna and jump on this exciting committee today!)
- AAUW-PA has requested a gift basket donation from each Branch to be auctioned off at the June State Convention in Harrisburg. I know our Carlisle Branch will rise to meet this challenge and help Patty Stibitz, who has volunteered to coordinate this effort.

Again, a reminder that membership renewals will be due no later than July 1st, 2022.

And mark your calendars for our **Annual AAUW-PA Meeting via Zoom on April 23rd** from 10 am till noon and the **bi-annual State Convention scheduled for June 3rd through the 5th** in nearby Harrisburg. The Convention should be an exciting few days, especially in light of the opportunity to meet and hear our new CEO Gloria Blackwell. Registration details will soon be shared by AAUW-PA.

Also, tis the season for AAUW to send out their annual Art Contest Notecards to all members. If you do not receive your cards this spring, please email <u>PARQUETT@AAUW.ORG</u>.

Now, looking ahead:

It's time to start your spring cleaning in support of our first (annual?) **AAUW Carlisle Yard Sale** in support of our 100th Anniversary celebration. Please consider donating the best of your giveaways to our sale to be held on **May 28th**. (Details may be found in a separate article on <u>page 8</u> in this newsletter.)

And finally, we have not one, BUT TWO, fantastic special events to enjoy this spring - our beloved annual **Scholarship Banquet on April 26th**, and the long anticipated, Covid delayed **"Beyond Suffrage, Reclaiming the Future" event on May 5th**. "Beyond Suffrage" will be held at the Cumberland County Historical Society (CCHS) from 4 - 8 pm and feature notable panelists from across the State discussing social barriers and biases, and women's workplace challenges. Please plan to come, learn, network and enjoy a free dinner put on by the indomitable Kate Elkins and the Beyond Suffrage Committee!

Kathleen Gorak Branch President

AAUW April 2022				
Date	Time	Event	Venue and registration links	Link to Article
Apr 4	7:00 pm	Book Group	RSVP <u>here</u>	<u>Page 11</u>
Apr 7	1:00 pm	Public Policy Meeting on Zoom	RSVP <u>here</u>	
Apr 7	2:00 pm	(Her) Story Timekeeper Tour	RSVP <u>here</u>	<u>Page 10</u>
Apr 9	9:00 am	Breakfast Club at Sunrise Cafe	RSVP <u>here</u>	<u>Page 11</u>
Apr 11	1:00 pm	Trailblazer Recognition	RSVP <u>here</u>	Page 6
Apr 20	6:00 pm	Dine Out at Momma Spriggs	RSVP <u>here</u>	<u>Page 11</u>
Apr 23	10:00 am	AAUW PA Annual Meeting	Register <u>here</u>	Page 5
Apr 26	6:00 pm	AAUW Carlisle Higher Education Scholarship Banquet	<u>RSVP Info</u>	Page 1

# And Looking Ahead...

Additional Dates in May & June 2022 (Check for new events in upcoming editions of the Newsletter!)				
Date	Time	Event	Venue and registration links	Link to Article
May 5	4:00 pm	Beyond Suffrage	Register <u>here</u>	Page 14
May 12	10:00 am	Carlisle Indian School Tour	RSVP <u>here</u>	<u>Page 11</u>
May 17	7:00 am	Election Day!!! Vote!!!		Page 13
May 26	7:00 pm	Social Justice: Creating Change	Register <u>here</u>	<u>Page 10</u>
May 28	7:00 am	AAUW Carlisle Yard Sale	Volunteer <u>here</u>	Page 8
Jun 3-5		AAUW PA State Convention – SAVE THE DATE!	Central Hotel & Conf Center Harrisburg, PA	Page 5

WATCH for EMAILS from <a>aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com</a> for updates on ALL events

# What's Up in Pennsylvania? News from AAUW Pennsylvania

## AAUW Pennsylvania State Convention

As the agenda is being finalized – here is a sneak peek at the Friday and Saturday keynote speakers:

- Alicia Petross, Chief Diversity Officer, The Hershey Company
- Nicole Mason, President & CEO, Institute for Women's Policy Research



## **AAUW Pennsylvania Annual Meeting**

The AAUW Pennsylvania Annual Meeting is Saturday, April 23 from 10 am--Noon via Zoom. Members will vote on proposed Bylaw changes and the 2022-2024 AAUW Pennsylvania Public Policy Priorities. Review the proposals and find the Zoom registration link on page 5 of the March <u>Keystoner</u>.

Ann Pehle Past President AAUW Carlisle President AAUW PA

## News from National AAUW Update

If you missed the March 16th webinar -- Women and Work: Increasing Leadership and Economic Equity – you can find the recording (and all past webinars) <u>here</u>.

Women can't wait for trickle-down change to bring equity to the workplace. The pandemic has served as a catalyst to shift how women and employers are approaching the changing workplace and building better options for all. What should it look like? What key strategies can't be left out? AAUW Chief Executive Officer Gloria L. Blackwell, hosts an expert panel discussion on strategies to address gender and work, the double

burden and expectations of women's paid and unpaid work, and solutions to women's economic participation that support equity and success in the workforce. The panel will feature three outstanding AAUW fellowships alumnae:

- Dr. Caitlyn Collins, assistant professor of sociology, Washington University in St. Louis
- Dawn N. Kimble, learning and development professional
- Kristen Kavanaugh, senior director of inclusion, talent & learning, Tesla



Registration for the (Virtual) National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) on May 24-26, 2022, is now open. Tell every young college woman you know to check out the agenda and registration information <u>here</u>. There are scholarships available. And, for students from Pennsylvania and/or studying in Pennsylvania, scholarships are available from AAUW Pennsylvania. Go <u>here</u> for information. Thank you AAUW Carlisle for contributing to this fund!

> Ann Pehle Past President AAUW Carlisle President AAUW PA

# AAUW Trailblazer Recognition 2022

After 2 years of "virtual" celebrations, AAUW Carlisle will hold our fourth Trailblazer Recognition Event IN PERSON on Monday, April 11 at 1 p.m. in the Large Group Instruction Room at the Fowler Building of Carlisle High School.

The Trailblazer Award is given by AAUW Carlisle in keeping with the AAUW mission of supporting women and girls and celebrates high school girls who choose vocational or technical fields of study. AAUW Carlisle created the Trailblazer Award in 2019 because we recognize that many high school students face pressure to attend four-year colleges, and girls who are interested in non-traditional tracks in high school, e.g., health care, culinary arts or automotive technology may not otherwise receive positive support or recognition. The combined impact of these influences may persuade some young women to pursue four-year degrees, often accumulating significant college debt, when a vocational diploma or later study at a community college or trade school better suits their career goals. Student honorees are selected based on criteria of good citizenship at school, enthusiasm for their program of study, and academic competence with passing grades in all courses.

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We are very proud to be able to celebrate the accomplishments of our honorees and hope you can join us. Please RSVP to Gail D'Urso (gailcdurso@gmail.com) and we will be sure to have your security badge ready as you enter the building. Parking is limited so try to arrive a bit early and carpool if possible. Light refreshments will be provided by Chef Ehly and his Culinary Arts students in the Courtyard Café following the event.

AAUW Carlisle is very grateful to Dr. Albert Parrillo, Director of Careers & Technology, and to Leigh Hamilton, for their help and support in planning our Trailblazer Girls' Recognition.

Gail D'Urso Trailblazer Chair

## **Meet Our New Members!**

## Terri Maier

Terri is a mid-westerner, born in Chicago, Illinois, and living in Missouri, Wisconsin, and then the Chicago



suburb of Naperville, Illinois. After she married, she followed her husband to Morristown, New Jersey, where they raised their family and where she lived most of her adult life.

After her retirement, she and her husband moved to Carlisle to be closer to their children, a son who is currently living in France, and a daughter in the Carlisle area. They considered several areas of Pennsylvania, finally taking a condo in Carlisle in 2019 to try out the area. They loved the community, and eventually bought their retirement home in Carlisle just as everything closed down because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Over a ten year period, taking classes intermittently, Terri earned a Business Administration degree from DePaul University in Chicago. As a young mother, she worked as a nursery schoolteacher. Once the children were grown, through a networking connection, she took a position at a New Jersey financial firm as part of a wealth management group. She

loved the work and eventually became a licensed financial professional.

Terri is active in her retirement, and volunteers with several groups in the Carlisle community. She also loves to read, with eclectic taste including biographies, mysteries and fiction, and belongs to two community book groups. She enjoys walking and, most of all, getting together with people. And two grandchildren, aged 20 months and 6 weeks, provide plenty of family interaction. Far from retirement being boring, Terri feels she needs to be mindful of activity overload.

A former member of the AAUW Naperville branch, Terri looked for an AAUW branch in the Carlisle area when she moved here. She wants to be involved in AAUW's outreach in the community and happens to live on Taunton Drive among several active AAUW members, which made her joining the branch an easy decision.

## **Theresa Rice**

The Rice family moved to the Carlisle area in 2016 when Theresa's husband was posted to the Naval Base in Mechanicsburg and have been Mechanicsburg residents ever since. Her 22 year old son is a student at HAAC, her 19 year old daughter is a student at Dickinson College, and her 16 year old son attends Mechanicsburg High School.

Theresa became interested in special education when her high school psychology class assisted with Special Olympics. She pursued a degree in Special Education, and a post-graduate degree in Curriculum Instruction. After college, she was a high school special education teacher. Following her marriage and life as an active military family, moving from state to state, she continued to substitute teach and volunteer in school systems in various states, including Hawaii and Prince Georges County, Maryland.

Theresa spent 3 - 4years as a substitute teacher in the Mechanicsburg school district. In her desire to be of service to her community, she volunteers with Dickinson College programs and Hope Station.

In her leisure time, she is an avid gardener. Her garden is a registered Monarch Butterfly Waystation. She collects Monarch caterpillars and conducts classes about the Monarch life cycle for children at the Dickinson College Children's Center and at summer youth programs.

Theresa attended an AAUW Carlisle branch meeting as a guest of Katie Perkowski and loved the organization's message and the warm and welcoming women she met. From her membership, she hopes to expand her knowledge of subjects of interest to AAUW, and to develop new friendships.

Pat Markowski Communications Chair

# **Branch Yard Sale**

This year, jump into your spring cleaning with a purpose: to support the first (annual?) AAUW Carlisle Branch Yard Sale! All proceeds from this sale will go into our 100th Anniversary Fund to cover our expenses for the celebratory events planned for 2024.

The sale will be held in conjunction with the widely attended Chapel Hill Neighborhood Yard Sale on Saturday, May 28th. Carole DeWall has graciously offered her prime real estate garage and driveway at 330 Acre Dr. and is sharing her expertise to make this a very successful fundraiser. The Dewall's garage will be ready to receive your donations from Monday, May 23rd through Friday, May 27th between the hours of 9 am and 8 pm. Additionally, we need folding tables - these may be dropped off on Sunday, May 22nd.

Donations should be ready to sell - clean, polished, unbroken and in workable condition as yard sale helpers will not have time to attend to such needs. Please do not pre-price your donations. While they will be priced to sell, we will want to set up an internally consistent scale of pricing. Unsold items may be picked up by donors at the end of the sale at 3 pm, otherwise all unsold items will be boxed up and taken to other local organizations accepting donations.

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Branching Out

Anyone interested in helping with this fundraiser or if you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Gorak by phone at 717-249-8231, text 717-386-7466 or email kg1562@gmail.com.

And thank you, in advance, for your anticipated generosity!

Here are some suggestions for good items **TO DONATE**:

BASKETS	BICYCLES	BOOKS
CHILDREN'S CLOTHING	DECORATIVE OBJECTS	DVDS
FABRICS (in clear plastic packages)	JEWELRY	KITCHENWARE
LAMPS	MIRRORS	OFFICE ACCESSORIES
PET CARRIERS	PICTURE FRAMES	PLANTS/SEEDLINGS
PURSES	SCARVES	SMALL APPLIANCES THAT WORK
SMALL PIECES OF FURNITURE	SPORTS EQUIPMENT	YARN (In clear plastic packages)

Here are the items that we kindly request that you **NOT DONATE**:

ADULT CLOTHING	CAR SEATS	ELECTRONICS
ENCYCLOPEDIAS	HATS	SHOES
STUFFED ANIMALS	TEXTBOOKS	UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

Kathleen Gorak President

## Exploring Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

Beth McKinley, Chair

On the front page of the DEI Toolkit, AAUW CEO Kim Churches writes, "In 2018, AAUW National put forth a bold vision for the future with a <u>new strategic plan</u>. The plan included actionable goals and tactics towards achieving equity, along with the values, mission and vision for the organization. The plan was updated in 2020. One of the key goals within the plan states that we **embody the goals and spirit of inclusion, diversity and intersectionality across all AAUW activities and participants.** 

We need to not only *value* the importance of intersectionality, diversity and equity, we must *do* the work — and it is lifelong work, core to our mission and vision. Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the U.S. and the injustices of today mirror our shameful history, from police brutality to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color.

AAUW must commit and continuously recommit to fighting for justice, long-term and lasting change, and we stand in solidarity against racism. But, as AAUW is nearing 140 years old, we also acknowledge that as an organization we have a lot of our own work to do in diversity, equity and inclusion.

Our commitment to diversity is not just among the staff at the national office, or with the nationally elected board — this must be a commitment from all of our 170,000 members and advocates around the nation who believe in our vision of equity for all. That means we must hold each other accountable; we must set bold goals and be transparent about where we are and where we are going, we must be lifelong learners in reading, listening and understanding."

Over the last year and a half, your Carlisle Branch DEIB committee has worked diligently to incorporate the goals and objectives of the strategic plan in our efforts to be a resource to other areas of the branch and better understand our position locally. In 2021, this included surveying our community partners to better understand the external perspective of our commitment and progress to this effort. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, the Branch Board of Directors held a special meeting to review this report, adequately recognize the accomplishments and growth areas, provide the leadership with the opportunity to ask specific questions, and for committee chairs to begin to discover what changes they can start implementing in 2022-2023 based on a more in-depth analysis. While the Branch leadership carefully considers next steps, the membership is encouraged to attend this upcoming National event:

#### **Social Justice: Creating Change**

#### Thursday, May 26 | 7:00 pm ET

Social justice is at the core of what AAUW does every day. Whether at the national, state, or local level, AAUW staff, volunteers and members work incredibly hard to help share a more equitable world. What does it mean to support social justice and how is that different (or the same) as racial justice, economic justice and the other core issues that AAUW works on? Please save the date to join us for a discussion of social justice and what it truly means to be a part of AAUW's impact.

Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN ur-cb6kGTn- eWbUOu8EMA

Beth McKinley DEIB Chair

#### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

#### Cindy Sutton, Community Activities Chair

#### (Her) Story TimeKeeper Tour Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 2:00 P.M.

Celebrate Carlisle women by joining this 90 minute walking tour of the historical district. (Her)Story by TimeKeeper Tours features tales of pioneering and legendary women from Carlisle's past. Come hear the stories of our war heroines, Pulitzer Prize winner, wrongfully accused and more. The tour begins and ends at the Old Courthouse and cost is twelve dollars, payable the day of the tour.

Afterwards gather at Dough & Arrows gourmet ice cream shop on North Hanover St. to enjoy a sweet treat.

Please RSVP to Cindy Sutton at <u>suttonc3@gmail.com</u> or 717-385-0242 by April 6 so that reservations can be made with the tour leader. As always guests are welcome. Bring a friend!

## Carlisle Indian School Tour Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.

Our branch has been invited to join AAUW Harrisburg Branch for a tour of the Carlisle Indian School with a special viewing of what at one time was the home of the school superintendent (now the residence of member Missy Breckenridge.) We will be required to submit a security form to enter the post which will be sent to you as soon you make your reservation for this tour. Cost is ten dollars payable the day of the tour.

Please make your reservation with Cindy Sutton at <a href="mailto:suttonc3@gmail.com">suttonc3@gmail.com</a> or 717-385-0242 by April 20 so that we can meet the deadline for security form submission.

Cindy Sutton Community Activities Chair

#### **INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES**

Wendy Armour Dickinson, Interest Group Chair

#### Book Group

April 4 at 7:00 pm at the home of Cherry France. "The Searcher" by Tara French

## Breakfast Club

April 9 at 9:00 am at Sunrise Cafe

#### **Dine Out**

April 20 at 6:00 pm at Momma Spriggs

To RSVP for any of the listed activities OR if you are interested in joining one of these groups or starting one for another activity, please contact Wendy Armour Dickinson (717) 514-3322 for phone or text or email at warmourdickinson@hotmail.com).

Wendy Armour Dickinson Interest Group Chair

# AAUW FUNDS

Becky Morgenthal, Chair

## AAUW Fund Scholarship Appeal Letter – Results Summary

Our membership contributed \$6595 in direct donations and \$460 through the December opportunity for a total of \$7055. Our fundraising expenses were \$234.57. Adding in a small bit of interest and \$1870.72 carried over from last year, after deducting expenses we will have \$8692 available to distribute to some worthy students.

Thanks to our generous members we have closed out another successful Scholarship fundraiser for 2021-2022. But wait... this fundraiser never ends... so come to the Awards Dinner in April to start our Scholarship opportunities for 2022-2023.

#### **Member Yard Sale**

AAUW Fund Committee has been working on a new, fun and exciting **Yard Sale** to raise money for our programs. We will embrace your unwanted treasures in clean, un-broken and workable condition. Please read the Kathleen Gorak's article on page 8 for full details.

Becky Morgenthal AAUW Fund Chair

#### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE Lillian Wong, Chair

### **2022** Higher Education Scholarship Applications Report

On March 8, 2022, three scholarships were requested and approved by the Board. The recipients include previous awardees, Meta Bowman (Shippensburg University) and Claire Stoner (Duquesne University). Samantha Martin (Gettysburg University) is our third recipient. These women represented their academic institutions, their academic career tracks and themselves brilliantly. Thank you, committee members, Missy Breckenridge, Stefanie D'Amore, Gail D'Urso, Carolyn Freburg, Rose Smith, and Cindy Sutton for your time and dedication for the in person interviews at the Bosler Memorial Library.

During the Board meeting, a motion was presented to increase the scholarship to \$2000 and was passed unanimously. The amazing generosity and support from the membership continues to reflect the mission in promoting higher education. The committee is proud to present the recipients on April 26 at our Scholarship Banquet. Please attend and help in the celebration!

Lillian Wong Scholarship Chair

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Gail D'Urso and Virginia Mauk, Membership VP

## **AAUW Dues Update**

Our membership renewal campaign is fast approaching. As a reminder, please plan our renewing by July 1<sup>st</sup>. A mission as important as supporting the equity and empowerment of women, is a mission worthy of our support!

Gail D'Urso & Virginia Mauk AAUW Carlisle Membership Co-Chairs

#### PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

Katie Perkowski, Public Policy Chair

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS - ELECTION DAY IS MAY 17

The political district maps for the May 2022 Pennsylvania primary have been finalized, after the Pennsylvania Supreme Court selected a new congressional map that does not shift partisan makeup but does shift some district real estate. This is an important primary, with candidates for governor, US senator and state representatives on the ballot.

With the voting maps being redrawn, if you have questions about which district you live in, visit <a href="https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/FindYourDistrict.aspx">https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/FindYourDistrict.aspx</a>

## **Know Your Legislators!**

PA State Reps	PA State Senate	US Congress	US Senate
Greg Rothman (R-87)	Judy Ward (R-30)	Scott Perry (R-10)	Pat Toomey (R)
Sheryl Delozier (R-88)	Mike Regan (R-31)	John Joyce (R-13)	Bob Casey (D)
Dawn Keefer (R-92)*			
Torren Ecker (R-193)*			

## **Education Matters: Student Debt**



The AAUW National website states that "Women tend to borrow more for their education -- and struggle more to pay it off -- in part because of the gender pay gap."

The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS), a center for research and advocacy for policies that promote affordability, accountability and equity in higher education, has studied college debt trends across the country for the past 16 years. A recent TICAS report ranked Pennsylvania third among all the states in the U.S. for highest average student loan debt, with 64% of 2020 graduates carrying an average of \$ 39,375 in debt upon graduation from a 4-year college. The report also showed that 1 in 5 Pennsylvanias take out private loans for education, which are more costly.

Despite the fact that Pennsylvanian students carry one of the heaviest student loan debts in the country, funding for higher education in Pennsylvania has been cut by a third over the past decade. Costs at Pennsylvania's state universities have increased over 62% since 2010. The pandemic exacerbated the issues of

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higher education funding as enrollments dropped. Chancellor Daniel Greenstein of the PA State System for Higher Education has called for better funding of the system. "As the state's investment declines (or remains flat), tuition and room and board fees go up and the level of student debt also goes up," he said. "We're basically pricing our people out of higher education. And as a consequence, Pennsylvania enrollment in higher education falls farther and farther behind."

The cost of higher education and the burden of student debt is an issue that impacts women's economic equity. AAUW National supports legislation that would make college more affordable for all students and help millions of borrowers across the country pay off their student debt. In our local chapter and our state, we also need to focus on pressuring our Pennsylvania state legislators to adequately fund our state system for higher education.

Katie Perkowski Public Policy Chair

# Beyond Suffrage: Reclaiming the Future is Coming!

The Beyond Suffrage Committee is gearing up for a terrific event on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Cumberland County Historical Society. After such a long delay caused by the pandemic, we are confident our line-up of speakers and panelists will provide not only great insights but also inspire our audience to contribute personal stories and ideas that will translate into valuable information to share with our policymakers in Harrisburg. Please join us by registering at <u>https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beyond-</u> suffragereclaiming-the-future-tickets-292004071037.

> Kate Elkins Beyond Suffrage Committee Chair



# AAUW Higher Education Scholarship Banquet

# Tuesday April 26, 2022 6:00 p.m. Stern Building Dickinson College \$25.00 per person RSVP by April 16<sup>th</sup>

Menu selections served buffet style:

- Chicken Alfredo with gluten-free pasta
- Vegetable Lasagna
- Roasted Vegetables
- Salad, Bread, Dessert
- Decaffeinated Coffee, iced tea, water

Mail this RSVP form and check (payable to: AAUW Carlisle) by April 16 to Janet Kacsur - 104 Hope Drive, Boiling Springs, PA 17007.

Your name:	
Guest name:	
Guest name:	
Please note any dietary conce	rns:
Total # attending	_@\$25.00 each. Enclosed check in the amount of \$

#### AAUW Carlisle 2021-2022 Board Members

#### **Elected Officers**

Branch President – Kathleen Gorak Membership VPs – Gail D'Urso, Virginia Mauk Program VPs –Judy Wheaton, Janet Kacsur Finance Officers – Linda Brunski, Cherry France Secretary – Mary Berwick Past President – Ann Pehle

#### **Appointed Committee Chairs**

AAUW Funds – Becky Morgenthal Communications – Pat Markowski Community Activities – Cindy Sutton Interest Groups – Wendy Armour Dickinson Public Policy –Katie Perkowski Scholarship – Lillian Wong STEM – Barb Attivo, Lillian Wong

#### **Off Board Chairs**

College Liaison – Donna Bickford Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging – Beth McKinley Historian – Kathleen Brennan

#### **Other Appointed Positions**

Newsletter Editors – Nancy Sigrist, Stacey Gatch Social Media – Kate Elkins Trailblazers – Gail D'Urso Webmaster – Ann Pehle Yearbook – Mary Brunski Zoommaster – Stacey Gatch

**Branching Out** is published August to June by the AAUW Carlisle (PA) Branch. Branch website is: <u>http://carlisle-pa.aauw.net/</u> Like us on Facebook: @AAUWCarlisle The Board welcomes questions: <u>aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com</u>

Not receiving branch information? Make sure emails from <u>aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com</u> aren't going into your junk or spam folder.

# **Get Active**

## **Program Hosts Needed**

The 2021-2022 Programs Committee is still looking for program hosts for the 2022 meetings. Sign up today! Thank you for your continued support.

Please contact Janet Kacsur (<u>jkacsur@hotmail.com</u>) or Judy Wheaton (<u>judywheaton@gmail.com</u>).

## **Committees seeking members**

#### Fundraising

Contact Becky Morgenthal (<u>bhmorgenthal@gmail.com</u>) to learn more.

#### Membership

Contact Gail D'Urso (<u>gailcdurso@gmail.com</u>) or Virginia Mauk (<u>virginia.mauk@gmail.com</u>) for more information and to discuss your interest.

#### **One Hundred Anniversary Committee**

Contact Jean Foschi (<u>vargas@comcast.net</u>) or Jeanna Som (jeanna1975@yahoo.com)

#### Public Policy

Contact Katie Perkowski (kperkowski@gmail.com)



Like us @AAUWCarlisle Like us @AAUW Pennsylvania