

Upcoming AAUW Events

Book Club

Monday, April 7; 7 pm
Lives of Girls and Women; Alice Munro
Janet Kacsur; 104 Hope Dr., Boiling Springs
RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)
Preview remaining Book Selections on page 6

Breakfast Club

Saturday, April 12; 9 am
Cracked Pot (36 N. Hanover St., Carlisle)
RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)

Lunch with AAUW Dickinson Students

Sunday, April 13; noon
HUB Side Rooms
More info on page 6

Deadline to RSVP for the Scholarship Banquet

Friday, April 18
More info on page 7

Submit to the May Branching Out Before

Monday, April 21
Submit to Peggy Jennings [here](#)

Scholarship Banquet

Tuesday, April 29, 6 pm HUB Social Hall
More info [HERE](#)

Presentation of AAUW Graduation Cords to our Dickinson Seniors

Thursday, May 1; 7 pm
Rector Science Building Courtyard
More info on page 6

Scholarship Banquet

Tuesday, April 29; 6 pm; HUB Social Hall

This year we celebrate with our scholarship recipients on the Dickinson College campus at a festive banquet with friends, family and food. We are awarding **seven** scholarships to exceptional women who have proven their academic achievements as well as being excellent representatives of the future of women!

The recipients of \$2000 scholarships include:

Leah Allewelt (Penn State University; Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences)
Dinela Dedic (Dickinson College; Environmental Science)
Parmilla Dhimal (Penn State University-Harrisburg; Bio-Behavioral Health)
Morgan Koch (Penn State University-Erie; Computer Science)
Lydia Kramer (Millersville University; Early Childhood Education)
Amy Orner (Penn State University; PhD in Art History)
Arisha Tariq (Penn State College of Medicine; Medicine)

Please RSVP by April 18 to be included in the celebration. More information about the banquet is on page 7.

A huge thank you to our membership for continuing to donate towards the future of women and girls. An additional thank you to committee members Terri Glueck, Sharon Heller, Rose Smith, and Cindy Sutton for their time, flexibility, expertise and dedication.

Please join us at 6:00 pm for social time followed by dinner at 6:30 pm. A brief business meeting precedes the scholarship presentation.

We invite all of our members to join for this joyous occasion. Please see page 7 for dinner menu and RSVP instructions.

Lillian Wong and Gail D'Urso
Co-Chairs, Scholarship Committee

Scholarship Appeal Fund Update

We are excited to report that as of February 12, we have \$10,209 available for the 2025 scholarships! In addition to \$1,637 carried over from last year and interest earned on the money market account, we have raised \$8,952 for this year's Scholarship Appeal Fund. The record donation at this time of the year was due in part to the May 2024 Yard Sale profit of \$1,474.21 and the Jewelry Sale profit of \$1,561. We want to thank Yard Sale coordinators Kathleen Gorak and Carole DeWall, and Pat Markowski, Jewelry coordinator, for their hard work and dedication to the Scholarship Fund.

Becky Morgenthal
AAUW Fund Chair

Letter from the President

Those of you who attended our March 25 branch meeting witnessed a wonderful example of community organizations, led by amazing women, impacting Carlisle and Cumberland County. And what an inspiring evening it was!

The highest honor bestowed by our branch is the **Gateway to Equity Award**. It is given to an individual or organization that exemplifies our goals of promoting equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, or research.

This year we were honored to present this award to two impactful organizations:

- **YWCA Carlisle and Cumberland County**, represented by CEO Maddie Young for their commitment to addressing critical issues such as Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Services, Educational Programming for both children and adults, and the Pad Pantry to address period poverty by distributing feminine hygiene products.
- **Cumberland County Commission for Women**, represented by Chair Brianda Freistat for their commitment to addressing critical issues such as affordable childcare solutions, housing and healthcare complexities, and economic equality.

We were also inspired by a presentation by Marcia Drozdowski, the first female CEO of YMCA Carlisle, who shared her experiences during her career in a male-dominated environment. After listening to her, it was evident to all of us why she succeeded in leading and growing the YMCA for so many years!

Now, more than ever, those of us who advocate for women and girls need to stand side by side and lift each other up. Judging from the energy in the room from our organizations, I am confident that we will!

We are stronger together!

Kate



Marcia Drozdowski



Kate Elkins and Maddie Young



From the Cumberland County Commission for Women: Justine Bressler, Kelly Palmer, Rebecca Zelner, Kate Elkins, Brianda Freistat, Lauren Mariani, and Tiesha Laryea

Board Approves Proposed Nominations for Upcoming Election

The Nominating Committee proudly presented their proposed slate of officers at the March Board Meeting where there was unanimous approval! The approved slate is:



President - Kate Elkins

Kate, our current President, has graciously stepped up for a second term. Kate joined AAUW Carlisle in 2017 and has been a very active and contributing member and leader ever since. During her first term, Kate showed her leadership chops as we celebrated AAUW Carlisle’s 100th Anniversary, hosted the Carlisle Area School District Board Candidate Forum during a politically contentious time, forged deeper relationships with other community organizations and our state and national leadership, and so much more.

Kate Elkins

Co-Finance Officer - Barb Attivo

Barb, who skillfully managed our finances in the past as Finance Officer, is another long-time member who has contributed to many parts of our organization. Currently, Barb is STEM co-chair, working with Lillian Wong to encourage young women to participate in STEM education and careers, and also serves as Trailblazer co-chair.



Barb Attivo



Co-Membership VP - Terri Glueck

Terri is one of our newer members and we are so happy that she has stepped up for this leadership role. She joined the Scholarship Committee and became a valuable member, bringing her experience and knowledge to this very important team. Terry has a huge personality full of enthusiasm which will serve our Branch well as she works alongside Janet Kacsur to attract and retain our valuable members!

Terri Glueck

Co-Program VP - Grace Nguyen

Grace has been an active and contributing member in our Public Policy Committee ever since she joined. She was a key driver of our most recent Topic Talk, securing her psychologist husband as one of our speakers. Her natural interest in all that we do and our AAUW mission positions her as a natural leader for the Programs Committee.



Grace Nguyễn



Secretary - Meta Bowman

Meta, a recent new member to our Carlisle Branch, is bringing her AAUW journey full circle. Meta was a recipient of multiple AAUW Carlisle Scholarships and graciously became one of our Program speakers at a Branch Meeting last year. Currently she works as a social worker with people leaving incarceration in order to assist their reentry into the community as productive citizens.

Meta Bowman

We will hold the vote for our new officers at the April Branch Meeting which is also our annual AAUW Scholarship Banquet. We encourage everyone to attend this special event to celebrate our scholarship awardees but to also cast your vote for officers as a quorum is required. Note that nominations for additional candidates will be taken from the floor before casting our votes.

Nancy Sigrist
Vice President



What's Up in Pennsylvania? News from AAUW Pennsylvania

AAUW Pennsylvania 2025 Summer Retreat June 27-28, 2025

Mark your calendar! By the time the end of June rolls around, you will be needing time for yourself amongst life-long friends!

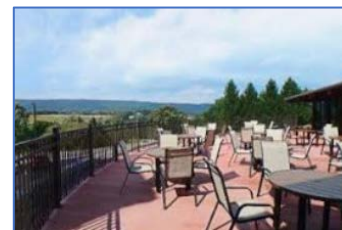
Location: Wyndham Hotel—State College Area (Boalsburg, PA)
Friday: Reception on the Patio (meet and greet) 6:30—8:30 pm
Saturday: A different look/feel than past Summer meetings



Being an AAUW Pennsylvania Member

Watch for emails from AAUW Pennsylvania President or Cindy Hall, with survey links and/or Zoom links to attend to the regular business of AAUW Pennsylvania members.

- Vote for amendments to the AAUW Pennsylvania Bylaws. Not very many—cleaning up changes missed in last year’s update.
- Vote for AAUW Pennsylvania 2025-2027 elected officers—Membership Vice President, Secretary, Finance Officer.
- AAUW Pennsylvania member Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 10-11 am.



It's NCCWSLTime!

**National Conference for College Women Student Leaders
(NCCWSL)
May 28-30, College Park, Maryland**

Once again, AAUW Pennsylvania is offering \$585 grants covering registration and accommodations to female undergraduate or graduate students attending Pennsylvania colleges/institutions. Find out more about this amazing event at <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/nccwsl/> and all the information you need to apply to attend or donate to support a student attending.

Why do we make such a fuss about NCCWSL? Watch the [March 12 webinar](#) to hear the answer from four previous NCCWSL grant recipients. Then you will understand. 😊

Wondering what else is cooking at AAUW Pennsylvania. . . go [here](#) to read the **Keystoner**.

Ann Pehle
AAUW Pennsylvania College/University Liaison
AAUW Pennsylvania Nominating & Elections Co-Chair

Did you miss this spotlight on one of AAUW’s Fellowships & Grant Awardees?

Remember—Since 1888, AAUW has been one of the largest funders of women’s graduate education, investing in women who go on to change the world.

F&G Awardee Spotlight



Meet Carlina Arango: Carlina is earning a dual Master’s in Science and Urban & Regional Planning at the University of Michigan, focusing on environmental justice and urban development in Latin America. She specializes in culturally responsive program evaluation and urban food system transformation. **Why it matters:** As an AAUW Career Development Grantee, Carlina sharpened her expertise in evaluation and broadened her global perspective. Recently, she studied women-led social housing movements in São Paulo, bridging policy, culture, and sustainability to shape inclusive urban futures.

News from National AAUW

AAUW Condemns Executive Order to Dismantle the U.S. Department of Education

Read the March 20, 2025 [Press Release](#)

The pace of the news from Washington D.C., which is fast and furious, impacts SO many aspects of what we hold true. Many of the changes are impacting equity for women and education. AAUW is battling back—and needs us to use the tools and make our voices heard. Below is a summary of recent additions to the AAUW member tools. *Thank you to Deb Roney, AAUW Pennsylvania's representative on the AAUW Advancement Committee for compiling this information from several emails.*

New Funds: Both now live on our donation page: <https://my.aauw.org/donation-product-detail>

- **4513 Defend Higher Education**

The Defend Higher Education Fund will enable AAUW to elevate the critical higher education issues impacting women; mobilize advocates across the country; provide strategic resources to students, staff, and faculty on campus; and fuel investments in the infrastructure and technology necessary to move our mission forward. Your support ensures AAUW can effectively fight on behalf of women on campuses across the country and ensure that AAUW remains a trusted and powerful voice for equity.

- **4337 Public Policy Fund**

The Public Policy Fund supports the advancement of AAUW's Public Policy Principles and Priorities. AAUW is focused on increasing the impact of our Action Network through growing the number of advocates across the country and providing timely, accurate, and actionable information about our key issues. Supporting this fund ensures we have the critical funding necessary to take swift and strategic action when the rights and freedoms of women and girls are under attack.

We will include giving to these new funds as new options to earn the Advancement Star and announce that in the note to branch presidents about the annual survey.

We will promote these new funds during our April 1 webinar.

New Webinar Series – Defending Equity: Strengthening Our Collective Impact Series. To register, visit the event calendar:

[EventCalendarDirectory - AAUW](#) . If you miss one, watch the recording at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>

- **AAUW: Standing Strong Against Attacks on Equity in Education:** March 26 | 6:00 p.m. ET

Recent executive actions threaten diversity, equity, and inclusion nationwide. Join us to learn about these policy changes, how they impact women and marginalized communities, and how AAUW is taking action to defend equity. Stay informed and discover ways to support our mission in this critical moment.

- **Building A Stronger AAUW:** April 1 | 7:00 p.m. ET

Strong fundraising fuels AAUW's impact. This session, led by AAUW National's Advancement Committee, will provide strategies for successful branch fundraising. Learn about AAUW's budget and the Greatest Needs Fund and hear directly from branches with proven fundraising success. Walk away with tools and resources to help your branch grow its financial support.

- **AAUW Advocacy Strategies for In-District Meetings:** April 8 | 7:00 p.m. ET

Face-to-face advocacy can drive real change. This session will guide members on how to set up in-district meetings with members of Congress, maximize town hall participation, and effectively use key talking points during the upcoming April congressional recess. Learn how to make your voice heard.

- **Funding Futures: Understanding Changes to Sex and Gender-Based Scholarship Programs:** April 15 | 7:00 p.m. ET

Navigating legal changes to sex-based scholarships can be complex. This interactive session will provide information to AAUW branches on funding scholarships amid evolving regulations while staying true to our mission of advancing education for women and girls. Space is limited.



Let's Support our AAUW Dickinson Students!

Two great opportunities to support our AAUW Dickinson Students and recognize graduating seniors!

Sunday, April 13 at noon in the side rooms of the HUB. A **CASUAL** lunch with our branch, the WGRC (Women and Gender Resource Center) staff, and the Dickinson AAUW SO. **Bring a dish!**

Thursday, May 1; 7:00 pm in the Rector Science Building (modern bldg. across Louther Street from the HUB) in the courtyard/atrium.

A **FESTIVE** event celebrating the Dickinson Seniors with light food and refreshments. We will award them their graduation cords and all members of AAUW Carlisle are invited!



Dickinson

Got Gems?

In lieu of a Yard Sale this year, AAUW Carlisle branch is launching a new fundraising activity--collecting your unwanted jewelry for sale, the proceeds to be used for branch activities.

Marjorie's Gems accepts bulk lots of jewelry, and the branch has had success in prior years, earning as much as \$1500 from the sale of donated jewelry. This is a low-effort, high-yield fundraising activity and requires only that members look at their jewelry collections and donate those pieces they no longer find useful or favored. Ask your friends and relatives, too. The more jewelry collected the more money we'll make!

Acceptable donations should be:

- Costume or Fashion Jewelry in good condition, with no broken clasps or missing parts.
- Fine Jewelry, suitable for wearing, with no missing stones, beads or clasps.
- Gold or Silver Jewelry (solid, not plated) either intact or that may be missing a clasp, broken chains, single earrings, rings missing a stone. Gold jewelry will be marked 14k or 18k. Silver jewelry will be marked Sterling or 950. Anything marked "gold filled" or "gold electroplated" is not solid gold.

Your jewelry donations will be collected at the April 29 Scholarship Banquet. If you have questions, please contact Pat Markowski who is coordinating this fundraising effort.



Book Group

Date	Time	Hostess	Book
Monday, May 5	7:00 pm	Darlis	<i>Within Arm's Reach</i> ; Ann Napolitano
Monday, June 9	6:00 pm	DINNER	1794 Whiskey Rebellion

2025 AAUW Higher Education Scholarship Banquet

Join us as we celebrate the achievements of our scholarship recipients!

**Tuesday, April 29, 6:00 pm
HUB Social Hall, Dickinson College**

RSVP by Friday, April 18



**\$25 per person (\$26.25 if paid through PayPal)
Check (payable to AAUW Carlisle)
can be mailed to Jeanna Som/106 Crest View, Carlisle, PA 17013
OR
Pay by credit card through PayPal at**

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=XT7YFR8D26ELW

Please complete and return the form below **ONLY** if you are bringing guests or have dietary preferences or concerns.
Mail form to Jeanna Som at the address above.



Please note any dietary preferences or concerns:

Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Total Attending (@\$25): _____

____ I am enclosing a check payable to AAUW Carlisle

____ I have made payment through PayPal.

AAUW Carlisle 2024-2025 Board Members

Elected Officers

President: Kate Elkins

Vice President: Nancy Sigrist

Membership VPs: Cindy Sutton, Janet Kacsur

Program VPs: Deborah Sweaney, Jeanna Som

Finance Officers: Cherry France, Molly Shane

Secretary: Marina Young

Appointed Committee Chairs

AAUW Funds: Becky Morgenthal

Communications: Pat Markowski

Community Activities:

Interest Groups: Wendy Armour Dickinson

Public Policy: Theresa Rice, Kathy Spasic

Scholarship: Lillian Wong, Gail D’Urso

STEM: Barb Attivo, Lilian Wong

Appointed Off Board Committee Chairs

College Liaison: Katie Schweighofer

Historian: Mary Bloser Berwick

Appointed Coordinators

Newsletter Editor: Peggy Jennings

Social Media: Kate Elkins

Trailblazers: Gail D’Urso, Barb Attivo

Webpages: Sharon Heller

Yearbook: Virginia Mauk

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

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.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Now more than ever, membership in AAUW is so important as the organization continues to advocate for equity for women and girls. As you know, memberships are renewed yearly and now do so according to the date on which you joined. The bulk of our branch memberships are up for renewal in the spring, so many of you will soon receive notice from national that it is time to do so. PLEASE RESPOND PROMPTLY when you receive the notice in order to keep your membership in good standing and to help branch membership co-vice presidents with accurate record keeping. You may renew online or send a check to the branch at PO Box 81/Carlisle, PA 17013.

You will notice that there is a modest \$2.00 increase in the national dues. State and local branch dues remain the same.

\$74 AAUW national dues
\$12 AAUW PA dues
\$20 AAUW Carlisle branch dues
\$106 Total

As Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, recently wrote, “AAUW’s foundation is unwavering and rooted in strength, courage, and purpose. Side by side we will continue the fight—for women, girls and communities we cherish, the impact we elevate, and the legacies we create.”

Thank you for your continued membership in AAUW.

Two new members! Please welcome Isabelle Harman and Lorelei Coplen to AAUW Carlisle Branch.

Preview the final Membership Meeting this year!

Tuesday, May 27, 7 pm, HUB Side Rooms
Emily Schmidt
Cracked Pot—Aging Out of the Foster Care System



Virginia Mauk and Janet Kacsur



Kelly Spasic

***Scenes from a recent
membership meeting.
Were you there?***