



BRANCHING Out

A Publication of the AAUW Carlisle (PA) Branch – Organized 1924

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

Volume 62, Number 1

August 2025

Upcoming AAUW Events

Visit Maureen Caldwell's garden

Wednesday, August 6; 10 am

Respond before August 4

More information on page 3

Breakfast Club

Saturday, August 9; 9 am

Cracked Pot (36 N. Hanover St., Carlisle)

RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)

Deadline to RSVP for the August Membership Meeting and Silent Auction

August 17

More information on Page 3

Submit to the September Branching Out By

Wednesday, August 20

Submit to Peggy Jennings [here](#)

Deadline to Register for Silent Auction Contributions

August 22

More information on Page 2

August Membership Meeting and Annual Silent Auction

Tuesday, August 26; 6 pm

Second Presbyterian Church; 528 Garland Drive

More details [here](#)

Book Club

Monday, September 8; 7 pm

"My Friends" by Fredrik Backman

Marina Young 48 W High St., Apt 201

RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)

Preview remaining Book Selections on page 6

September Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 23, 7 pm

"Talking Across the Political Divide"

John Sigel from Braver Angels

Dickinson College HUB-Side Rooms 204-205

August Membership Meeting and Annual Silent Auction

Tuesday, August 26; 6 pm

Second Presbyterian Church; 528 Garland Drive

We all look forward to getting together for our August social. It's a time to see old friends, make some new ones, and swap stories about our summers. It is also vitally important to AAUW-Carlisle's future.

The guests and new people considering joining our branch you bring will be tomorrow's hands and brains, helping on committees, leading us to new speakers and experiences, and contributing to our advocacy role for women and girls. The August Membership Social is one of the most important dates on the calendar! So just as you put effort into what to contribute to the Silent Auction, think about who you know who would make an enthusiastic and wonderful addition to our chapter's membership and bring them along.

We'll all enjoy a light supper, catch up on what AAUW Carlisle has been doing and plans for the new year, and - of course! - bid on the terrific items in the Silent Auction. So in addition to revisiting your Rolodex and contact lists for potential members, remember that this is a fundraiser. Your generosity is deeply appreciated - you help AAUW Carlisle provide financial support for young women enrolled in programs that will lead to good jobs as well as contribute to the chapter's flexibility to advocate for and ensure that women and girls flourish.

RSVP before August 17

See Page 3 for more information!

Terri Glueck
Membership Co-VP



Letter from the President

I hope you all have enjoyed our summer break and have recharged your batteries for an active year ahead. Personally, I got recharged at the AAUW PA Summer Retreat at the end of June.

When I was asked to be one of the featured storytellers at our Summer Retreat, I wasn't exactly sure what that meant and what was expected.

After speaking with the organizers and the facilitator, I proudly realized that word of AAUW Carlisle and our work has spread, and that other branches view us as an example. They hoped I could share our "secret" and answer the question:

What is it about our branch and the women in it that attracts new members and motivates and inspires us to work together so successfully—and have fun while doing it?

Our secret is every single one of you! You bring your talents, energy, and passion to lift up and advance women and girls—to help level the playing field. You welcome new voices and perspectives and step up to accept collaborative responsibilities.

We know and accept that we might be in different phases of life and may have more or less time to participate and be involved—and that's OK. Stay tuned as we launch a new idea we learned from another branch at the retreat: Support from the Sofa. You may not be able to fit meetings into your busy schedules, but there are many ways to participate that you can do from home.

Let's all recommit to doing what we can to make a real difference!

Kate Elkins
President



Like us @AAUWCarlisle

Like us @AAUW Pennsylvania

Contributions for the Silent Auction

Help us to **Keep Our Advocacy Train Running** by donating and/or purchasing something in the silent auction. This important event generates the funds needed—\$ 1,200—for our various committees to use throughout the branch year, enabling us to continue advocating for women and girls.

In 2024, 24 items were sold for \$1,071 with \$855 in donations for a grand total of \$1,926!

Here's how to donate:

Limit donations to one per person, or team up with a friend(s) to offer:

- ☞ Tea, brunch, or dinner with menu, specified number of guests, on an agreed-upon date.
- ☞ Gift cards to restaurants or local businesses, wine, homemade food items, art, or garden-related items.

All items must be unused, clean, and have all parts.

To register your donation, email [Pat Markowski](#) (click on name for email address) or call her (listed in our Yearbook/Directory).

Include a description of the item to be donated, the value of the item, and a suggested starting bid.

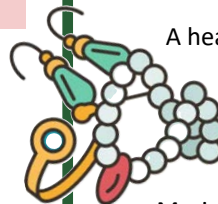
The registration deadline is August 22.

Payments may be made with cash or check. Molly will try to have a QR code set up for PayPal again if people want to pay with a credit card.

To avoid confusion at the meeting site, please do not bring an item for auction that has not been registered.

Mary Bloser Berwick
AAUW Funds Chair

Gem Update



A hearty thank you from the funds committee to all who donated jewelry for sale at Marjorie's Gems. Your generosity provided so much stock that it had to be divided into two lots! The first lot was sold for \$2,025. The second lot will be taken to Marjorie's Gems in early August. Depending on the mix of costume and fine jewelry, it is anticipated that another generous amount can be added to the branch funds!

Membership Social and Silent Auction
Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 6:00 pm.
Second Presbyterian Church 528 Garland Dr. Carlisle, PA
\$18 per person

Please RSVP by **August 17** to [Terri Glueck](#) (Click on name to connect to email)

You can pay online through PayPal using this link:

[Click here to pay through PayPal](#)

(It may say "donation," but it is actually the payment for the meal.)

Or send a check in the amount of \$18 per person, payable to AAUW Carlisle Branch to Terri Glueck at 178 W South St., Carlisle, PA 17013

Name _____

Guest(s) _____

Any dietary restriction _____

Amount enclosed _____

Community Activities Update

The Community Activities Committee is busy planning a few fun events for members to gather and socialize outside of the normal AAUW Branch Meetings. Members are welcome to bring along a spouse or an additional friend or two to join in the fun.

As we emailed a few weeks ago, AAUW member and Master Gardener extraordinaire, Maureen Cantwell, is inviting members to visit her garden on Wednesday, August 6, from 10-11:30 am. Guests are reminded to apply bug spray before arrival and are also welcome to take a refreshing dip in the pool. RSVP to [Virginia Mauk](#) (click on name to connect to email) or call (phone number listed in the Yearbook/Directory) by **Monday, August 4.**

The event at Longshot Farms Winery featuring David Smith, local historian and author of *The Babes in the Woods*, is being rescheduled for this fall. Stay tuned for the new date and time.

Lastly, the committee is still gauging interest in a Family Style Amish dinner at the Country Store Café in Newburg. Dinner would be on a Wednesday or Friday evening at 4:30pm with a cost of \$25 per person. A commitment of 25 people is needed to book the reservation. More information on Page 5.

The committee is always open to suggestions from members. If you have any fun ideas for an activity, contact committee chairs [Gail D'Urso](#) or [Virginia Mauk](#).



Gail D'Urso and Patty Stibitz volunteering at the SPY (Supportive Partnerships for Youth) program

What's Up in Pennsylvania? News from AAUW Pennsylvania

What a great summer retreat! Working with a facilitator, we learned techniques for gleaning nuggets of ideas from listening to success stories from a wide range of speakers. Kate Elkins was one of the six—ask her about her experience. We then turned those nuggets into potential projects at the branch or state level. A three-part brainstorming session yielded new solutions and fostered extensive collaboration of thought. The future looks bright.

2026 will be different. AAUW Pennsylvania is **not** holding a conference/convention in the Spring nor a Summer Retreat in early summer. The **ONLY** event to gather with AAUW members across Pennsylvania is the Atlantic States Regional Conference. The conference's inaugural event in September 2024 in Richmond, VA, was so successful that the 13 states of the Atlantic Region are planning the [2026 Atlantic States Regional Conference](#) to be held at [Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott Hotel in Lancaster, PA](#).

AAUW Pennsylvania is hosting—so you know the conference will be FANTASTIC. Committees have been planning for several months now under the direction of Cindy Hall and Ajla Laussegger, Conference Co-Chairs.

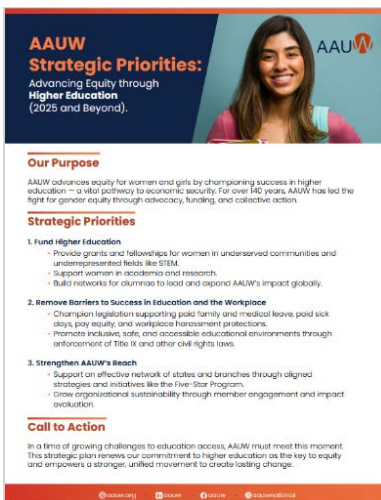
Ann Pehle
Retired AAUW Pennsylvania Board

September 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**This will be an exceptional
event you won't want to
miss.**

**Put September 25-27, 2026,
on your calendar NOW.**

News from National AAUW



When was the last time you checked out [AAUW's website homepage](#)?

If more than one month ago, you are way behind on all the scoop.

As a member, it is important to understand AAUW's Strategic Priorities at the national level so we can launch and support activities at the state and branch levels.

Go here <https://www.aauw.org/about/strategic-plan-2025/> for all the information and tools. This one-pager would be a good place to start and a great piece to give to prospective members to explain who we are. Scroll down the webpage to reveal links to the launch events; six bullet points to outline our purpose; an extensive explanation of the priorities; how to take action; platforms to watch and share; and Leader Tools.

Support the priorities with a donation to one or more of the following. Go [here](#) for fund descriptions.

- 4514 - Public Policy General
- 4513 - Defend Higher Education
- 9110 - AAUW Greatest Needs Fund

WE EMPOWER POTENTIAL

Ann Pehle
AAUW Carlisle member



Kate Elkins as one of the Summer Retreat's "Storytellers"



AAUW PA President Cindy Hall, Ann Pehle, and Kate Elkins

Carlisle's Ann Pehle Awarded AAUW PA Special Honoree

The following is an edited version of State President Cindy Hall's remarks in presenting this award to Ann:

Ann Pehle led our membership during the COVID years as the state president, figuring out how to keep the state membership active and committed to the mission. While she served four years as state president, she also served an additional year as the immediate past president. Prior to her role as president, she served for many years as public policy co-chair with Barbara Price, and state college/university liaison. And, of course, for the last ten years, as an active member of the Carlisle branch, she has served as a public policy officer and has taken on writing the history of the branch.

Ann holds an MBA in the Executive Leadership Program from Northwestern Kellogg School of Management. She had an impactful career as a corporate HR professional, serving as VP of Human Resources for Jacobsen in Charlotte, NC, and VP for HR at Marine & Land Systems, New Orleans. She also served as Director of Human Resources for a number of other companies in Illinois and Ohio. She is an experienced recruiter, serving as director of Global Talent Development for Textron in Rhode Island, plus she is a Certified Career Coach. I challenge any one of us to turn Ann down when she comes calling.

Thank you, Ann, for all you do for AAUW and those we serve, and for being such a dear friend to many of us.

AMISH DINNER?

The Community Activities Community is gauging member interest in an Amish Dinner at the Country Store Cafe in Newburg, about 35 minutes from Carlisle.

Price: \$25 per person

Dates: Wednesdays or Fridays; Times as early as 4:30 pm.

Friends/partners welcome. See menu (YUM!!!)

Please contact Gail D'Urso [HERE](#) to indicate your interest and preferred dates and times. (Do NOT use the AAUWCarlisle email address to respond).

We need at least 25 people in order to schedule a group time.



COUNTRY STORE CAFE
717-530-9452
 6352 McClays Mill Rd. Newburg PA 17240
Family Style Menu

Choice: Soup or Salad Cream of Broccoli Vegetable Beef Soup Creamy Potato Soup Tossed Salad Lettuce W/Bacon Dressing Choice of: 2 Side Dishes Green Beans Baked Corn Steamed Broccoli Creamed Celery Glazed Carrots Buttered Noodles Choice of: 2 Meats W/Filling Roast Turkey BBQ Meatballs Glazed Hamballs Baked Chicken Roast Beef Choice of Gravy Beef Chicken	Choice of: Potato Mashed Potatoes Cheesy Potatoes Choice of: 2 Pies & Ice cream Coconut Cream Pie Chocolate Cream Pie Peanut Butter Cream Pie Red Raspberry Cream Pie Fruit Pies: Apple, Cherry, Peach Shoofly Pie Pumpkin Pie (seasonal) Lemon Meringue Pie Dinners Also include: Homemade Dinner Rolls Sweet or Unsweetened Tea \$25.00 per person \$13.00 per child ages 7-12 Children 6 and Under Free
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Dinner Reservations Wed. or Fri. Evenings Only
Group Minimum 25 Adults...Prices include tax and Gratuity

2025-26 Book Club Calendar—Start Reading Now!



Date	Time	Hostess	Book
Mon, Sept 8	7 pm	Marina Young	My Friends by Fredrik Backman
Mon, Oct 6	7 pm	Cherry France	The Mystery of Mrs. Christie by Marie Benedict
Mon, Nov 3	1 pm	Cindy Sutton	Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men by Caroline Criado Perez
Mon, Jan 5	1 pm	Wendy Armour Dickinson	Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
Mon, Feb 2	1 pm	Kathy Weigl	The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate
Mon, Mar 2	1 pm	Virginia Mauk	A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy who Helped Win World War II by Sonia Parnell
Mon, April 6	7 pm	Patricia Markowski	The Briar Club by Kate Quinn
Mon, May 4	7 pm	Darlis Simonton	When Women Ran Fifth Avenue by Julie Satow
Mon, Jun 1	6 pm	1794 Whiskey Rebellion	Dinner to select books for the coming year

Public Policy Updates

We hope you have been enjoying your summer! Here's a quick update on some key public policy issues affecting women and families across Pennsylvania:

Cyber Charter School Reform – HB 1500

While discussions continue, as of now, there is no final budget resolution tied to HB 1500 (Cyber Charter School Reform) for the 2025-2026 Pennsylvania budget. This bill, which aims to address issues related to cyber charter school funding and oversight, remains a critical point of discussion for educational equity. We will continue to monitor developments and advocate for measures that ensure equitable access to quality education for all students.

Paid Family Leave – Pennsylvania's Ongoing Effort

Comprehensive statewide paid family leave for all workers has not yet passed as of July 2025. While there have been encouraging steps forward, including the Pennsylvania state House advancing a version of the Family and Medical Leave Act, the bill still needs to pass the state Senate and be signed by the Governor. Paid family leave remains a cornerstone of AAUW's advocacy efforts as it directly impacts the economic security and well-being of families, especially women who are often the primary caregivers.

Good News for Education Funding

On a positive note, the U.S. Department of Education announced on July 25, 2025, that billions of dollars in grant money, which had previously been withheld from states—including Pennsylvania—will soon be released. This funding will help restore vital education programs, including after-school programs and teacher training, which faced potential cuts due to delays in funding decisions. This is a significant victory for students and educators alike.

Looking Ahead

As we head into the fall, AAUW remains committed to advocating for policies that empower women and girls. We are excited to collaborate with other like-minded organizations to make meaningful strides in public policy. Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to engage with these efforts and help shape the future of Pennsylvania!

We are excited for another year of promoting advocacy with AAUW!

Theresa Rice & Kelly Spasic
Public Policy Co-Chairs

AAUW Carlisle 2025-2026 Board Members

Elected Officers

President: Kate Elkins

Vice President: Nancy Sigrist

Membership VPs: Janet Kacsur, Terri Glueck

Program VPs: Jeanna Som, Grace Nguyen

Finance Officers: Molly Shane, Barb Attivo

Secretary: Meta Bowman

Appointed Committee Chairs

AAUW Funds: Mary Bloser Berwick

Communications: Marina Young

Community Activities: Gail D'Urso & Virginia Mauk

Interest Groups: Wendy Armour Dickinson

Public Policy: Theresa Rice, Kathy Spasic

Scholarship: Lillian Wong, Gail D'Urso

STEM: Barb Attivo, Lillian Wong

Appointed Off Board Committee Chairs

College Liaison: Katie Schweighofer

Historian: Ann Pehle

Appointed Coordinators

Newsletter: Peggy Jennings

Social Media: Kate Elkins

Trailblazers: Gail D'Urso, Cherry France

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.

Come Join the Scholarship Committee!

This past year, our branch had the most robust number of applicants and was able to award seven scholarships! We were able to *see and meet* the future generation of women who will lead us with confidence, integrity, and enthusiasm!

Be a part of this process! The committee is looking for members for three-year terms. Questions? Please contact [Lillian Wong](#) or [Gail D'Urso](#).

CHILD CARE TOWN HALL, PART II

Pennsylvania is experiencing a child care crisis. Business leaders are acutely aware that the lack of affordable, accessible child care hampers economic growth in the state and negatively impacts the workforce.

On May 29, AAUW Carlisle Branch Public Policy Committee members Kate Elkins, Nancy Sigrist, and Cherry France attended a public forum on the child care crisis in Cumberland County sponsored by the Cumberland County Commission for Women (CCCW). The forum brought together business leaders, policy advocates, and working parents to share ideas on collaborative strategies to address the lack of quality child care in the county. A variety of approaches were discussed, including employer-sponsored centers, apprenticeship-type programs to train child care workers, and start-up loans for new providers.

The collaborative approach now being used in York County may serve as a model to address the child care crisis in Cumberland County. Every Child Has Opportunities (ECHO) is an early childhood initiative being led by Community Connections for Children (CCC) and the York Economic Alliance (YCEA). In the ECHO Action Plan, three goals were set along with several strategies for meeting each goal. The strategies adopted include: funding grants for providers that develop creative solutions for increasing capacity; apprenticeship and scholarship programs to support students pursuing careers in early childhood education; and employer-funded childcare stipends. The York collaborative effort provides a helpful road map for other areas of Pennsylvania. The Public Policy Committee plans to coordinate with CCCW on future efforts to address the child care needs of Cumberland County.



Cherry France
Trailblazers Co-Coordinator