

AAUW April NEWSLETTER

Message from the Co-Presidents



SPRING IS IN THE AIR

March has been a very busy month. Our Board met at the Presbyterian Church in Beaver and the room, location and accommodations are excellent. We all agreed that this will be our new meeting place starting in October.

Please remember to sign up for the **May Luncheon** and get your payments to Jean Macaluso. Looking forward to seeing all of you for the April 13 Meeting at 7:00pm.

“Hospice: Myths and Misconceptions”

Kevin Walsh, Administrator of Advanced Hospice along with Alternate Administrator, Elizabeth Stroud will present a program explaining the following topics: Hospice 101, Medicare Hospice Benefits, the Four Levels of Hospice and Advanced Hospice.

Thank you to the Hostess Committee for the delicious snacks. Happy Saint Patty’s Day!

NEWS FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICER, NANCY MAHOSKY

KITCHEN TOUR UPDATE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SATURDAY, SEPT. 23, 2023

Spring cleaning? Getting into those cupboards and drawers? When you discover those gently used items just waiting to be replaced, think KITCHEN TOUR! The purse sale has expanded to include jewelry, scarves, and fashion accessories. Remember: \$1243 in profit last year! Please drop them off at the home of either Frances Pickard or Linda Loboza and include your name. Frances and Linda will also be accepting items at any meetings that they attend, beginning in April. Gather from friends, too. Thank you.

YEARBOOK UPDATES

Any changes to addresses, phone numbers, or email should be sent to Nancy Mahosky, financial officer. Any other updates should be sent to Pam Powers, yearbook editor.

HELP RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS

All new members will pay only \$52 (as of April 1) in total dues because of the national and Pennsylvania Shape the Future Program. It is a nice incentive to join and the branch also earns one free national membership for every two recruits!

5 STAR BRANCH COMMITTEE

Our branch is beginning the process of earning stars through the national 5 Star Recognition Program. Stars are given in the areas of Advancement, Public Policy, Governance, Programs, and Communications. Members serving on the committee (so far) include Nancy Mahosky, Roslyn Ionta, Vicky Scott, Lea Kretchmar, Jean Macaluso, Sharon Nerone, Marianne Turner, Kim Litz, Roberta Good, Linda Lobo, Patty Rock, Mary DeSanzo, and Deb Newton. Others are welcome! It is a great opportunity to think about our purpose as an organization and to plan for the future. Contact Nancy for more information.

ONLINE BILL PAYMENT

Are any members currently using online bill payment? You can easily add our branch as a biller and have your bank send us a check for dues or luncheon payments or even donations! Checks will be printed and mailed to Nancy. Make sure to allow enough time for the check to arrive before the deadline.

CREDIT / DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS

We are working hard to allow members to use a credit or debit card for payments. A button will be shown on the website or Facebook page that allows you to enter your card number. Please understand that the use of a card requires a fee so you will pay a little more for this service. You will be notified when a button is available. A Social Media Chairperson is needed before we can start this program!

NEW MEMBERS

Our membership total is now 89 (11 are new) which surpasses last year's total. We have also earned 3 free 2023-24 national memberships through the Shape the Future program.

2023 AAUW SCHOLARSHIPS

31 high school and 5 non-traditional applications were submitted by the March 10th deadline. The information is being organized and will be sent to all committee members for consideration and voting.

PUBLIC POLICY



EQUAL PAY DAY OBSERVED On March 14th, Equal Pay Day 2023 was recognized with new legislation brought forth by State Senators Steve Santarsiero (D-10 (parts of Bucks County)) and Maria Collett (D-12 (parts of Bucks and Montgomery Counties)) written to update PA's Equal Pay Laws. Pennsylvania women currently earn .79 cents for every dollar paid to men. This leads

to an annual \$10,000 earnings gap. Reasons cited by lawmakers for this gender wage gap can be attributed to bias against working Moms, occupational segregation, and direct pay discrimination. SB421 updates Equal Pay Laws by: ● Providing employee protection from retaliation when asking about wage information; ● Widening the current law to include more employers and fringe benefits; and ● Allowing workers the ability to collect unpaid wages when an employer is found in violation of the law.

Education Update

1. Educational Funding Lawsuit: “In 2014, 6 PA school districts, the PA Association of Rural & Small Schools, the NAACP-PA state conference, & a group of public school parent filed suit in PA against state legislative leaders, state education officials & the Governor for not upholding the General Assembly Constitution to provide a thorough and efficient system of public education”

On February 7, 2023 the court ruled that the current PA funding system was unconstitutional.

The result: both sides must come together and devise a plan to address these constitution deficiencies. *PA SCHOOLS WORK

2. The historic teacher shortage continues in PA. The number of PA teachers has decreased by 2/3 over the last decade according to the group * TEACH PLUS.

Kitchen Tour - FASHION ACCESSORIES

Collecting purses, jewelry and fashion accessories at all meetings or you can drop them off at the home of either Frances Pickard or Linda Lobo. Please include your name.

PASSING OF A LEGACY

If you have been a Branch member longer than six years, you will remember fondly CLAIRE MERVIS, a committed member of AAUW and a friend to all. Throughout her years with us, she served in many capacities and was an inspiration to us new members when she was Co-President. She was our unofficial mentor who encouraged us to use our talents to become involved and was so supportive of all members whom she valued with pride and praise. She was actively involved with Interest Groups, always willing to graciously host in her home or to be of assistance for any initiative, as in the beginning stages of the Kitchen Tour. Even after she moved to Birmingham, Alabama, to be with her family after her husband passed away, she

remained in contact with a few of us and always asked about the activities of our Branch and members that she knew. In addition to her devotion to AAUW, she also contributed her abilities and resources to benefit the community of Beaver Falls where she was recognized as a prominent businesswoman.

Claire was full of energy, had a keen mind, but, most of all, she was a fine and gentle lady whose qualities enriched her life to the age of 98 when she passed away peacefully in February, 2023. She enriched our lives, too, by having known her, and her name will remain in the history of our Branch.

Jean Macaluso

FEMMES

April Femmes will be different in that, along with lunch, you may want to shop, so MEDITERRA, on the main street of Sewickley, is the place to do both. It is a cozy café featuring artisan breads, imported oils, spreads, cheeses, and charcuterie trays for purchase. Consider joining us there on Tuesday, April 4, at 12:30, and please contact me no later than the preceding Saturday morning if you plan to attend. Hope to see you then.

GARDEN GROUP KICK OFF

The Garden Group will meet at 12:30pm on Wednesday, April 26th at Jimmy Magg's Restaurant, Shadow Lakes, 2000 Beaver Lakes Blvd., Aliquippa to plan for the 2023 calendar of activities. Anyone who shares a common love of flowers, shrubs, and vegetables are welcome!



LITERATURE 1

WHO: Viv M. - discussion leader
WHAT: *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah
WHERE: Jackson's
WHEN: Tuesday, April 4 at 3:30 – time change
Lunch menu will be available

Lit II

March Literature II met for a lively discussion on Kate Quinn's "The Rose Code" at our new date and time, the second Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. at the home of Francis Pickard. Fran Colafella led the discussion. Our April meeting will be on April 13th at

Fran's home. We will be discussing "A Prayer for Owen Meany" by John Irving. It will be a self-led discussion because our original leader has an important commitment that cannot be missed, and none of us are shy about discussing our opinions within this group of friends.

Lit III

Jackie Heaney will lead the Literature 3 book discussion of "Flight" by Lynn Steger Strong on Tuesday, March 21, at the Wooden Angel at 12:30 pm.

50 States Basket for Kitchen Tour

Dear Members,

Two years ago, I, with the help of a couple friends, attempted to put together a sampling of items from all of our 50 states. We were able to have 43 states represented. The basket was very well received and one of our members won the basket.

At our December meeting, I challenged everyone to donate an item from a different state to hopefully put together a 50 state "Tasting Tour of the United States." If you can pick up an item over the summer as you travel on vacation, please bring it to our next meeting. I will report on the states we collected in each newsletter, so we know what states still need represented. An item won't go on the list until the item is received. It is OK if we have more than one item to a state. Some states are known for several different things like macadamia nut from Hawaii or corn from Iowa. Remember to check expiration dates, the basket will be part of the Kitchen Tour the end of September.

At this time, I have collected items from:

California	Bota' Rita Strawberry Margareta, Ghiradelli Chocolate
Colorado	Coor's
Hawaii	Kona Coffee covered Macadamia nuts, vanilla bean paste
Indiana	Albanese Gummi Butterflies
Iowa	Farmer John's Popcorn
Kanas	Busy Bee Honey
Kentucky	Natural Light Lemonade Flavored Vodka
Maine	Raye's Mustard
Maryland	Old Bay Seasoning
Minnesota	Wiley Wallaby Licorice

New Hampshire	Port City Cinnamon Sugar Pretzels, Lindt Chocolate
New York	Sweet Walter Cherry Wine
North Dakota	Dot's Pretzel
Ohio	Fanny Mae Buckeyes
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Dutch Peppermint Bark Cream Liqueur, Hershey's Chocolate
Puerto Rico	Castillo Silver Puerto Rico Rum
Tennessee	Indian Summer Wine
Virginia	Peanut snack mix; Virginia Gummies
West Virginia	Samplings of different Moonshines
District of Columbia	Cherry Blossom pot holder

We have a good start with 18 states and 2 Territories (that's more than 37%) so far. We have even managed to pick up items from States we missed the last time around. I am hoping with members contributing, we will be able to put together a stunning basket and maybe even a showstopper!

Thank you in advance,

Pam Powers



Community Group

Girls' Recognition Night is coming together. We have our panel:

Jennifer Hammer DO is a forensic pathology specialist in Pittsburgh.

Alina Chemini Nye, recognized at Girls' Recognition Night. Has a master's in engineering management, bachelors - biomedical engineering - mechanical engineering minor – mechatronics

Sarah Mullen, Marianne Turner's daughter, has an accounting degree at Duquesne, MBA at Indiana, and is a certified public accountant.

Victoria Scott, an AAUW member with a B.S. Computer Science

We have 26 girls who are being recognized in the program. Twenty girls will be attending the program to receive their certificate.

Speaker: **Sarah Pokita**, Admissions Specialist, who will offer an overview of CCBC and the admissions process followed by faculty member **Kristi Farrow**, who will speak to the girls about cybersecurity tech careers.

. The Carnegie Science Lab will present a program for the girls. This program will be 9:00am-noon conference room 9103.

Microbit Chariot:

Teams of students will be challenged to code for Microbit Robots through an obstacle course!

This program focuses on coding.



Membership

New members will have a sticker attached to their name tag. This will help us identify new members and reach out to make them feel more welcome. We are also working on a buddy system to pair up a member with a new member.