

AAUW October Newsletter



Co-Presidents Report

"Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale." —

Lauren DeStefano, Wither

We are looking forward to seeing you all. Our first branch meeting of the 2023-2024 is scheduled for Thursday, October 5 at 7:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church on College Avenue in Beaver. The program "Reforest Our Future" will be presented by Mr. Jeff Karwoski. Please note: *Due to a one time conflict, we will meet in Room 206 just for this meeting.* This room is just beyond Room 210 in the same hallway.

Roberta and Kim

NEWS FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICER, NANCY MAHOSKY

Please continue to recruit new members. Dues for new members are only \$53 (half-price). It's a real bargain! Plus our branch will earn one free membership for every 2 recruits. Ask potential members to contact Jodean Brooks or Mary Beth Quinn for an application. This application is also available on our website for downloading. Just click on the Membership Application tab.

If any printed copies of the application form are floating around, please make sure it shows a \$53 dues payment. It is embarrassing to us when a new member sends a check for an incorrect amount.

YEARBOOK UPDATES

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

5 STAR BRANCH COMMITTEE

So far, we have completed the requirements for Star #3 Governance by writing a strategic plan and a succession plan. Star #4 Programs is also complete as we have 4 programs that are aligned to the strategic plan. Finally, Star #5 Communications is done as our social media pages have 3-4 posts on DEI.

Evaluation of our progress will be via a survey sent out in the fall. Members will be sent talking points to help with filling it out.

IF YOU CHANGED YOUR NAME, CHECK YOUR JOIN YEAR!

Any member who joined under one last name and then changed it needs to be certain that the join year recorded by national AAUW is correct. Nancy has that information and can check for you.

STATE DUES INCREASE FOR 2024-25

State dues are increasing for the first time in many, many years. They will be \$12 next year instead of \$10.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

Please consider volunteering to be our DE&I officer for 2023-24. We need someone to post articles to Facebook and our web site and to assist with inclusion efforts to mirror the AAUW vision. Without a chair, we will not earn Star #3 for 2023-24. Please help!

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! Just add this biller information:

AAUW Beaver Valley Branch
1904 17th Street
Beaver Falls PA 15010

Checks will be printed and mailed to Nancy. Make sure to allow enough time for the check to arrive before the deadline.

CREDIT CARD / DEBIT CARD / PAYPAL PAYMENTS

Our branch is now able to accept credit and debit card payments as well as Paypal transfers. There is a Donate button on the main page, the About Us page, and the Kitchen Tour page of the website. Members and friends of AAUW Beaver Valley may use this button at any time to submit donations.

We also now accept credit card or debit card payments made online for our branch activities. There will always be a link on the website when we begin to advertise an event. Just follow the directions.

There is always a small processing fee for these payments. However, when you consider the cost of a stamp and the time to write a check and prepare an addressed envelope, it is worth it! Payments were accepted for our Fall Brunch reservations and many members took advantage of it.

If anyone has a Paypal account, money can be sent directly to our branch Paypal account without a fee. See Nancy for directions.

RENEWING AND NEW MEMBERS

Our membership total is now 78 (4 are new).

NEW MEMBERS

None this month

ADDRESS, EMAIL, AND PHONE NUMBER CHANGES

None this month

PHONE NUMBER ADJUSTMENTS

Please contact Nancy Mahosky if you want your cell phone number published in the yearbook and distributed to members.

Kitchen Tour

First, many thanks to our amazing Jean Macaluso! She has made this fundraiser a huge success over the years. Her tireless work and attention to detail is like none other. Vickie Scott will take the reins for next year as she work closely with the Master (Jean).

Another successful Kitchen Tour is now completed. The committee is holding their wrap-up meeting on Thursday, September 28 at the **Beaver Area Library, noon to 1 PM**. The time and location of the meeting was changed, please note.

Thanks to the many hands who made the event so successful. The marketplace was hopping most of the day with yummy baked goods, a larger variety of vendors, a food truck, and beautiful baskets. The patrons loved the houses and chefs. I was able to hear from many while selling tickets.

I am looking forward to being next year's chairperson. My "student teacher" months are coming to an end. There are many details that I will learn throughout next year.

Please take the opportunity throughout October to think about how you want to contribute to this worthy event. Let me know. Send me suggestions, new ideas, possible chefs, and homes that might be added to the tour. Several members have already

shared ideas. I already have a page or so of new ideas. On Saturday, we had three patrons indicate an interest in having their homes on the tour.

Vickie Scott

Public Policy

Senator Robert Casey response for support of Equal Rights Amendment:

"First drafted in 1923, the Equal Rights Amendment would add a provision to the Constitution stating that, "[e]quality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex." Article V of the Constitution provides that an amendment is effective when ratified by three-quarters of the states. Though Article V of the Constitution does not place a time limit on the ratification of a constitutional amendment, after the ERA passed both chambers of Congress in 1972, Congress placed a deadline on the ratification process, requiring that the ERA meet the 38-state requirement by 1982. However, only 35 states ratified the ERA by 1982, falling just three states short of the threshold set by Article V.

On January 24, 2023, Senators Ben Cardin of Maryland and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska introduced S. J. Res. 4. This resolution would eliminate the time limit for ratification of the ERA and would declare that the ERA shall become part of the Constitution whenever it is ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states. In our own Commonwealth, Pennsylvania has had an equal rights amendment in its state constitution since 1971, and in 1972, Pennsylvania became the 21st state to ratify the ERA. In 2020, the Commonwealth of Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the amendment.

The ERA would set a new standard for equality in the Nation and help keep Americans safe from gender-based violence, discrimination in the workplace, and restrictions from full participation in civil society. The amendment was driven by the conviction that the strength of our democracy is predicated upon a constitutionally enshrined principle of gender equality, and I believe that ratification is one step Congress must take to rectify longstanding gender-based inequalities that have burdened Americans for too long. For these reasons, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bipartisan resolution.

On April 27, 2023, Leader Schumer brought S. J. Res. 4 to a vote before the full Senate. Though this resolution received bipartisan support, it failed to meet the 60-vote filibuster threshold to advance to debate by a vote of 51-47."

AWARDS COMMITTEE - Nominations are due Nov. 15 !

Now is the time to send in your nominations to recognize AAUW Beaver Valley Branch members and individuals from the community for supporting our mission in various ways. Awards will be presented in 2024.

FIVE AWARDS and CRITERIA:

1. **NAMED GIFT HONOREE/S:** awarded to a member/s who has shown leadership or great effort to the branch.
2. **MEMBER MAKING A DIFFERENCE:** awarded to a member who has made a significant difference in something of importance to the branch within the past year.
3. **OUTSTANDING WOMAN OF THE BRANCH:** awarded to a member for meritorious service to the branch and the community for her accumulative service.
4. **GATEWAY TO EQUITY AWARD:** awarded to someone in the community, not necessarily an AAUW member, who has promoted inclusion of women in the workplace as well as other leadership roles.
5. **CHAMPION OF AAUW Beaver Valley Branch:** awarded to an individual or organization that substantially supports the AAUW mission and values.

*To nominate individuals, please email the following information for each nominee:
(you may nominate a person for each award)*

1. Specific Award as noted above
2. Individual's name and contact information for non-members being nominated
3. Explain why the nominee meets the criteria and is deserving of the award
4. Your name and email
5. **Email your nominations by Nov. 15 to Mary Ann Falcone-Bolland:**
dbolland@comcast.net

The Awards Committee reviews nominations and presents the selections to the board for approval.

Thank you for taking the time to recognize individuals for their contributions to our branch.

Awards Committee: Mary Ann Falcone-Bolland, Public Information/Awards Chair; Jodean Brooks and Joann Lecrone, Community Co-Chairs; Jodean Brooks and Mary Beth Quinn, Membership VPs.

Literature 1

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 10 at Jackson's – 1:00.
Yvonne will be our discussion leader.

Our book is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson.

Literature II

In September we had an excellent discussion of "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks at the home of Ellen Taylor with Ann Niemann leading our meeting and Ginger Muns providing our delicious dessert. In the new Yearbook our meeting day is still listed as the 3rd Monday of the month but needs to be corrected to meeting the 2nd Thurs of each month at 1:00 p.m. In October we will be discussing "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver at the home of Kathi Harris.
Beth Buttermore, Chair

Literature III

Literature 3 group will meet October 17, 12:30 pm at the Wooden Angel to discuss "Maisie Dobbs" by Jacqueline Windspear. Ellen Taylor is the discussion leader.

FEMMES

The Thai Restaurant in Beaver is our destination for October---Tuesday, October 3, at 12:30.

By now, you probably have experienced a lunch or dinner there, but join us anyway for an afternoon of "cultural cuisine", more than adequate portions, and friendly chatter which is always enjoyable.

Please contact me by the preceding Saturday if you plan to come, and I hope to see you then.

jean.macaluso@yahoo.com (Please reply directly to me.)

724-581-6050 text

Antiques

Antique's Group met at the home of Nancy Cole. Our topic, Flow Blue. Next meeting will be October 9th at the home of Vicki Scott Topic: "Christmas Shopping Generations Ago, Vintage and Antique Toys,"