



**Co-Presidents' message:**

**As we celebrate Spring and the new birth of the season, we need to take a moment to reflect on our past year 2023-2024 of AAUW Beaver Valley Branch.**

**There's so much that we, as a team, have accomplished and lots to remember:**

- **Kitchen Tour September 2023 \$18, 835.62**
- **3-Stars Beaver Valley Branch for 2022-2023; working to become a 5-Star Branch for 2023-2024**
- **7 Scholarships \$16,000**
- **State/Local By-Laws Review and Revision**
- **10 new members joined our Branch = 3 Free national/state memberships**
- **Member generous donations and our branch donation to AAUW Funds earned 5 named gift honorees**
- **Annual Fall / Christmas / Spring Luncheons**

- **New events scheduled in the evening for working members (19th Hole gathering, Paint and Sip, Cooking Class, Escape Room)**
- **Extremely active and up-to-date Facebook and web pages**
- **Ability to use online payments by credit/debit card or PayPal**
- **Girls' Recognition Night – 18 awardees**
- **10 Interest Groups – 3 Literature Groups**
- **6 Outstanding Programs**

**Congratulations to a wonderful group of inspiring women! Hope to see you all and let's celebrate at the May Luncheon!**

### **NEWS FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICER, NANCY MAHOSKY**

#### **PLEASE PAY 2024-25 DUES**

Dues for the new fiscal year (7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025) need to be paid by June 15. Checks in the amount of \$80 should be made payable to AAUW Beaver Valley Branch and mailed to Nancy Mahosky, 1904 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Beaver Falls, PA 15010. An addressed envelope for your convenience was included in the last mailing.

Members may also pay online using a credit or debit card. Click on the Membership 2024-25 tab to access.

#### **WE ARE NOW A 3-STAR BRANCH!!!**

We were informed by national AAUW that our branch has successfully fulfilled the requirements for 3 stars. There are 27 branches in Pennsylvania: 4 are 1-star branches, 3 are 2-star branches, 5 are 3-star branches, 2 are 4-star branches, and none are 5-star branches. Our plans are to earn all 5 Stars in FY2024.

#### **KITCHEN TOUR RECIPES NEEDED!!!**

We need fresh recipes for the 2024 Kitchen Tour recipe book. Please search for your favorites and submit to Nancy. Typed recipes are preferred but a

photocopy, picture, or even something handwritten is also OK. Email to [nmahosky@comcast.net](mailto:nmahosky@comcast.net) or send it in the old-style mail. Please submit by May 31 to meet our printing deadline.

### **SHAPE THE FUTURE FREE MEMBERSHIPS EARNED**

Congratulations to our branch for recruiting 10 new members in the calendar year 2023. This entitles us to 3 free national and state memberships for 2024-25. These free memberships will be chosen by a raffle held at our May 4 luncheon. Mary Beth Quinn and Jodean Brooks did a great job in recruitment by their activities during the year, especially the November “Getting to Know Us” event.

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 applicable to 2025-26 dues. 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 2024-25 tab.

### **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.

### **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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**There are buttons on the website to pay dues and pay for the May luncheon.**

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

From a pool of stiff competition among thirty-seven eligible applicants, the Scholarship Committee selected four scholarship recipients, each receiving \$2500. They are as follow:

**LAUREN NESBELLA**, senior at Beaver Area High School, will attend Penn State to major in Computer Science with the career goal of becoming a software engineer. As an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, Lauren was recognized at Girls Recognition Night.

**SYDNEY SLATER**, senior at Central Valley High School, will major in Cyber Security and plans to work in that field. Her minor is in Criminal Justice. She will decide to attend Xavier University, Dayton University, or University of South Carolina.

**RAJA SLIGH**, senior at Beaver Falls High School, will major in Music Education at either Duquesne University or Westminster College. Raja would like to become a music teacher.

**CHELSEA BOLLAND**, Non-Traditional Student at Robert Morris University. Currently a registered nurse, Chelsea is working on a Doctorate in Nursing Practice, and her goal is to become a Nurse Practitioner. Chelsea resides in New Brighton.

**ALEXANDRA WISE**. Alexandra is a student at CCBC and has been selected to receive our annual \$1000 Award.

The Scholarship Committee consists of Co-Presidents, Chairpersons of Educational Fund, Community and DE&I Committees.

### **KITCHEN TOUR**

Linda Lobo and Frances Pickard are now accepting donations for our purse and accessory sale. Gently used purses, shoes, scarves, jewelry, and other accessories are welcome. Your donations can be dropped at Linda's home 2202 Darlington Road, Beaver Falls. If Beaver is easier for you, Frances is also accepting donations at 1530 River Road, Beaver.

Nancy Mahosky is accepting recipes for future recipe books. Please email your recipes by May 31 to [nmahosky@comcast.net](mailto:nmahosky@comcast.net)

If you are interested in contacting local business owners about raffle basket donations, please check in with Vickie ([vscott3412@gmail.com](mailto:vscott3412@gmail.com)). The committee has a donation list where many donors have been assigned. New

donors are always appreciated, and many hands make for lighter work! Vickie can also provide a Beaver Valley AAUW branded donation letter for your use.

Over the summer every member will receive her two tour tickets, an update about the tour, and staffing preference form. You will be asked how you want to contribute during the setup, tour, and tear down on September 27 and 28.

Our five chefs are John Palich of the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole, Chippewa; Greg Powell of the Grumpy Beaver, Bridgewater; Andrea Roach of PJ's Deli, New Brighton; Joe Ozimok of Beyond Parsley Catering, Aliquippa; and Sheri of Mezza Luna.

### **BYLAWS AND BRANCH POLICIES**

Our revised bylaws have been added to the website, sent to state, and forwarded to national. The next task will be revising the branch polices. If you have a policy revision, please email your suggestion by June 15 to [vscott3412@gmail.com](mailto:vscott3412@gmail.com)

### **PUBLIC POLICY - APRIL 2024**

The following is an excerpt of proposed priorities that will be voted upon at the State annual membership meeting scheduled for May 4, 2024. Note: No changes were suggested by the membership or public policy committee.

Proposed AAUW PA Public Policy Priorities 2024-2026

To enable members and all citizens to participate fully in a representative democracy and self-governance, AAUW PA advocates:

- Awareness of issues so that members may be fully informed and empowered voters;
- Opposition to measures likely to suppress voting rights;
- Support for efforts in increase civil discourse and compromise between those with opposing views;

- Efforts to get out the vote, including voter registration and use of social media to promote voting.

To improve the economic self-sufficiency of all women, AAUW PA advocates:

- Pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits;
- Raising the minimum wage and tipped minimum wage to an amount that would provide a meaningful boost to family incomes in Pennsylvania and help grow the state's economy.

To improve the operation and transparency of government, AAUW PA advocates:

Efforts to end the practice of partisan redistricting, gerrymandering in Pennsylvania.

### **EDUCATION UPDATES**

1. The launch for increased funds for the student teacher stipend program has begun. 2000 students applied for the program and only 750 students were granted the limited funds. The program will provide student teachers with \$10,000 for their 12-week program. In return, these students agree to work as educators within PA for 3 years. The economic burden of student teaching is seen as a barrier for many to become an educator.
2. House Bill 2063 was introduced. It is intended to create transparency for tax credit voucher programs.
3. In February 2023, PA won a landmark victory declaring that our current system for funding public schools is unconstitutional. The PA legislature is still working on formulating another system.

4. Education Voters (an independent advocacy group for education) filed a Right to Know request with Commonwealth Charter Academy (CCA) to seek info on how they used public money for fleet vehicles, marketing staff, food trucks, etc. CCA denied the requests saying they had no records. Education Voters reached out to Auditor General DeFoor requesting an audit of CCA. They were informed that his office is currently auditing CCA. This hopefully will create some transparency on how CCA is spending tax dollars.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

On April 19<sup>th</sup> members met at [Conquer the Clock Escape Rooms](#) to solve the mystery of the lost Candy Falls Krunch bar. **This is another fun evening activity that we incorporated into our interest groups to help include all members, working and retired.**

### **GIRLS' RECOGNITION NIGHT**

Neither flood watch reports nor tornado warnings stopped our GRN held April 11<sup>th</sup>. at CCBC. Twenty-six eighth grade girls were nominated by their teachers to be recognized in science or math. Lia Hazelwood, Dual Enrollment and Retention Specialist Instructor, Early Childhood was on hand to inform students and parents of opportunities CCBC offered to the high school girls. Three panelists were available to share their experiences in the work force or college. This year's panelists were:

#### **Sarah Mullen**

Master of Business Administration

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in Honors Accounting



**Cianna Ridenour**

Student: Penn State Beaver campus

**Dr. Kristi K. Weatherly O.D.**

Bachelor of Science Degree

Doctor of Optometry

Thank you to the GRN committee: Joann Lecrone, Sue Brandt, Nancy Cole, Mary DeSanzo, Roberta Good, Jan Landsbach, Angela Manno, Sharon Nerone, Mary Beth Quinn, Marianne Turner, and Vickie Scott. I appreciate having a dedicated committee that works well together.

**MOVIE GROUP**

Please email your ideas for the next movie day to Pam Powers or Jodean Brooks.

**FEMMES**

On **Tuesday, May 7, at 12:30**, we will meet at **Sal's, Ristorante**, a familiar spot in Chippewa.

It is conveniently located for quite a few members, so I hope that we will have a large group there. Please let me know by the preceding Saturday if you plan to attend.

AND

We have another gathering in May by popular request: **Christy House in Sewickley**. It is open only on Fridays until summer, so we will meet there on **Friday, May 17, at 12:30**. (Seating at 12:45). A parking lot is across the street and also at St. Stephen's Church. They would like ample notice as to our count, so let me know no later than **May 9** if you plan to attend. Cost is \$18, payable by either cash or check for lunch and also for their two gift shops. No credit cards.

Jean Macaluso [jean.macaluso@yahoo.com](mailto:jean.macaluso@yahoo.com)

724-581-6050 text

**ADVANCE NOTICE.** HYE HOLDE RESTAURANT, Moon Twp. DINNER AT 4:30, TUESDAY, JUNE 4. Check website for menu options. You may bring a guest.

### **LITERATURE 1**

Literature 1 will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at 11:30 at the Grand Valley Inn Restaurant. Our discussion leader is Viv, and our book is *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. Women can be heroes.

### **MOVIE GROUP**

Anyone interested in the Bob Marley movie?  
It will be playing at 1:25 on 4/23/24 at Center Two theater.

Please contact Jodean or Pam.