

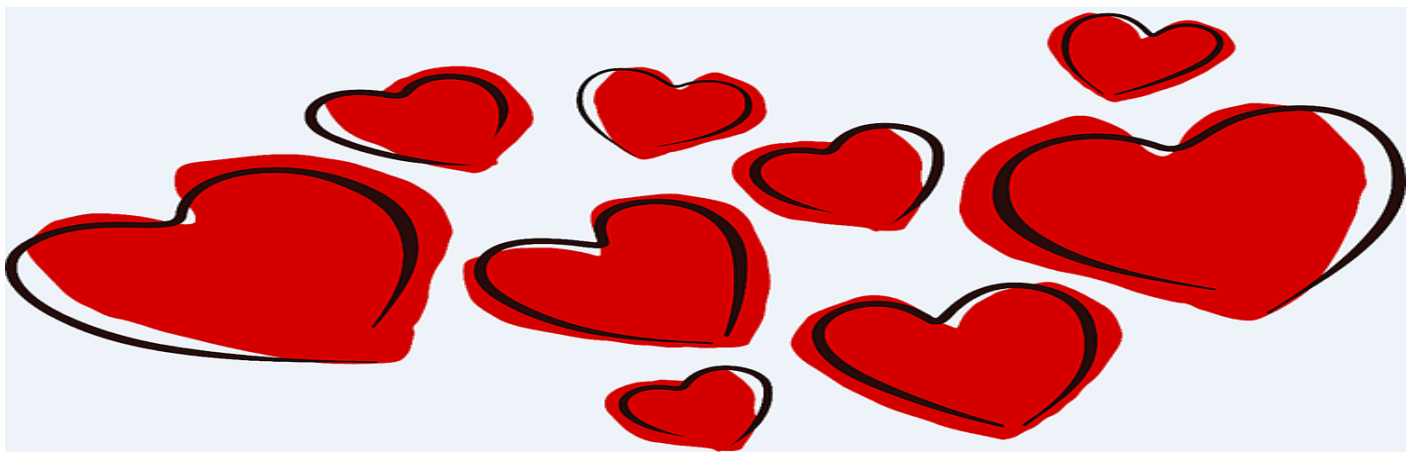


FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE - DEB NEWTON and DEB MANGELLI

We welcome a new year as a **4-Star Branch of AAUW**, reaffirming our mission to empower women through education, equity, opportunity, and economic security for all women. While each year brings its own challenges and setbacks, we can look to the women who led the way for passage of the **19th Amendment** and secured our right to vote—passed in 1920 and unanimously upheld by the Supreme Court in 1929—as inspiration. We are also reminded of the first proposal for pay equity in 1955, when women working full time earned just **65 cents for every dollar earned by men**.

Progress followed with the **Equal Pay Act of 1963**, which amended the Fair Labor Standards Act to prohibit sex-based wage discrimination, and later the **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009**, which expanded the time frame for employees to sue for pay discrimination. Yet pay equity remains an ongoing issue. **Equal Pay Day for 2026 is projected as March 4th**, symbolizing how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year.



How can we close this gender gap? While opportunities for women have expanded over the years, women remain underrepresented in key **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)** fields that often offer higher pay. One such field is **cybersecurity**, which has evolved into a critical industry by protecting personal data, ensuring the safety of online purchases, and safeguarding our communities in the digital world. Despite its rapid growth, women continue to be underrepresented in this field.

As Emily Mossburg, Cyber Leader at Deloitte, notes:

“We recognize that the cybersecurity industry needs a diverse set of minds, perspectives, and experiences to tackle the complex challenges we face. It’s not just about filling a quota; it’s about leveraging the unique strengths women bring to the table—problem-solving skills, a collaborative approach, and an unwavering commitment to making a difference.”

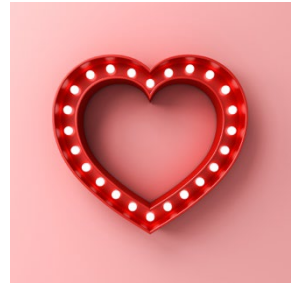
To help raise visibility for this important industry, our branch will host a **special program on Cybersecurity and Threat Awareness** featuring guest speaker **Kristi Farrow**, Assistant Professor of Cybersecurity at **Community College of Beaver County (CCBC)**.

The program will take place on **Saturday, February 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** at **Vanport Presbyterian Church**, 289 Georgetown Lane, Vanport. Guests are welcome to attend.

In an era of increasing internet scams and digital threats, this presentation will offer valuable information on how individuals can better protect themselves online. Lastly, in raising awareness of cybersecurity careers for women, Ms. Mossburg of Deloitte further reminds us, *“If you can see her, you can be her.”* Please consider bringing a young woman to this program—not only to benefit from essential online safety information, but also to explore a viable and rewarding career path.



WANTED



We are searching for a member who would like to edit the yearbook. Here is a brief “Job Description” to explain the duties and responsibilities of the position. Please express interest to the Copresidents.

Job Description for Yearbook Editor

Basic function is to gather updated information from members to produce an annual yearbook. This includes recognition of past award winners, a synopsis of the programs offered for the coming year, and a listing of all members with their demographics and contact information.

1. Receive information from the Program Vice-President(s) on the dates of the next year’s meetings and the programs being offered at those meetings.
2. Receive information from the Hostess Chair on the members who are assigned for each meeting.
3. Receive information from the Branch Treasurer on each member and their contact information.
4. Receive information from each Standing Committee Chair on the members of said committee and any other pertinent information.
5. Receive information from each Special interest group leader on meeting times and places.
6. Compile above information along with historical information, into a booklet to be published before the first meeting of the new fiscal year. Transfer completed and published booklets to the Membership Vice-President(s).

FINANCE - NANCY MAHOSKY

WE ARE A 4 STAR BRANCH

Congratulations to our branch once again for earning 4 stars during the fiscal year 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025.

The committee of Nancy Mahosky, Vickie Scott, Linda Loboizzo, Deb Newton, Roberta Good, Lea Kretchmar, and Kim Litz, will continue to work on earning all 5 stars. Newcomers are welcome!

SHAPE THE FUTURE FREE MEMBERSHIPS

Please continue to recruit new members. Dues for new members are only \$54 (half-price). It's a real bargain! Plus, our branch will earn one free membership for every 2 recruits applicable to 2026-27 dues. Ask potential members to contact Mary Beth Quinn or Kim Litz for an application. This application is also available on our website for downloading. Just click on the Membership Application 2025-26 tab.

50-50 RAFFLE

At each meeting, a 50-50 raffle will be held to help pay expenses such as hall rental, insurance, etc. The raffle at the December meeting collected \$55 with \$27 going to our branch. The lucky winner of \$28 was Pam Mansell. Winners are asked to please accept the winnings and not donate the money. We all deserve it for our constant devotion to our group!

2026 KITCHEN TOUR RECIPES NEEDED!!!

The 2025 recipe book is complete, but we need fresh recipes for the 2026 Kitchen Tour. 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 or send it in the old-style mail. PLEASE HELP!!!!!! Any recipes not used in 2026 will be saved for the future.

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, Christmas luncheon, and spring luncheon, 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.



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

NONE!

If you wish to be recognized on your birthday, just email the date (month and day only) to Nancy Mahosky.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new member Kelly Katekovich. Read all about Kelly in the membership section.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our current membership count is 80.

ADDRESS, EMAIL, AND PHONE NUMBER CHANGES

None this month.

YEARBOOK UPDATES

Any changes to addresses, phone numbers, email, or university degrees should be sent to Nancy Mahosky, financial officer. Changes must be made by June 15 to be published in the yearbook. Later changes will be published in the newsletter.

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

SMILING FACES NEEDED!

Our photographers, Lea Kretchmar and Kim Litz, are trying to obtain photos of all members for the website. It's password-protected so only other members can see it.

The following members need to have their lovely picture taken:

Erin Crishi	Debbie Daquila	Patty Davison	Michelle Donner
Millie Koos	Judy McDermott	Carey McDougall	Abigail McFarland
Karen Mitch	Paulette Potter	Meghan Solomon	Joann Soltes
Yvonne Zier	Kelly Katekovich	Marta Karwoski	Stephanie Menor
Patricia Von Dreele			

If you have a headshot that you would like to publish, text or email it to Lea. So, if you see Lea or Kim heading your way, SMILE!!!!



MEMBERSHIP – KIM LITZ, MARY BETH QUINN

We are delighted to introduce our newest member, **Kelly Katekovich**. Kelly attended our Kitchen Tour last fall and attended our November Branch Meeting. Shortly after that she decided to join. **Kelly marks new member #6. There are 3 potential new members in the wings. Can we make it 10?!** Invite a guest to our February Branch Meeting. The program promises to be interesting and informative.

Kelly Katekovich is our newest member. She attended our Kitchen Tour, expressed an interest in our group, attended our November “Getting to Know Us” meeting and now she is a member! She graduated from Edinboro University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Nearly 13 years later she earned a Masters in Psychology Degree from Capella University in Minnesota. Kelly’s professional experiences include working as a Behavioral Health Case Worker as well as therapist for children and adolescents diagnosed with autism, mental health issues and trauma. Kelly has volunteered in the training and mentoring in mental health support. She is the proud mother of a 20-year-old daughter and 17-year-old son. She enjoys art, cooking, walking and movies.
Welcome to Kelly Katekovich.



AAUW KITCHEN TOUR 2026: 25TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE – VICKIE SCOTT

We're excited to announce the 25th Anniversary AAUW Kitchen Tour, taking place on **Saturday, October 3, 2026!** The marketplace will once again be hosted by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 712, located at 217 Sassafras Lane, Beaver (Vanport), PA. Marketplace setup will occur on **Friday, October 2.**

PLANNING MEETING INVITATION

All members are invited to our first Kitchen Tour planning meeting:

- **Date:** Saturday, February 28
- **Time:** 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
- **Location:** Beaver Area Memorial Library, 100 College Avenue, Beaver, PA

At this meeting, we'll form subcommittees and discuss key planning steps. Your participation is vital to the success of this event!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need volunteers for several important roles:

- **House Chairs:** We're seeking 6–7 members to serve as house chairs. You'll collaborate closely with Frances Pickard and Vickie Scott and assist Mary Ann Falcone-Bolland with kitchen and house descriptions.
- **Thrift Shop (Accessories Sale):** Lead or co-lead this popular sale. The branch now has a storage unit for items before and after the event.
- **Thrift Shop Team:** Help with pricing and collecting items for the sale.
- **Vendor Team:** Work with Marianne Turner to identify and manage marketplace vendors.

Additional opportunities to support the event will be discussed at the meeting. Whether you'd like to lead, co-lead, or simply participate, your help is greatly appreciated.

NOMINATE A HOME

Do you know a homeowner who might be interested in hosting a tour stop? Please share their contact information with Vickie Scott at 724.462.6782 (call or message).

Let's work together to make the 25th AAUW Kitchen Tour a memorable celebration for our community.



SCHOLARSHIP – JEAN MACALUSO/PAM POWERS

Some of the scholarship guidelines have been revised: The amount has been reduced to \$2000 each from \$2500; one non-traditional scholarship, instead of two, will be awarded; checks will be awarded to high school recipients after the successful completion of their first semester. Please become familiar with all of this information and encourage any eligible student that you may know to apply. Applications will appear on our website on February 1, 2026



BEAVER VALLEY BRANCH 2026 HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Candidate Qualifications

- ☐ 2026 FEMALE GRADUATE OF A BEAVER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
- ☐ BE A RESIDENT OF BEAVER COUNTY
- ☐ QPA OF 3.50 OR HIGHER
- ☐ PLANS TO ATTEND COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY *

Requirements

- ☐ APPLICATION, TRANSCRIPT including the first semester of the senior year
- ☐ A 250 WORD ESSAY (Reflecting on the impact AAUW could have on your future plans)
- ☐ POSSIBLE INTERVIEW

General Information

- ☐ Three \$2000 scholarships will be awarded.
- ☐ *Focus will be placed on, but not limited to, students planning to study in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, or the Arts.
- ☐ Recipients will be notified by Mid-April 2026 and invited, with a guest, to receive a certificate of their scholarship at the AAUW Spring Luncheon in May. Scholarship checks will be issued after the presentation of a grade report from the first semester of college/ university.
- ☐ Applications are **due March 1, 2026.**
- ☐ **Applications must be sent by the individual seeking the award**

2025 EDUCATION SUMMARY – ROSE HOMISH

1. As the PA state budget finally passed, \$565 million went to an increase into adequacy & tax equity.
2. \$145 million went to Basic Education & Special Education funding increase.
3. There is no new taxpayer funded voucher program.
4. \$78 million cyber charter school savings & reform.
5. Enhanced truancy, attendance & wellness checks of students.

Education Voters of PA, an education advocacy group has been relentless over the last years in its pursuit of cyber charter school reform. After lawmakers finally listened to activities like the ‘**Waste of the Week**’ and its exposure of Cyber Charter schools using tax dollars for social media ads, luxury retreats, gift cards & give aways and streams of expenses having nothing to do with student learning, Harrisburg has enacted reforms that will reset the Cyber Charter school industry. School district payments will drop by \$178 million to Cyber charter education. New requirements for attendance, truancy, residency, & wellness checks will reshape how Cyber charter operates.

Science of Reading Adoption: PA schools are required to adopt reading curriculums backed by research and to create additional instructional resources for teachers. Students must have access to instruction in phonics, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, & comprehension. This is a push to follow research-based reading since 1 in 3 (4th graders) could not read at proficiency on national tests. Though no specific curriculum is named, the programs adopted must

be backed by evidence following the success of the “Mississippi Miracle” approach.

AAUW alert: Request to call on Congress to conduct oversight of the Department of Education to block unlawful transfers of funds & functions of K-12 & higher ed to other agencies.

On a local note: the Moon Area School District has created a **Club Hope**. It is a student-led grief support group that helps students heal after losing a loved one. It started with 6 students but is now a thriving community with the belief that no one should face grief alone. The concept has spread to other districts.



INTEREST GROUPS

FEMMES – JEAN MACALUSO

FEMMES du JOUR 2026 SCHEDULE

Wednesdays and Varied



MARCH 4	YAMA BEAVER
APRIL 1	JACKSON'S BEAVER VALLEY MALL
MAY 8	CHRISTY HOUSE SEWICKLEY (Friday)
JUNE 4	PICCADILLY TEA ROOM CANFIELD, OH (Saturday)
JULY 1	SHERWOOD OAKS CRANBERRY
AUGUST 5	AQUA PAZZO BOARDMAN, OH (dinner)
SEPTEMBER 2	ELIA WARRENDAL
OCTOBER 7	NO LUNCH. ALL INVOLVED WITH KITCHEN TOUR
NOVEMBER 4	NICO'S ELLWOOD CITY

DECEMBER 8

WOODEN ANGEL, BRIDGEWATER Tuesday

(Pre-paid reservation)

We meet for lunch on the first Wednesday of each month, at 12:30 pm., unless otherwise specified. If you plan to attend, please call or text Jean Macaluso, 724-581-6050, or email jean.macaluso@yahoo.com by the preceding Tuesday morning. Some months may be subject to change if a suggestion for a new place comes forth.

NOTICE that FEMMES will not meet in January and February because of possible inclement weather. The Saturday date and dinner date at 4:30 were scheduled to accommodate those who are employed, and we do hope that you can join us at those special places.

LITERATURE 1 – LINDA LOBOZZO

WHEN: Tuesday, March 10, 2026

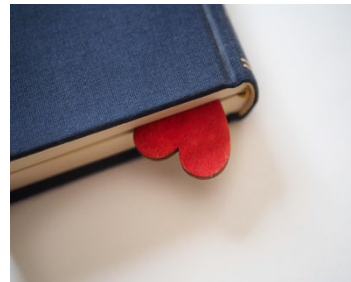
WHERE: Quality Time in New Brighton

TIME: 11:30

BOOK: TBA

LEADER: TBA

Literature I is welcoming new members. Please contact Linda Lobozzo if you are interested. l.lobozzo67@gmail.com



Beautiful white mugs, lined in red, with an inscription about our branch are available at each branch meeting. \$10 each

Mediterranean Orzo Salad



Several members inquired about the Orzo Salad served at our December meeting. Roberta was kind enough to share the recipe.

Ingredients

- ½ (16 ounce) package uncooked orzo pasta
- ½ pint cherry tomatoes, halved
- ½ cup diced red onion
- 1 cup diced cucumber
- 1 cup pitted Mediterranean olives, cut in half
- 1 cup finely diced Asiago cheese

Vinaigrette:

- 1 ½ teaspoons minced fresh garlic
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- ½ cup red wine vinegar
- ½ lemon, juiced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ¼ cup chopped fresh basil
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

Directions

1. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook orzo in the boiling water, stirring occasionally until tender yet firm to the bite, about 9 minutes. Drain well. Rinse with cold water and drain well again.
2. Combine orzo, cherry tomatoes, red onion, cucumber, olives, and Asiago cheese in a large bowl.
3. To make the vinaigrette: Whisk garlic, olive oil, red wine vinegar, lemon juice, salt, and pepper together in a small bowl; drizzle over orzo mixture and toss lightly to combine. Add basil and parsley and mix well. Let sit for 20 minutes for flavors to blend, stirring occasionally.

Can You Make Orzo Salad Ahead of Time?

Yes, this orzo salad is a great make-ahead dish. Since the flavors need time to meld in the fridge, it might actually make more sense to make it a day or two in advance.

Cook's Note

If you make this salad in advance, reserve a bit of the dressing to add right before serving, as the pasta tends to soak up the dressing as it sits over time.

This salad pairs well with grilled lamb or fish.

REMINDERS

Information for the March newsletter is due by February 15. Please use this email for all articles: llobozzaauw@gmail.com

There will be a 50/50 Raffle at each branch meeting.

