

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, June 15

Branch Meeting

Tuesday, May 18, 6:30 pm

Board Meeting

Monday, May 3, 1:30 pm

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2021

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”

Helen Keller, Author

Annual Scholarship and Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, May 18, 6:30 – 8:00pm



The scholarship committee has selected four fantastic young women who will each receive a \$4,000 Scholarship to assist them in continuing their education. Please come meet them and learn more about their educational goals and aspirations. We will also recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of our members.

We are excited to announce that this will be an outdoor event at:

Louise Moore Park, Easton
Pavilion # 2 West Side parking

The pavilion will be accessible at 6 pm.

Please RSVP to Nancy Kinzli. We do not plan on postponing the event due to light rain, however, if there is severe weather, you will be contacted.

Wrapped ice cream bars will be served.

May program continued on page 3

From the Presidents' Pens

Leadership Team Model

Next month's Presidents' Pen will be our last as Co-Presidents and at that time we will reflect on the year in our annual 'Year in Review'. For this month, we have decided to give a shout out to our board, who despite this wild ride of a year, 'shook it off' and 'stepped up'. You may know the story of the mule who fell in a well and the farmer who decided that neither the mule nor the well were worth saving. He called his neighbors together to bury the mule to get him out of his misery. They began to shovel dirt into the well. But the mule realized that as the dirt hit his back, he could just shake it off and step up. And this is what he did over and over until he triumphantly stepped over the wall and out of the well. In this year of social distancing, mask wearing, switching to zoom meetings, social isolation, mostly staying home and changing the way everything was done, board members didn't miss a beat and shook it off and stepped up. They continued to encourage new membership, work on public policy, publish a monthly newsletter, maintain a website and Facebook page, have monthly programs, continue with interest groups, change the by-laws to transition to a leadership team model, work to meet the goals of the 5 Star program, choose scholarship recipients, hold fundraisers, work on budgets and finance, and many, many daily tasks that most may not be aware of. So a big thank you and virtual hug to Toni Hoffman, Rosemary Baker, Fran Kennedy, Randi Blauth, Nancy Berry and Nancy Butow. You have mastered the art of shaking it off and stepping up!!!

Karol D'Huyvetters and Nancy Kinzli
Co-Presidents

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Our board has been working on a plan for a leadership team where all board members will hold equal responsibilities. The office of President will be eliminated. If there are candidates in the future for the office of President, our new by-laws will reflect the change for either a President or Leadership team model. In the proposed model, the leadership team will be comprised of two teams of three. Each team will rotate responsibility for leadership every three months. We will continue to have elected officers for the positions of Finance and Membership VP. We are looking for members to shadow them and learn their responsibilities and perhaps run for office in the future.

We have rewritten the By-laws for our branch to reflect this change. Once the bylaws are finalized, they will be posted to our website. They can be found at <https://easton-pa.aauw.net/about/bylaws/> for your reference. They will include updated language that reflects the governance of the branch by either a President or a leadership team. Our members will be asked to vote on approving these proposed changes.

Our leadership team will consist of the current branch board; however we need volunteers to be part of committees. Please consider volunteering to be a member of a committee such as fundraising, program, scholarship, newsletter, public policy or yearbook. If you have special talents in any one of these areas, our branch could benefit from your expertise. A vibrant branch depends on input from its members and we hope to hear from you.

May Program Continued:

Social Distancing Guidelines

- Stay at home if you have a cold, fever, or illness.
- Maintain a social distance of 6 feet unless you are with family.
- Wear a mask.
- Bring your own drinks.
- Picnic Tables and benches are available however we recommend you bring a lawn chair.
- Bathrooms are rustic, plan accordingly.

The **Out To Lunch** Group would like to begin meeting again. If you feel you are ready to join other branch members at a restaurant, please call Claire Degnan by May 5th, 2021. If she receives enough calls, she will schedule a lunch at the Marblehead Grill for May 12th.

So...put May 12th on your calendar now and call Claire to let her know you'll attend.



Election Results

Candidates, **Randi Blauth** for Membership VP and **Fran Kennedy** for Finance Officer have been elected for the 2021-2023 term. Congratulations Randi and Fran!

Thank you to our branch members for participating in this election of officers.



REMINDER regarding vote to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. On April 7, you should have received an email with a link to vote that is unique to you. If you don't have email, you should have received a letter about voting by mail. On-line voting ends on May 17 at 5 pm. Paper ballots must be postmarked by April 30 at 11:59pm.

You can learn more about the election at: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>

WE ARE A FIVE STAR BRANCH



We did it! Congratulations for all your efforts in support of the mission of AAUW. Our branch will be celebrated in the April 2021 national Membership Matters news hub and recognized on the national website as a 5-star branch. Our Five Star success story will be featured in an upcoming Membership Matters and at a scheduled leadership briefing with AAUW CEO Kim Churches.

We are one of three branches in Pennsylvania who have earned five stars. We join State College and North Hills Pittsburgh as a Five Star Branch.

AAUW DUES

March 15, 2021 – June 30, 2022

You may **pay on-line** using the email link sent to you by National. If for some reason you have not received this link contact connect@aauw.org or send your **check** payable to AAUW Easton Branch with the form below to: AAUW Easton Branch P.O. Box 1464 Easton, PA 18044-1464

TOTAL OF \$87.00 includes National \$62., PA State \$10 and Easton Branch \$15. Additional contributions welcome to The Greatest Needs Fund or fund of your choice.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Life Members and college/university representatives pay state and branch only (\$25.)

A Life Membership is \$1,180.00.

Undergraduate affiliates from a C/U partner pay no dues.

Undergraduate affiliates from a non-C/U partner pay \$18.81

Honorary Life members pay no dues.

DDD: Diversity Deeds and Dialogue Did you know....?

Microaggressions

- Racial microaggressions are common and brief and covert forms of racism.
- The impact of racial microaggressions is as damaging as macroaggressions.
- Microaggressions contribute to the cumulative stress that non-white people experience as part of living with racism.
- It's important that we leverage our privilege to dismantle microaggressions in our workplaces and other social spaces.

Health Equity

- “To ensure our nation's underserved communities and those disproportionately affected by COVID 19 are being equitably vaccinated against COVID 19, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the CDC have allocated COVID 19 vaccine to HRSA supported Health Centers.”
- Over 91% of Health Center patients are individuals or families living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines and nearly 63% are racial/ethnic minorities.
- Health centers across the nation are playing vital roles in supporting local community responses to the COVID 19 public health emergency.”

Finance Report 3/15/21	Credits	Debits
Banking		
Fees		\$8.00
Interest	\$0.55	
Fundraisers		
Donations		
Authors Luncheon	\$1,149.10	\$54.04
Poinsettia Sale	\$499.00	\$212.25
Other Fundraisers	\$94.60	
Membership		
Branch Dues	\$772.50	
Brochures		\$22.72
Yearbook		\$51.10
Newsletter		\$57.96
Other Printing		
Insurance		\$196.00
Mailbox		\$118.00
Postage		\$3.00
Publicity		
Miscellaneous		
Officer Expenses		
Membership		
Presidents		
Finance Officer		
Programs		
Meeting Rooms		\$110.00
Public Policy		
Scholarship		
Speaker Gifts		
Diversity		
Socials		\$19.79
Other Expenses		\$36.21
Honorariums		
Totals	\$2,515.75	\$889.07

Public Policy Update

Why Vote?

Why should I vote in the primary? It's an off year election and not important. I don't know who's running. Local politics don't affect me. I can't leave work. It takes too long.

These are some of the statements and questions that we often hear about why people don't come out to vote.

BUT...voting has never been easier now that we can vote by mail. In states that have had vote by mail for many years, many more people vote than in states where people have to vote in person. For example, in Oregon, where mail in voting has been the law since 1987, 82% of registered voters cast a ballot.

If you have not registered to vote, you have until May 3rd to do so and you can apply for a mail in ballot until May 11th.

Voters have important decisions to make in the May 18th primary. There are a series of questions that allow voters to consider changes to the Pennsylvania constitution. Anyone, regardless of party affiliation, can vote on these questions.

QUESTION 1:

The first question on your 2021 PA Primary ballot asks whether partisan legislators should be able to terminate a governor's existing emergency declaration, like the one being used now to fight the pandemic.

This amendment would allow partisan politicians to derail nonpartisan emergency response. It could even put Harrisburg gridlock in the way of health experts and first responders.

QUESTION 2:

Just like the first, the second question on your 2021 PA Primary ballot would strip power from the governor, health experts, and emergency responders to put it in the hands of the gridlocked PA legislature.

In this case, the amendment would automatically terminate emergency declarations after just three weeks. Only the legislature would have the power to extend or renew emergencies.

QUESTION 3:

The third question on your 2021 PA Primary ballot asks whether the state constitution should specifically prohibit the denial of equal rights based on race or ethnicity.

This amendment offers additional protection against laws or policies that would deny Communities of Color their legal rights. It codifies the progress many Pennsylvanians have fought for for so long.

These important ballot questions show the value of voting in every single election! **Polls are open from 7 AM until 8 PM on Tuesday, May 18th.** You can apply for a mail in ballot using the link below:

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/onlineabsenteeapplication/#/OnlineAbsenteeBegin>

In addition to the above questions, candidates are running for a variety of municipal and county government positions, district judgeships and school board seats. Decisions made by our elected officials at the local level can have a greater impact on our lives than decisions on the state or national level.

I urge you to vote in person or by mail and **make your voice heard.**

Interest Groups

The Easton Branch has several interest groups created to stimulate discussions, encourage networking and support the community. If you have ideas for additional groups, let us know. Every group looks forward to new participants. Call if you are interested in joining a group.

All meetings contingent on control of the Coronavirus pandemic and may be held virtually.

Book Discussion

Chair: Toni Hoffman



May 17, 7:30 pm
Hostess: Fran Kennedy
Book: **Last Lorry to Mbordo** by John Kennedy

Rotating Gourmet

Chair: Lois Wildrick



Regular dinners will resume after the pandemic.

Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue

Chair: Rosemary Baker



May 26, 7:00 pm
Hostess: Nancy Kinzli and Toni Hoffman
Topic: **TBD**

International Relations

Chair: Fran Kennedy



May 11, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Fran Kennedy
Topic: **Planning Meeting**

Tuesday Afternoon Bridge

Chair: Rosemary Baker



Regular games will resume post pandemic

Out To Lunch

Chair: Claire Degnan



Members meet for lunch. All members welcome.

May 12, 12:30 pm
Marblehead Chowder House

Mah Jongg

Chair: Toni Hoffman



Regular games will resume after the pandemic.

Tapas Dining

Chair: Yvonne Payne



Members (and spouses) explore small plate dining.

May 15, 4:30 pm
Zoom event

Stitch and Be

Chair: Yvonne Payne



May 6, 3:00 pm
Hostess: Yvonne Payne

American Association of University Women

AAUW National	800.326.2289	www.aauw.org
Easton Branch		easton-pa.aauw.net
Co-Presidents	Nancy Kinzli, Karol D'Huyvetters	easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/
Membership	Randi Blauth	easton-pa.aauw.net/membership/
Easton Edition	Toni Hoffman	easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to members to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national orientation, disability, or class.

The AAUW Funds include the Educational Opportunities Funds (formerly a part of the AAUW Educational Foundation) which help us to advance equity for women and girls through programs such as American and International Fellowships and Community Action grants.

AAUW Funds also include the Legal Advocacy Fund which provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sexual discrimination, the Leadership Programs Fund (formerly the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute), the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, and the Public Policy Fund.

PO Box 1464
Easton, PA
18044-1464

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

