

AAUWsome NEWS

News & Views from the West Chester – Chester County PA Branch wccc-pa.aauw.net

> Volume 70 Number 2 October 2024



October Meeting: Wednesday, October 9th, 2024 6:30 pm

"Chester County Sustainability"

Speaker: Rachael Griffith
Sustainability Director, Chester County Planning Commission

Meet at Grove United Methodist Church Refreshments & Setup/Cleanup: Provided by Food Cupboard Group

Directions to Grove United Methodist Church, 490 West Boot Road, West Chester, PA 19380: From West Chester, take Route 100 North to Boot Road, turn left, and go toward the intersection of Boot Road and Whitford Road. The church is on the left before you reach the intersection. Find additional direction information at www.grovechurch.org or 610-696-2663.

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Letter from the Presidents

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." – Gandhi

Our 2024-2025 year has started off with great energy and enthusiasm. We had a wonderful turnout for our first meeting on September 11th at Grove Church beginning with time for socializing and enjoying all the delicious food members brought for us to enjoy. It was a joy meeting some of the new members and others who came as guests for the evening.

The highlight of our meeting was the presentation Donna Eaves gave us on Food Insecurity in Chester County and how the West Chester Food Cupboard provides necessities to so many people in the county. Presently, 1,778 households and 5,260 individuals are eligible to shop at the Cupboard. And it's so difficult to imagine that it relies completely on volunteers...300+. Incredible. Donna has been involved with the Food Cupboard for many years so, if you are interested in helping out or if you have any questions about it, she is definitely the go-to person.

Many members are like Donna, reaching out to the larger community by providing a variety of services. Anne Anderko continues her work with the Community Warehouse Project and has been partnering with other AAUW members as volunteers; Peggy Staarman remains involved with Laundromat Library League; and Toni Gorkin gives her time and expertise as a Master Naturalist for Uwchlan Township. These are just a few examples of the spirit of members of AAUW. Please keep us informed of other outreach projects that you are involved with so we can highlight them within AAUW.

On behalf of AAUW, Kim Glavin is continuing with her exemplary fundraising efforts, leading us once again in the very successful and delicious Pecan Sale. These nuts are being harvested right now and will be available for pick-up at the November 13th meeting. They are great as holiday gifts! (The order form is at the end of the newsletter).

Once again, we will be participating in the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends event on October 22nd. By shopping at Boscov's that day, you and your friends and family can purchase a 25% off shopping pass for only \$5 which can be used from 8 am - 11 pm. Please contact Kim Glavin at kimglavin@comcast.net if you are able to volunteer to sell passes the day of the event at the Exton Boscov's store.

We continue our support of this year's Gateway to Equity winner: Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC) through monthly collections that are identified in the Handbook. For October, Arlene Cohen and Suzy DeGeorge are reaching out to us for the children's coat drive. If you haven't signed up yet, please complete the signup genius at: AAUW Coat Drive for MCHC. If you have any questions, please contact Arlene at arlene.cohen@verizon.net or Suzy at suzydegeorge@yahoo.com.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the October 9th meeting at Grove United Methodist Church. Our presenter will be Rachael Griffith, the Sustainability Director for the Chester County Planning Commission. This is a change from the original presentation listed in the handbook. We hope Leslie Holt who was originally scheduled will be able to join us at a future meeting.

As we get closer to the election, let's continue to encourage others to get out and vote. LAPP is offering to coordinate rides for members, so please contact Marie Knox (marieknox@verizon.net) if you are in need of a ride to get to the polling station on election day or if you want to personally deliver your "mailin" ballots to the designated drop boxes. Looking forward to continuing our work together in support of women and girls.

Beryl Goldman and Nancy Paist-Riches Co-Presidents

Membership News

Susan Woron, Anne Anderko, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

AAUW Prospective Members Party October 24

Susan and I are excited to soon host our first Prospective Members Party (PMP) on October 24th from 4:30 to 5:30 at the Sullivan House at Hershey's Mill. We currently have nine members who live in the Hershey's Mill community, and we are hoping to expand those numbers and secure additional members from this neighborhood. Several of our current members will also join this PMP to aid in describing the benefits of membership in AAUW. We will also be using our new orientation PowerPoint for the first time! Hopefully, it will help our audience to visualize AAUW activities and members in real situations that will make an impact on them.

We are also reaching out to our members for possible PMPs later this year and into 2025. If any of you would like to host a PMP and invite your neighbors and friends, we will provide the refreshments and marketing materials. Please contact either Susan Woron, sworon54@gmail.com or Anne Anderko, ananderko@msn.com for more information.

We also appreciate the guests you bring to meetings and events, and we will follow up with them to see if we can convince them to join our organization. We thank you for your continued support helping to build our membership.

New Member: Olga Burns

Please welcome one of our newest members, Olga Burns. Olga grew up in a small town in N.J., where she spent her childhood planted on a piano bench instead of doing sports. Those years led to Oberlin College/Conservatory where she earned a BM in Music and went on to Indiana University for a MM. Her career was teaching piano to kids and adults, which she was able to do in her home with the help of a mother's helper for her son.

In 1969, She joined AAUW and has been a member ever since, holding every office and

starting a Career Day for 7th and 8th grade girls in Fairfax County. This endeavor was very successful, grew bigger every year, and involved three other branches. The careers represented were all in the sciences and technology. Living where she did there was a vast pool of sources for presenters and they covered a wide range of fields.

Now she resides in the independent living section of Kendal Crosslands, where she enjoys the friendliness of her neighbors and the beautiful campus they live on. Thanks to Rhoda McNitt she can make it to the meetings which have been enjoyable. She is impressed by all the activities our branch is involved in.

New Member: Glenda Brion

Please welcome our new member, Glenda Brion. If that name rings a bell, it is because her organization, The Community Warehouse Project, was the 2023-2024 Gateway to Equity recipient.

Glenda has had a lifetime of charitable work and spent many years as a volunteer, board member and development coordinator at the Friends Association, another of our Gateway of Equity winners. Eight years ago, she created the Community Warehouse Project with the vision to provide donated household goods to families and veterans to help them create a home at no cost to them. In the fall of 2022, Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce honored the organization with the Community Service Organization Award. Glenda is also a member of the West Chester Rotary Club.

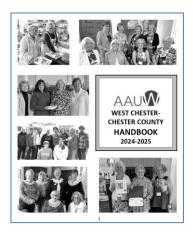
Glenda, who is a life-long Chester County girl; she has been married to Skip for 48 years and they live in East Bradford Township. They have two children and four grandchildren who all live locally. She enjoys time with her family, including her dog Mitchell, travelling, photography, hiking and skiing.

So please give a very warm welcome to Glenda Brion, CEO and Executive Director of the Community Warehouse Project.

TIG: Visit to Chanticleer October 11

-- Jane McDowell

The Travel Interest Group has set a date for the first TIG trip of the season: Friday, October 11, 2024, at 11:00 am, for a Chanticleer Garden and House Tour. This beautiful, relaxing garden is located at 786 Church Road, Wayne, PA 19082. The cost is \$20.00 (to be paid at the event). Optional lunch will be at 1:00 pm at a Wayne restaurant (TBD). Group size is limited to 12 people, so please RSVP quickly to Jane McDowell at ilwmcdowell@gmail.com



Handbooks

Trish Alfano (Chair), Anne Anderko

At this point in time all members should have received their 2024-2025 handbooks. If you have not received your handbook, please e-mail Anne, ananderko@msn.com. It is a great informational tool so keep it handy to help answer many of your questions for the coming fiscal year.

Please note two corrections. Page 4 Our program for the October meeting will now be Chester County Sustainability Speaker, Rachael Griffith. On page 10, Community Warehouse Project volunteer program will now be the third Wednesday of each month.

Fund Raising

-- Kim Glavin

Pecan & Cashew Sale (Order Form is at end of Newsletter)

"New Crop" pecans from Georgia are still available. Please share your



order forms with friends and neighbors. Order forms are due October 9th, so bring your form and check to the meeting or mail them to Kim Glavin. All proceeds benefit

our affiliate's operational expenses. Orders will be available for pickup at our meeting on November 13th in time for your holiday baking and holiday hostess gifts.



Boscovs Friends Helping Friends - October 22nd

This year we will be participating in the Boscovs Friends Helping Friends program. Invite your friends and family to purchase a 25% off shopping pass for \$5 which can be used in-store only on Wednesday, October 22nd from 8 am – 11 pm. We are still looking for volunteers to sell passes the day of the event at the Exton Boscov's store. Contact Kim Glavin at kimglavin@comcast.net or signup and purchase your passes at the October meeting.

Gateway to Equity: Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC)

-- Suzy DeGeorge

This year we are supporting MCHC in the following ways:

- October Coat Drive See article below for specifics to follow
- October Volunteer Opportunity at fundraiser
- November **Toy drive** More specifics to follow
- December Collect **grocery store gift cards \$25**, **volunteer opportunity for a party** to distribute holiday gifts/make cookies during the 2nd week of December (subject to volunteer clearance requirements below to attend the party).
- February **children's books** (especially a need for bi-lingual books in Spanish)
- March Collect **Maternity Care Items**: manual breast pumps, breastmilk storage bags, breastfeeding pillows, nipple cream.
- April Assembly Party of Maternity Care Items into baskets at Grove Church. April 23 at 7 PM
- May collect **baby care items**: diapers / wipes / formula (CONTINUED on next page)

In addition to the monthly activities listed above, MCHC has additional **Volunteering Opportunities throughout the year:**

- **Parent/family events:** Lead fun games and crafts for children while their parents attend evening educational events at one of our locations throughout the year.
- **Fundraisers:** Help with set up, registration, and selling raffle tickets at our annual event in October. **We do not ask for clearances for this**.
- **Go behind the scenes:** stuff envelopes for mailings throughout the year or fold brochures to directly contribute to our outreach.
- **Join a committee:** Anyone with experience in marketing, fundraising, or finance are welcome to join one of these committees to lend their expertise and add fresh perspectives among members of the board and staff leadership. Committee meetings are virtual, every other month for an hour. **We do not ask for clearances for this**

MCHC COAT DRIVE

-- Arlene Cohen

Our first activity in support of MCHC is a children's coat drive. MCHC has shared some of their needs with us, and Arlene Cohen has created a Sign Up genius to communicate their needs and track our contributions. You can access the Sign Up Genius at this link:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4BACAA2FA5F58-51172402-aauw



AAUW Coat Drive for MCHC

Please review the gender and coat sizes listed below and sign up for the item(s) you are able to supply. Coat requests are grouped by family when there is more than one child in a family. Thanks very much for your support! www.signupgenius.com

MCHC COAT DRIVE (Continued)

You don't need a Sign Up Genius account to sign-up for a slot, just press the "Sign Up" button for the desired slot and provide your name and email. If you are uncomfortable using Sign Up Genius, please contact Arlene directly (using the information below), and she can either walk you through it or do the sign-up for you.

Once purchased, you can get the coats to us in several ways:

- 1. Bring the coat to our monthly meeting on October 9.
- 2. If you buy a coat on-line, you can have it shipped directly to:

Suzy DeGeorge

922 Sage Road

West Chester, PA 19382

If ordering online, please include a "gift" card with your name, so we can match the donation to the sign-up genius entry.

3. Drop off the coat to Suzy at the address above.

We would like to have all coats collected by Friday October 18.

Please let Arlene know if you have any questions. Thank you very much for helping us to support MCHC, this year's Gateway to Equity Winner! Regards,

Arlene Cohen, arlene.cohen@verizon.net, 610.547.8380

CLEARANCES FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE CONSORTIUM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

-- Suzy DeGeorge

As stated in the September Newsletter, there will be several opportunities for our members to volunteer directly with our Gateway to Equity organization, Maternal and Child Health Care Consortium (MCHC). However, to participate in activities that interact directly with clients, PA child abuse and criminal background check clearances are required.

At first glance, the idea of background checks may seem arduous and time-consuming. Having just completed this process for another organization, I wanted our members to know that this is actually a very manageable task. Both the background check and child abuse clearances can be done online. My criminal background check came back almost immediately, and the child abuse clearance only took about two weeks. Fingerprinting is a bit more complex but worth it if you seek to interact directly with mothers and children served by MCHC.

So...if you would like to participate in any of the direct client contact activities listed in the September Newsletter, go ahead and start your application for the necessary clearances. Since many of you are educators, you may have already received these clearances, but they are only valid for five years so you may need to reapply. The link to apply is below and if you have any questions, please contact Suzy DeGeorge (suzydegeorge@yahoo.com) or Arlene Cohen (arlene.cohen@verizon.net) for

https://ccmchc.org/volunteer/

more information.

Even if you don't have a clearance, there will be lots of opportunities to support MCHC through the donations listed in the newsletter. However, having volunteers with clearances helps us to more fully support MCHC. Please consider volunteering with this worthy group!

WAREHOUSE PROJECT MONTHLY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

-- Anne Anderko - Chair



Thanks to Trish Alfano and Mary Smith who worked diligently unpacking donated items in September. Trish also vacuumed the floors! We are off to a great start with our first volunteer opportunity.

As stated in the Handbook, we will continue to support our last year's Gateway to Equity recipient by volunteering on a monthly basis. Please note date change: we will be meeting the third Wednesday of each month, not the third Thursday as stated in the handbook, from 10:00 am to noon. If you have not already signed up, please send me your name and what months you may be available and I will

get you on the list, <u>ananderko@msn.com</u>. Lastly, remember to donate those gently used household items which I am happy to collect at the monthly meetings.

Laundromat Library League Update

-- Peggy Staarman

Please visit our Facebook page where we post photos of LLL sites, donors, and volunteers. We would like to reach our goal of adding 100 sites during this tenth anniversary year. Please contact me if you have any suggestions for an additional laundromat site. Also, we have a very small inventory of books in Spanish and they are in great demand. If you have any books in Spanish that you can donate, please contact me. (peggstaar@verizon.net) Thank you!

Getting Social 101



-- Sandy Alexander, Social Media Chair

Social media is all about making connections. Most of us first got involved to stay in touch with family, friends or classmates. Today organizations like our affiliate can use social media to connect with others who might share our passion for equity for women, the environment, volunteerism or civic engagement.

Why should you FOLLOW our Facebook page? The more followers our page has, the more views it gets; the more views, the more we get others engaged in

issues we care about.

Why should you mark yourself Interested or Going to events on our page? Our event will pop up more frequently on others' FB feeds the more it is marked Interested or Going.

Why should you send Sandy Alexander pictures of Affiliate activities? The posts on our page that see the most views and reactions are the pictures of real people!

If our members are not interested enough to follow the page, why should non-members care? Come on, AAUW West Chester-Chester County – Get Social! https://tinyurl.com/WCCCFB

LAPP Bulletin

Date: September 15, 2024

Subject: 2024 Election Resources

Context: AAUW is providing several sources of election related information. Links to this information are provided below in addition to information on the upcoming webinar hosted by our branch and a local in person meeting addressing redistricting and gerrymandering.

Summary:

AAUW Resources:

Spreadsheets on branch representatives' votes/stance on legislation highlighting AAUW priorities. This spreadsheet reflects the legislators that match the addresses to members of the branches. <u>AAUW Voter</u> <u>Issue Guides - Google Drive</u>

National guides/templates for branches to use: <u>Head to Head Voter Guides: AAUW Action Fund</u>. Please note that National is also working on guides for us in PA specifically in the following districts: PA-17, PA-10, PA-07, PA-08, PA Senate.

National has released specific guidance on voter issue guides. AAUW Guidelines for Election Activities

AAUW Pennsylvania and National: Public Policy News

NOTE FROM NATIONAL: Please be mindful of AAUW's non-partisan stance as we pursue election advocacy. It is essential that we keep the party out of our work and focus on the issues and priorities of AAUW. Thank you!

AAUW Mission Statement: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Our Chapter – 2024-2025:

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Susan Woron*	Membership Co-Vice President
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Anne Anderko	Membership Co-Vice President
484-885-4943	ananderko@msn.com
Chris Smith*	Recording Secretary
856-217-7171	CmcSmith1972@gmail.com
Robin Paragone	Corresponding Secretary
484-844-2161	rparagone905@gmail.com
Jane Schultz	Financial Officer
484-467-6835	mjschultz46@gmail.com
Branch Website	wccc-pa.aauw.net
*newl	y elected

New Communications Position – Social Media

-- Sandy Alexander

Let me introduce our branch's new Facebook Page: West Chester-Chester County AAUW! I will be creating events for our speakers as well as any event open to guests. I'd also like to post pictures showing people having fun at social activities, so Special Interest Chairpersons, please take pictures and send them my way (fb4aauw@gmail.com)! I will be expanding our digital presence by posting on Nextdoor and West Chester Patch as well.

How can you help our Branch get noticed?

1. If you are on Facebook, go to
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=6156313
4861603 and Follow and/or Like the page. Look for
the "Events" and mark yourself as "Going" or
"Interested" – that will make our event pop up in
feeds of your FB friends.

2. Send links and/or information for events or articles of other organizations that would be of

interest to our members. The more active our page is, the more likely it is to get noticed.

Thanks in advance for your help to put our branch on the digital map!

Board Meeting

Board Meetings are 7 – 9 PM, first THURSDAY of the Month [unless otherwise noted] The Board Meetings will be via ZOOM [unless otherwise noted]. The October Board Meeting is on October 3.

Newsletter

The newsletter is published by the first of each month. The **deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month** to ensure the issue can be distributed on the first of the next month. Please send emails to **tgorkin@gmail.com**.

Finance Officer's Report					
Beginning Checking Account Balance July 1, 2024	\$8,098.17				
Ending Checking Account Balance August 31, 2024	\$6,702.01				
Vanguard Account August 31, 2024 (Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund)	\$15,171.06				
Chester County Community Foundation August 31, 2024 (Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund)	\$280,928.08				
	Monthly August 1, 2024 – August 31, 2024	YTD July 1, 2024 – August 31, 2024			
TOTAL Income	\$0.00	\$5,544.00			
TOTAL Disbursements	(\$251.18)	(\$6,940.16)			
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(\$251.18)	(\$1,396.16)			

Special Interest Groups





Women's Social Bridge

A coordinator is needed.

Couples Bridge

A chair is needed. Please contact one of the presidents if interested.

Mah Jongg

Robbe Healey will host MahJongg October 3rd at 1:00pm and Cindy Knisley will host on October 17th at 1:00pm.

For information contact Pat Schultz.

TIG (Travel Interest Group)

Contact Mary Marco at mary.m.marco@gmail.com or Jane McDowell at Jlwmcdowell@gmail.com.

See article above about TIG visit planned to Chanticleer on October 11!

FIG (Food Interest Group)

Food Interest Group (FIG) explores new foods through thematically planned potlucks at member's homes or at local restaurants. The group meets on weekends for either brunch or dinner. Partners and singles are usually welcome. Upcoming events:

 Save the Date - Sunday, October 27 at 3:00pm at Liberty Union Bar & Grill hosted by Mary Smith.

Invitations will be sent to FIG members, but attendance is open to all affiliate members. Contact Donna Eaves, deaves@live.com, to be added to the mailing list.

Book Groups:

AAUW branches are known for their book groups, and membership in a group often encourages continuing membership. The West Chester-Chester County Branch currently has two book discussion groups, one meeting in the day and one in the evening at different times of the month.

LIT I: Daytime Literature Group

Fiction & Nonfiction Lit I Book Group will meet at 1:00 pm on the third Monday of the month. The group will meet October 21 at 1:00 at the home of Elaine Burgess to discuss *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristen Harmel. Elaine will lead the discussion. Contact: Janet Kane 610-742-5961 - jfentonkane@gmail.com

LIT II: Evening Literature Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group

The evening Book Group (Lit II) will meet on Wednesday, October 16 at 7:00 at the home of Phyllis Dunn. Lyn Eaton will lead the discussion about *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. We welcome new members! Please contact Lyn (lyn.a.eaton@gmail.com) and Peggy Staarman (peggstaar@verizon.net) if you plan to attend.

Walkers Group

The group meets every Tuesday at 9:00 am at the Trestle Bridge parking lot...or officially the Brandywine Meadows Trail...off Rt. 322 near Downingtown from January thru May, and from June through December they meet at the Sugarsbridge parking lot off route 322 nearer to West Chester. They leave promptly at 9 am. Walk as fast and as far as you would like. Lots of talking & laughter! No other emails will be sent out to remind anyone...just show up and be ready to shove off at 9am on Tuesdays. They don't walk in the rain or snow...drizzle YES...snow & rain NO!

Contact: Phyllis Dunn at <u>dunn.phyllis@gmail.com</u>

Stitchers Group

Stitchers has been discontinued until interest grows. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Patricia Schultz, pls@patriciaschultz.com

Great Decisions Group

Global Issues affect all of our lives. The Foreign



Policy Associations Great Decisions Briefing Book offers a structure for foreign policy discussions on urgent and contemporary topics.

In the past we have met from 1:00-3:00 pm on the 4th Monday of the month – but are open to adjusting the day and time to meet the schedules of new and continuing members.

Topics in the Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions 2024 Briefing Book are: Mideast Realignment

- 1. Climate technology and competition
- 2. Science across borders
- 3. U.S.-China trade rivalry
- 4. NATO's future
- 5. Understanding Indonesia
- 6. High Seas Treaty
- 7. Pandemic preparedness

To learn more about the Foreign Policy Association, or to read a brief summary of the topics above, visit:

https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/index.cfm?
act=show_material&product_id=16886

Interested: Email Robbe Healey @

Robbe.Healey@gmail.com



PECAN FUNDRAISER

orders due october 9 2024

MAMMOTH PECAN HALVES

\$16.00 Per 16 oz Bag



CHOCOLATE COVERED PECANS

\$12.00 Per 12 oz Bag



PECAN CARMEL CLUSTERS

\$10.50 Per 8 oz Bag



JUMBO CASHEWS

\$12.50 Per 12 oz Bag



GLAZED PECANS

\$10.50 Per 8 oz Bag



7-WAY TIN

\$34.00 Per 1 lb 8 oz Tin



PECAN FUNDRAISER

orders due october 9 2024

Due to limited quantities of certain items, orders will be filled in the order received.

Name	
Email	
Phone	

ltem	Cost (per item)	Quantity	Total Cost
Mammoth Pecan Halves 16 oz	\$16.00		
Jumbo Cashews 12 oz (gift bagged)	\$12.50		
Chocolate Covered Pecans 12 oz (gift bagged)	\$12.00		
Pecan Carmel Clusters 8 oz (gift bagged)	\$10.50		
Glazed Pecans 8 oz (gift bagged)	\$10.50		
7-Way Tin 1lb 8oz	\$34.00		
TOTAL			

Please make your check payable to: AAUW West Chester-Chester County and mail to: Kim Glavin, 306 Spindle Lane, West Chester, PA 19380

There is no tax.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Kim Glavin, kimglavin@comcast.net.

Orders will be ready for pick up at the November 13th meeting at The Grove Methodist Church. If you cannot pick up at that time, other arrangements will be made.



West Chester - Chester County Chapter 119 Llandovery Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

October 2024 Newsletter Chester County Sustainability Council wccc-pa.aauw.net

AAUW Mission Statement

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

AAUW Vision Statement

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

AAUW West Chester – Chester County Branch Vision Statement

The West Chester-Chester County Branch will

- Actively recruit members who support Association goals.
- Nurture these members through active Interest Groups, through monthly meetings with intellectual and social merit, and through member support.
- Sponsor at least one project per year with volunteers and with funds to promote Association and branch goals.
 - Sponsor at least one local scholarship per year for a nontraditional student
 - Support programs for training and self-development of branch members to promote Association goals.
 - Raise funds through community projects and member gifts to support Association goals.

Since its first meeting in 1881, AAUW has been a catalyst for change. Today, with more than 100,000 members, 1,000 branches, and 500 college and university partners, AAUW contributes to a more promising future and provides a powerful voice for women and girls—a voice that cannot and will not be ignored.

www.aauw.org www.aauwpa.org wccc-pa.aauw.net