



AAUWsome NEWS

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

Volume 71 Number 3
November 2025



November Meeting:
Wednesday, November 12th, 6:30 p.m.
A Child's Light
Presented by Leslie Holt,
Executive Director of A Child's Light

*Leslie Holt will speak on her organization,
how it was formed, and the work they do with children and their families.*

A Child's Light provides expedited mental health support for children and adolescents, ages 2 to 18, who have experienced severe trauma. Following best practices and funding pre-licensed and licensed therapists with trauma informed perspective and training, children receive the resources and tools to help them shift their severe trauma experiences to be a part of their past and not a part of their future.

Grove Methodist Church

Arrive at 6:30-7:00PM for Social Time / 7:00PM Speaker
Refreshments & Setup/Cleanup: provided by Lit II

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.

November Meeting	1	LAPP	4	Member News and Notes: Chatterbox	6-7
Presidents' Letter	2	Laundromat Library League	4	Mission Statement and Officers	8
Look Ahead: Holiday Party	3	Community Warehouse Project	5	Newsletter, Social Media	8
Gateway to Equity -- LCH Health and Community Services	3	TIG Visits History Center	5	Board Meeting, Finance Officer's Report	8
Priority Initiative	3	Membership News: Membership Progress Report	5	Special Interest Groups	9
TIG Planning Chinese Eat-Out	3	Membership News: PMP December 3	5	Holiday Party Invite	10
October Speaker: Citizen Advocacy of Chester County	4	Welcome New Member Catherine Alvarez	6		

Letter from the Presidents

-- Beryl Goldman, Rhoda McNitt

If you are anything like us, you enjoy learning some fun facts in America's history, particularly to those referring to women. Here are some really cool and significant dates highlighted about women that occurred during November according to the International Women's History Alliance.

November 1, 1848 — The New England Female Medical School opens, the first medical school for women.

November 6, 2018 — Peggy Flanagan, a citizen of the white Earth Nation, a native American activist and a community organizer became the first female Native American elected lieutenant governor of Minnesota.

November 8, 1910 — The state of Washington passes constitutional amendment to guarantee woman suffrage.

November 8, 1984 — Dr. Anna Fisher, a physician on the shuttle Discovery, became the first American mother and third American woman to fly into space.

November 11, 1979 — Bethune Museum and Archives opens in Washington, D.C. as a center for African-American women's history, honoring Mary McLeod Bethune.

November 11, 1993 — Vietnam Women's memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. after being conceived by former army combat nurse Diane Carlson Evans and sculpted by Glenna Goodacre to honor the 265,000 women who voluntarily served during the Vietnam era.

November 23, 1938 — Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini is beatified, the first American woman citizen to become a saint.

November 14, 1903 — The U.S. Women's Trade Union League is established.

November 14, 1946 — Emily Greene Balch, co-founder of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

November 28, 1881 — The first organization meeting is held for the predecessor group to the American Association of University Women (AAUW)

November 30 — Native Women's Equal Pay Day when we recognize the wide gap in earnings between native women and white, non-Hispanic men...55 cents for every \$1.00.

Each of these occurrences is significant as it represents a major milestone for women, laying the foundation for all that lies ahead. Interesting to note that as far back as 1881, women recognized the need to form a collaboration from which they could celebrate each other's achievements and recognize meaningful ways in which they could separately, and together, make a difference in the lives of women of future generations.

This early mission of enhancing the trajectory for women and girls continues to flourish today.

We are thankful for the opportunities afforded us through AAUW. And, while unsettling issues continue with new ones arising each day, we continue to make significant inroads, albeit slowly. Sure there are setbacks, but we are resilient, knowing we have each other to work alongside.

Please join us on Wednesday, November 12th at 6:30 pm at Grove Methodist Church to hear from Leslie Holt, the Executive Director of A Child's Light, an organization that serves under-resourced children by helping them recover from traumatic experiences. She will share with us how the organization supports the children and their families.

Our sincere wishes are for each and every one of you to enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving surrounded by those important in your lives. May you take a moment out of that day to reflect on your personal blessings, to celebrate all that you have achieved, and to appreciate the impact you have made on your family, your friends, and your community.

Warmly, Beryl & Rhoda

Gateway to Equity Award: LCH Health and Community Services



-- Marie Knox and Diane Hoffman

This year's Gateway to Equity award winner is LCH Health and Community Service. LCH, based in southern Chester

County, offers a wide variety of services including primary care, women's health, pediatrics, dental care, behavioral health counseling, social assistance, and educational support.

In November we will be collecting Hand/Foot Warmers that they can then distribute to their clients at the health screenings that they conduct monthly. AAUW Volunteers will also be assisting with their coat drive on November 13. If you are one of those volunteers, you need to send your clearances to Kate Wickersham. Once she receives this information, she will provide you with the location of the drive and instructions for the day of the drive.

Looking ahead to December and January, LCH is asking for donations. You can either bring a check to the Christmas party or use this link to make your donation: <https://lchcommunityhealth.org/donate-now/>. For questions, please contact Marie Knox at 610-496-3078 or marieknox@verizon.net or Diane Hoffman at dianehoffman83@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead: Annual Holiday Party!!

-- Brenda Hunsberger

Sunday, December 7 is the date of our annual Holiday party at Ellerslie Farmhouse at Crosslands, Kennett Square. Time is 3-5:30.

Both Members and guests are invited.

Details, including sign-up form, are at the end of this newsletter.

AAUW-West Chester-Chester County Priority Initiative

-- Peggy Staarman, Marie Knox, Kate Lindsay

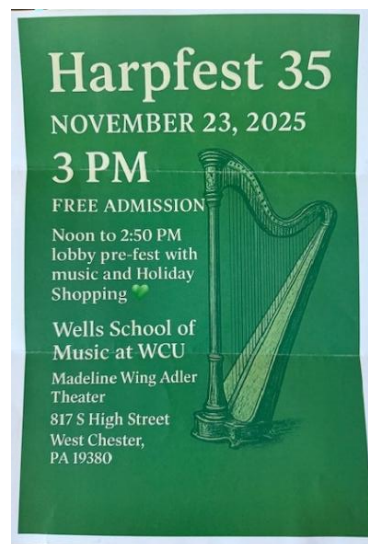
We were very pleased to hear from Noelle Obara, Education Supervisor of the CCIU Head Start Program, who assigned our volunteers to Head Start teachers mostly in the West Chester area. One of our volunteers may be traveling to Coatesville as well. We are so grateful to our volunteers Cheryl Dorris, Chris Smith, Karen Marshall, Paula Turocy, and Robbe Healy. They will soon be helping Head Start classroom teachers by reading to the children, helping individual children develop their reading readiness skills, or working with small groups. Our volunteers will contact their assigned teachers to establish specific times and days and to discuss the activities that will help to develop literacy skills. We hope this initiative is a first step to a long-term partnership with the CCIU Head Start Program to serve the children of our community. Thanks so much to our wonderful volunteers!!

TIG Planning Chinese Dine-out

-- Donna Eaves

Nov. 16 at 3:45pm, hosted by Beatriz Wee, at Lily's Kitchen in Malvern. Please RSVP to Beatriz at beatrizti12@gmail.com and copy Donna Eaves so that an invitation can be emailed to you. You must reserve since there is a limit of 30 guests.

Invite From Pat Bove



Christine Brown Speaks at October Meeting: Citizen Advocacy of Chester County

-- Jean Shervais

Christine Brown is the Program Coordinator for Citizen Advocacy of Chester County, a group started over 40 years ago in Phoenixville. The mission of Citizen Advocacy of Chester County is to provide advocacy for opportunity, protection from harm, sponsorship into community life, friendship, and justice for isolated people living with a disability.

Christine was originally a music teacher in Oxford, after earning her BA from West Chester University. She earned her Master's degree in Education from Wilmington University and was serving as a principal when COVID hit. She decided that she needed to make a career change. (Having a two-year old son didn't help matters!) As a principal, special needs students were always her passion. It was a natural switch to join Citizen Advocacy, a group that works with individuals of all ages with special needs.



Christine's talent is in matching volunteers with the special needs individuals. She talked about several of these matches and explained that matches are checked once a week at first, then less often as it becomes apparent that the match will succeed. The organization is small, with only two full-time and two part-time employees. However, the work they do is amazing and significant.

LAPP (Legislation and Public Policy)

-- Cheryl Dorris

The November election may have come and gone by the time you read this note. My hope is that you voted, and that you stood up and spoke out! AAUW has signed on to more than 100 letters and facilitated thousands of messages to Congress, as of this date. AAUW continues to support education priorities such as addressing harassment and bullying in schools and increasing Pell Grants; and economic security issues like pay equity, and paid family and medical leave.

With the government shut down, the Federal Government has decimated the Special Needs section of the Department of Education. It is important that we stand up and speak out for schools and for those children and families who need help to cope with their disabilities.

Laundromat Library League

-- Peggy Staarman

The Laundromat Library League is fortunate to have some generous donors. On October 23rd, WHYY had a special challenge that benefits both public radio and the LLL. WHYY will receive an extra donation of \$10,000 if a certain number of donations are received by the end of the day. If the challenge was met, the station will support the purchase of 300 children's books for the LLL to distribute. At 10:15 am, WHYY staff interviewed the LLL President and co-founder Arlene Rengert about why she values public radio. Arlene is also a member of our

AAUW affiliate. This article was written and submitted before the event, so we do not know if the goal was met, but we trust that it will succeed. The LLL is very grateful to WHYY for its support.

We also would like to thank our AAUW members who continue to donate books to the LLL. As of Oct. 8th, we have 297 laundromat sites in 35 states plus Guam, 960 supporters, and 202,406 donated books! Thank you for your support!

Community Warehouse Project

-- Anne Anderko-chair

Please contact me if you would like to volunteer. The day may change each month depending upon the needs of the Warehouse but timing will still be 10:00 to 12:00 weekdays. If you would like to get on the list, please e-mail your name and days that would normally work for you to ananderko@msn.com and I will contact you as needed. Don't forget to bring any items that you wish to donate to the warehouse to the October 15th meeting and I will be happy to drop them off. Thank you for your continued support of this worthy cause.

TIG Visits "The Bias Inside Us" at Chester County History Center

-- Mary Marco

On Friday, October 17, we met at the Chester County History Center to tour a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian, entitled "The Bias Inside Us." The exhibit was interactive and provided video conversations of many diverse experiences with bias. After the self-guided tour, we enjoyed lunch and social time at Barnaby's Restaurant.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

-- Co- VPs for Membership Susan Woron Beardsley and Karen Marshall

Membership Progress Report

We were delighted that our new members, Kate Wickersham and Catherine Alvarez, were able to attend our October meeting and hear our inspirational speaker, Chris Brown. We will certainly enjoy getting to know these two accomplished, enthusiastic women.

We are continuing to pursue renewals from our existing members. Come November, there will be quite a few folks whose memberships will be due. It can be difficult to navigate this rolling admissions' policy, so we appreciate prompt responses to our requests. In other words, the sooner you send in your paperwork, the fewer times we will have to email you!

Susan and I are working to update all of our membership forms. If you know of any changes in times for our Special Interest Groups, please let us

know. Thank you to everyone who has already gotten back to us with the current information. As always, we will notify the chairs whenever a new member joins our affiliate.

AAUW Prospective Members Party – December 3

During the month of December, we will be busy getting ready for our Prospective Members Party (PMP) on December 3 from 7:00-8:30. Our members who live in Hershey's Mill have volunteered to help out with baking and packaging cookies, signing people in, setting up and taking down chairs, and talking about the many benefits of membership. And, in addition, they will be sending out email communication to their various group contacts to increase attendance and get the word out. We are thankful that so many have volunteered to help recruit new members.

Welcome New Member: Catherine Alvarez



My name is Catherine Alvarez, and I am thrilled to be a new member of AAUW through LCH Health and Community Services. I joined LCH in February 2019 and currently serve as the Pharmacy Operations, Compliance and Risk Senior Manager. I have worked for nonprofit organizations for the past two decades in development and operations throughout Delaware and southern Chester County. As a resident of Kennett Square, I was excited for the opportunity to work for LCH, which provides our community with much needed access to healthcare and other resources.

I earned a B.A. in History and Sociology from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. I was an active member of the Junior League of Wilmington and I volunteer with my children's school. I am excited to learn about the many activities AAUW offers and to volunteer in new ways. When I am not working, I enjoy walking the

White Clay Creek Preserve, reading mysteries, and listening to podcasts.

Member News and Notes The Chatterbox

-- Karen Marshall (karenrory@comcast.net)



Thank you to everyone who participated in this month's Chatterbox. I loved reading your submissions!

NOVEMBER CHATTERBOX SURVEY QUESTIONS/WRITING PROMPTS:

1. Tell us about a favorite place you have taken children/grandchildren/students/other.
2. Describe an odd coincidence that has happened during your lifetime, either to you or someone you know.

Example:

My son lives in Philly. He has started using online dating apps. The other night, he called to tell me a wild story. While texting with a potential date, he noticed that the woman's profile mentioned roller derby, so he commented offhand that his cousin's wife (Maggie) is also into roller derby and played while she was a doctoral student in Tallahassee, FL. As it turns out, this woman not only knows Maggie but is the reason Maggie started skating in the first place! In fact, this local woman is hosting my nephew and Maggie when they drive up from their new home in Kentucky to attend my daughter's wedding in November. Small world.

Tell us about a favorite place you have taken children/grandchildren/students/other:

****Suzy DeGeorge**

My favorite place is McKeever Environmental Education Center in Sandy Lake, PA. For 13 years I would take my 5th grade students for a 3 day/2-night field trip there. It was the best time I had teaching. There were large cabins with bunk beds for students and staff, a dining hall, and hundreds of acres of beautiful woods to tramp through. What made this place so special is that I taught in an inner-city school. Most of my

students did not have a yard to play in let alone trails and creeks to explore. I watched with wonder as they explored and discovered the many surprises nature has to offer. All the attitude and BIG personalities were left behind as they wrapped their arms around being a child again.

****Steph Mitman**

Years ago, there came a time when I realized I was getting stagnant in life. I was just going through the motions instead of really living life. One night, I had a dream and when I

awoke, I realized I needed to 'catch the brass ring' on a real merry-go-round as I did when a child at Lenape Park. I remembered a great amusement park our grandmother used to take us - Knoebels Grove Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA. They have REAL merry-go-rounds with the old calliopes and lovely prancing horses with real manes and tails and of course, a brass ring arm. Asking my younger sister and my niece and nephew if they wanted to come, this wonderful family-owned park became our go to fun long weekend for the next 4-5 years and friends joined in each year. It was a joyful remembrance of being a child and the sounds and wonderment of merry-go-rounds, roller coasters, root beer, and songs around a campfire. Although I haven't been back since 2017, and it is now called Knoebels Amusement Resort, I highly recommend it for a change-in-life moment and to recapture the joy of catching the brass ring.

****Beryl Goldman**

My favorite place for taking my grandchildren is really not a place but a travel company that arranged two memorable trips I took with each of them. When my oldest granddaughter turned 13, she and I went on a Road Scholar trip for grandparents and grandchildren only. She chose this one because she was an avid fan of Harry Potter and this was a full week of spending time in Florida learning about owls and other raptors, making Butterbeer, playing Quidditch with the Central Florida University's Quidditch team, and going into Universal before it opened to the public to enjoy the Harry Potter rides. It was incredible. A wonderful way for us to bond and

for me to watch her interact with 12 other young people her age, none of whom she knew before this vacation but many who have remained friends to her. Then, when our second granddaughter was around the same age, she and I went on another Road Scholar trip, this time to Quebec for Whale Watching. This was really out of her comfort zone but she picked it out of about 25 grandparent/grandchildren trips that were occurring during the same week. She and I learned so much about Canada, the amazing environment, and the beautiful culture. It was so much fun that she and I got the rest of the family to join us on the same vacation the following year. Vacationing with grandchildren without their parents is absolutely the best way to travel!

****Karen Marshall**

When my children were little, I had the luxury of staying at home with them for several years. We went on a lot of low-key, local outings, such as driving to the Fresh Fields on the Main Line to eat mashed potatoes, heading over to the huge playground on Smithbridge Road to climb on the wooden structure, goofing around in the indoor play area at Exton Mall, bouncing through the ball pit at Leaps and Bounds, and, my favorite, making our way down to Nottingham to tour the Herr's Potato Chip Factory. There they used to show a cute film with Chipper the Chipmunk and then walk us through the making of delicious snack foods. The place smelled amazing! Best part: samples at the conclusion of the tour!

Describe an odd coincidence that has happened during your lifetime, either to you or someone you know.

****Karen Marshall**

I collect coincidences like other people collect knick-knacks. I just love when the stars align! Years ago, I was attending a field hockey game at Rustin, watching my daughter try not to get hit in the chin again. The spectators were sitting on the grass chatting. I was lamenting the rule that JV players had to stay and watch the varsity games because I was trying to get on the road for a trip to Maryland, my hometown. When I mentioned my

frustration, a woman next to me asked where in Maryland I was headed.

"Silver Spring. I grew up there."

"No way. I am from Silver Spring, too. Where in Silver Spring?"

"Hillandale."

"No way! I lived in Hillandale when my dad was in the service. Where did you go to junior high?"

"Key."

"Me, too."

AAUW Mission Statement:

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Our Chapter – 2025-2026:

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Branch Website *newly elected	wccc-pa.aauw.net

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.

Board Meetings

Board Meetings are **6:30 – 8:30 PM, first WEDNESDAY of the Month** [unless otherwise noted in the Handbook]. The Board Meetings are held at **Grove United Methodist Church** or via ZOOM [as noted in the Handbook]. The **NOVEMBER Meeting** will be on **November 5** at Grove Methodist Church.

Social Media

Sandy Alexander has created a QR code to help you access the branch's Facebook page. Share it to help access the page more easily! Be sure to send pictures and information to Sandy to fb4aaauw@gmail.com. Remember to copy Toni Gorkin at tgorkin@gmail.com for the newsletter and Rhoda McNitt at rhodamcnitt@verizon.net for the web page.



Finance Officer's Report

Beginning Checking Account Balance July 1, 2025	\$ 8,245.46
Ending Checking Account Balance September 30, 2025	\$ 6,596.31
Mimi Jones Scholarship Fund (Dedicated line item within the checking account)	\$ 1,297.00
Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund (Dedicated line item within the checking account)	\$ 100.00
Vanguard Account September 30, 2025 (Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund)	\$ 17,555.00
Chester County Community Foundation September 30, 2025 (Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund)	\$302,010.74
	YTD July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025
TOTAL Income	\$5,741.00
TOTAL Disbursements	\$7,390.15
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(\$1,649.15)



Special Interest Groups



Mah Jongg

We meet on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays at various homes starting at 1:00 PM. We usually play around 2 hours. We play with new and seasoned players. For more information contact Kim Glavin at [484 354-9681](tel:4843549681).

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. 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.

Chinese Dine-out on Nov. 16 at 3:45pm, hosted by Beatriz Wee, at Lily's Kitchen in Malvern. Please RSVP to Beatriz at beatrizti12@gmail.com and copy Donna Eaves so that an invitation can be emailed to you. You must reserve since there is a limit of 30 guests.

TIG (Travel Interest Group)

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

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.

LIT I: Daytime Literature Group

Fiction & Nonfiction Lit I Book Group:

Contact: Janet Kane 610-742-5961 -

jfentonkane@gmail.com

We will be meeting on **Monday, November 17 at 1:00** at the home of Eva Kaufmann to discuss *Anxious People*, by Frederik Backman. Jane Schultz will lead the discussion.

LIT II: Literature Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group

Our November meeting will be on Monday, November 10th at 2:00 pm at the home of Lyn Eaton. Karen Korbonits will lead the discussion about *The Charm School* by Nelson DeMille. Please let Lyn (lyn.a.eaton@gmail.com) and Peggy Staarman (peggstaar@verizon.net) if you will attend.

Please remember that Lit II is responsible for refreshments, set-up, and clean-up for the Wednesday, November 12th Program at Grove Methodist Church. Thank you!

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 dunn.phyllis@gmail.com.



AAUW HOLIDAY PARTY FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS



Sunday, December 7th, 3-5:30 PM

Ellerslie Farmhouse**

At Crosslands, Kennett Square

Donation of \$10- \$15.00 per person

Please RSVP by December 1st to Brenda Hunsberger bghunsberger@comcast.net

Or Phone / Text: (215)380-0609 or bring to November meeting!

MENU: Bring an appetizer, main dish or dessert to share for 10-12 people.

*Out of consideration for those with allergies/dietary restrictions,
please label all food with list of main ingredients & your name in case of questions.*

Wine, coffee, tea and water will be available.

GIFTS: We are collecting check donations made out to LCH,
our 2025-2026 Gateway to Equity Partner

****DIRECTIONS to Ellerslie: [Crosslands 1660 East Street Rd
Kennett Square, PA 19348]**

*From WC take 202 South. Turn West on Rte. 926. Go approximately 6 miles. Turn left
into Crosslands. Take first left. Turn into parking lot 9. Go up hill and Ellerslie is the brick
farmhouse at the top of the hill.*

----- Cut here -----

I, _____, plan to attend the **Holiday Party.**

[If bringing a guest, please provide name: _____]

Enclosed is a check for _____ tickets @ \$10-15.00 per person

Checks payable to AAUW-WCCC

**Send your check and this slip to: Brenda Hunsberger 1561 Vassar
Ct. West Chester, PA 19380 or bring it to November meeting.**



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

November 2025 Newsletter

A Child's Light

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