Our September 19, 2020, Zoom meeting will take place from 11:15 am -1:30 pm. The program will begin with two outstanding speakers. Marsha R. Banks is our 2019-2020 Community Woman of the Year, whom we did not get to hear in May. Marsha is the Founder and Executive Director of Amiracle4sure, Inc., a non-profit that specializes in re-entry services and supports for current and former incarcerated persons. Marsha has earned degrees from HACC and Lebanon Valley College; has fifteen years' experience working in social services; and volunteers with many organizations including the Correctional Ministries & Chaplains' Association; and is a Board Member of The Council of State Governments.

Our second speaker is Karen Showalter of MomsRising.org. MomsRising is an on-the-ground and grassroots organization of more than a million people working to achieve economic security for all Americans. Their issues include paid family leave, earned sick days, affordable childcare, and wage/hiring discrimination. MomsRising has over 3,000 bloggers and was listed as one of Forbes.com’s Top 100 websites in 2013.

We will also be honoring Judy Dillen as our 2019-2020 Outstanding Branch Member for her work with the YWCA Betty Sullivan Memorial Library. A professional librarian, Judy worked for forty years at the New Cumberland Library. Now, as the Harrisburg YWCA's "Library Lady," she has worked to evolve that library's services including designing the shelving, organizing the collection, and collecting donated materials for the library, and overseeing the library's relocation in 2019.

We will recognize, as well, our Branch Named Gift Honorees for 2019-2020: Christine Zuzack, Lee Johnson, Patricia Pacifico, Tammy Carter, Kathy Silks, and Carol Stark. The September Branch Meeting will follow the speeches and recognitions.

*Instructions to connect to Zoom are on pages 4 and 5.
AAUW HARRISBURG DIVERSITY STATEMENT

AAUW Harrisburg condemns racism. We are committed to building a more just society where everyone, no matter the color of their skin, can live without fear, pursue their life goals, and thrive. Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the U.S., and today’s injustices mirror our shameful history — from police brutality to inequality in educational opportunities to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. Our country needs healing. That healing will only come with justice.

AAUW Harrisburg is committed to fighting for justice and long-term and lasting change and will collaborate with government officials, educators, and community organizations to address racism and inequality in our community. To make a change, we must act, identifying ways in which each of us can become anti-racists, from patronizing minority owned businesses to contacting our government leaders. AAUW Harrisburg’s President Susan Rimby, Diversity & Inclusion Chair Kathy Silks, and Membership Vice President Patricia Pacifico are leading this important effort.
September 2020 Message from President Susan Rimby

On August 3rd, we celebrated my stepson’s thirtieth birthday. Because his birthday occurred ten days after the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment, we had a woman suffrage themed birthday party. We wore colorful sashes, took selfies around a “Votes for Women” sign, and ate cupcakes decorated in purple, yellow, and white. We had fun and commemorated an important event in United States history.

As a historian of American women, however, I know the woman suffrage movement has a dark side. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton uttered racist statements and wrote bigoted articles after the 15th Amendment enfranchised black men, but not women. Alice Paul relegated journalist and reformer, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, to the back of the parade during the 1913 march in Washington D.C. (Since no one ever said “no” successfully to Wells-Barnett, she did march with her Illinois delegation for a short period.) On July 13th, 2020, The Lily published an article, “How Many Women of Color Have to Cry,” explaining how NOW, The Feminist Majority, and AAUW have discriminated against women of color. The Connection, our Branch newsletter, provided a link to this thoughtful article.

I’m deeply troubled by this history, as well as my own past racist behavior. When I passed a small group of African-American teenage boys in June 2019 and clutched my purse tighter, I was participating in racism. And I’m just beginning to understand the concept of white privilege. I would invite you all to read Dr. Peggy McIntosh’s “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack” at https://nationalseedproject.org/Key-SEED-Texts/white-privilege-unpacking-the-invisible-knapsack. Dr. McIntosh, a well-known Women’s Studies scholar, explains how white feminists don’t always see the intersection of race and gender. She also challenges us to break down barriers that restrict life for people of color.

I know that I can do better, and AAUW is helping me with this. I’ve attended several webinars, hosted by our national organization, on inclusive perspectives. All of these have been recorded and are available on the national AAUW website. This summer our Harrisburg-AAUW Board approved a Diversity & Inclusion statement for our Branch, written by our Diversity & Inclusion Chair, Kathy Silks. You can read this statement on our Branch web and Facebook pages. Kathy and I, as well as other Board members, are spending our summer reading about systemic racism and thinking about how AAUW-Harrisburg might respond. Membership Chair, Trish Pacifico, has attended several virtual local meetings dealing with this subject. Look for newsletter articles about our work, and please think about how you might participate in relevant conversations.

In order to keep us all safe, AAUW-Harrisburg will be meeting virtually from September through December, 2020. On the following pages (4 and 5) are instructions for using the Zoom platform on a computer or mobile device to attend meetings. We want to thank the Dauphin County Library System and The Midtown Scholar for allowing us to use their Zoom platforms.

Approximately a week before the September 19th meeting, you will receive an agenda and related materials via email.
Connecting to a Zoom Call from a Computer

1. Before joining a Zoom Meeting, be sure that your speakers have enough volume to hear who is speaking.
2. In the email that was sent to you by the meeting organizer, click on the link to launch Zoom.
3. If you never attended a Zoom meeting before, a browser window will open with instructions to download and install the Zoom application. This is necessary to attend a Zoom meeting.
4. If prompted to open a Zoom Meeting do so and then click “Join with Computer Audio”.

![Zoom Audio Options]

5. After joining the Zoom meeting and testing your audio, by default, your microphone will be unmuted and look like this:

![Mute/Start Video]

It’s important to mute your microphone when not participating in the conversation. Click the “Mute” button to mute your microphone:

![Unmute/Start Video]

6. Click the “Start Video” icon to turn on your camera.

7. To view who is participating in the meeting, click the participant’s icon and a window will appear on the right side of your screen.

![Participants Icon]

8. To close the meeting, simply click “x” in the upper right hand corner of the Zoom application.
Connecting to a Zoom Call from a Mobile Device

1. From within the meeting invite, click the link for “Join Zoom Meeting” and Zoom will launch. An example may look like the following:

   Join Zoom Meeting
   https://keystonehumanservices.zoom.us/j/9757118008

2. If the Zoom app is installed, it will join the meeting automatically otherwise you’ll need to perform the following two steps:
   - Click through any error messages and scroll down to the bottom of the page and click the Download from App Store.
   - After the app is installed, close it and return to the meeting invite and click the link once again.

3. Enter your name if prompted.

4. Allow Zoom access to your camera if prompted.

5. Select join with or without video depending on your board’s preference.

6. Allow Zoom access to your microphone if prompted.

7. Select the audio option of “Call Via Internet Audio”. This will use the speaker and microphone of your device. Headphones are recommended for best performance for yourself and other attendees.

8. Once connected to the meeting please mute your microphone while not actively participating. This will prevent unwanted background noise from being shared. The location of the button will vary depending on your device.

9. You can also enable your video by clicking on the “Start Video”.

Unmute  Start Video
OPENING SCHOOLS IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC:
- LETTER TO THE EDITOR BY SUSAN RIMBY

The recent article, “School districts race against the clock, coronavirus and Trump’s tweets to plan reopening” (posted on Penn-Live and published in the Patriot-News on 7/10/20), shows how difficult a job local school districts have ahead of them as they formulate re-opening plans for the Fall. On top of the logistical challenges presented by COVID-19, districts are also dealing with revenue shortfalls that are forcing them to put important projects on hold, enact pay freezes, leave open positions unfilled, cut technology and curriculum budgets, and furlough teachers and staff, among other cuts. And, with reopening comes additional costs for the 2020-21 school year.

Pennsylvania lawmakers passed a budget that protects schools from state funding cuts, but that will not address the local funding shortfall. That’s why Congress needs to step up and do its part, while in the meantime our schools work to rise to the challenge. Congress needs to provide additional money to local schools in order to help districts deal with lost revenue and increased costs in an effort to improve outcomes for students. These are difficult and uncertain times. Especially now, it is critical that we support public school students. Congress has the power to provide a little more certainty to school districts for next school year by allocating more federal dollars to local districts. The U.S. Senate should follow the lead of the U.S. House by passing another round of COVID-19 relief funding that includes needed aid for state and local governments and public schools.

Susan Rimby
AAUW-Harrisburg President, 2020-2021
AAUW-Pennsylvania Education Committee

To read the entire article, click on or copy and paste:

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Why Not In PA?

The State Museum of Pennsylvania is hosting a changing exhibit titled "Why not In PA - Campaigning for Women’s Suffrage in the Keystone State 1910-1920" Join Senior History Curator Curtis Minor, a former graduate school classmate of Susan Rimby, as he narrates this well done visual analysis of the role of Pennsylvania women in the fight for ratification of the 19th Amendment.
AAUW Harrisburg Announces 2020-2021 Scholarship Winners

The Scholarship Committee met on July 22 via Zoom to determine this year’s recipients of the four endowed scholarships offered by the Harrisburg Branch. This year’s candidates included a robust field of nine qualified applicants who completed a total of 16 applications for the four available scholarships. After reviewing both academic eligibility and financial need, the committee, comprised of co-chairs Mary Kratzer and Leigh Ann Chow, and members Becky Cotich, Erica Voss-Meloy, Cheryl Williams, and Chris Zuzack, is pleased to announce the following:

The **2020-21 Member Memorial Scholarship** ($1,000) is awarded to Peace Okiye of Harrisburg who will be a junior at Temple University. In addition to excelling at her studies, Peace, who aspires to be a physician, is actively involved with Siyanda Girls, a Harrisburg-based community organization focused on mentoring girls of color.

The **2020-21 Sally Chamberlain Scholarship** ($1,500) is awarded to Mikeisha Mobley of Harrisburg who will be a senior at Millersville University. Mikeisha embodies the spirit of the Chamberlain award which seeks to aid women who, “through education, are seeking to advance in current careers or reentering the workforce.” After initially obtaining a certificate in cosmetology in 2013 and working as she earned an associate’s degree from HACC in 2018, Mikeisha has returned to college to pursue her Bachelor’s degree in social work.

The **2020-21 Krausse STEM Scholarship** ($1,500) is awarded to Rebecca Goldinger of New Cumberland. Rebecca will be a junior at Millersville University majoring in biochemistry. Rebecca cites her high school chemistry teacher, Mrs. Sellers, as a role model in the STEM field and an inspiration for her to pursue a career in the sciences.

The **2020-21 Beverly Smith Scholarship** ($2,500) is awarded to Emma Raich of Camp Hill who will be a junior at Penn State. Emma hopes to fulfill Beverly Smith’s vision of helping others by entering the medical field as a biomedical researcher.

Please join the committee in welcoming and celebrating these four talented young women who are not only this year’s very deserving scholarship recipients, but also become members of the Branch for the upcoming year. We plan to invite Peace, Mikeisha, Rebecca, and Emma to join us for our September Branch meeting via Zoom.
“We love America, but America doesn’t love us back.” Hearing those moving words from a major sports figure last week touched me to the core. This summer I made a commitment to step out of my life of white privilege and build my own understanding of the effects of systemic racism. The current (and long overdue) unrest in our country around racial justice issues presents great opportunities to build our awareness on the personal and branch levels. As AAUW Harrisburg’s newly appointed Diversity & Inclusion chair, I will lead the development of a plan to guide our related activities for the coming year and into the future. I’ve presented several next steps to the branch board:

- Encourage branch members – you! – to join this effort to build our awareness and understanding of systemic racism and its results. This will include sharing information and experiences like relevant readings, online community meetings, and lectures.
- Bring together representatives of key organizations – black sororities, Muslim women, Young Professionals of Color, and others – to get better acquainted; educate one another about our organizations’ histories, purposes, and goals; and explore ways to collaborate.
- Participate actively in community dialogue about social justice in the greater Harrisburg area.

Please join me in this effort. Let’s begin by doing what many of us do best – read and research. Here’s a very short list of current reads to get you started on building your own understanding; please contact me about books, websites, blogs, or other resources you’ve discovered that will open our eyes and get us thinking.

- **White Fragility** by Robin DiAngelo
- **Make Change** by Shaun King
- **Here for It: Or, How to Save Your Soul in America** by R. Eric Thomas
- **We Speak for Ourselves: A Word from Forgotten Black America** by D. Watkins
- **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents** by Isabel Wilkerson

I’ll look forward to hearing from you.

Kathy Silks:  

kms107@outlook.com / 717-315-5440 (cell / text)

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**Archeology of the Self: Sustaining Racial Literacy in the Movement for Change**

On August 20, 2020, AAUW held a conversation with Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz, AAUW 2004-05 American Fellow and award-winning associate professor at Teachers College, Columbia University. Individuals who develop racial literacy can engage in the necessary personal reflection about their racial beliefs and practices and teach their students to do the same. Racial literacy in schools includes the ability to read, write about, discuss and interrupt situations and events that are motivated and upheld by racial inequity and bias. Sustaining racial literacy across the life span is possible by engaging in an "Archeology of the Self" — an action-oriented process requiring love, humility, reflection, an understanding of history and a commitment to working against racial injustice. Listen to the entire broadcast at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JoDZQGBTc1g&feature=emb_logo
“If this work can contribute in any way toward providing this, and at the same time arouse the conscience of the American people to a demand for justice to every citizen, and punishment by law for the lawless, I shall feel I have done my race a service.” - Ida B. Wells

Fighting Racism and Sexism

She fought tirelessly for the right of all women to vote, despite facing racism within the suffrage movement.

On August 18, 1920, Congress ratified the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote. But sadly, then as now, the law didn’t apply equally to all. Due to the prevalence of Jim Crow laws, it took another 45 years — and the passage of the Voting Rights Act — for Black women to be able to cast their ballots.

While women’s suffrage has often been associated with white women like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, it’s beyond time for us to recognize that pioneering Black activists like Ida B. Wells were fighting a bigger battle — against sexism and racism — and faced obstacles within their own movement.

Wells, who was born a slave in Holly Springs, Mississippi, in 1862, was a prolific investigative journalist and suffragist who campaigned tirelessly for anti-lynching legislation. Her activism began in 1884, when she refused to give up her train car seat, leading to a successful lawsuit against the train company.

She took part in the first suffragist parade in Washington, D.C., in 1913, which was organized by the National American Woman Suffrage Association, as the sole Black woman in the Illinois delegation. Wells marched with this group despite being asked at the last moment to move to the back of the procession with the segregated contingent.

Motivated in part by racism within the women’s suffrage movement, she went on to found and co-founded a variety of civil rights organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Association of Colored Women and the Alpha Suffrage Club.

Wells fought for equality for women and Black people until her death in 1931. But her legacy lives on, including through the writing of her great-granddaughter Michelle Duster, author of Ida in Her Own Words: The Timeless Writings of Ida B. Wells from 1893.

Today, women of color are still unfairly disadvantaged at the polls, as certain jurisdictions work to suppress voting under the guise of preventing “voter fraud.”

In the past 10 years alone, 25 states have put in place new voting restrictions that largely affect marginalized communities.

As we reflect on the contributions of crusaders like Wells, we can honor them by continuing their important — and unfinished — work on this milestone anniversary. For example, tell Congress it’s time to pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would restore voting protections that were stripped away from the Voting Rights Act in 2013.

It is only when we can ensure that every voice is heard that we can achieve the full promise of the 19th Amendment — and turn this commemoration into a celebration.

Reprinted from:

https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/initiatives/2020-convening/ida-b-wells-a-suffrage-activist-for-the-history-books
COMMEMORATING THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT

This month marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, a milestone in feminist history. But the amendment, widely thought of as giving women the right to vote, did not fully deliver on its promise. Native Americans and Chinese immigrants were not granted voting rights. And, due to Jim Crow laws and other voter-suppression tactics, Black women and Latinas couldn’t cast their ballots until the Voting Rights Act was passed 45 years later.

The same inequalities — racism, sexism and voter suppression — that made the amendment an imperfect achievement in 1920 are fueling the social and economic upheaval we see in 2020. Clearly, our work is not done.

MAKE THE LAW EQUAL FOR ALL

On this month 100 years ago, the U.S. Constitution was amended to give women the right to vote. But sadly, then as now, the law didn’t apply equally to all. Due to the prevalence of Jim Crow laws, it took another 45 years — and the passage of the Voting Rights Act — for Black women to be able to cast their ballots.

Today, women of color are still unfairly disadvantaged at the polls, as certain jurisdictions work to suppress voting under the guise of preventing “voter fraud.” In the past 10 years alone, 25 states have put in place new voting restrictions that largely affect marginalized communities.

We cannot let this stand. Equity is central to AAUW’s mission, but there can be no justice, equity or equality until everyone has access to the same basic civil rights.

With your help, AAUW will call on governors, secretaries of state and boards of elections to expand voting options in this critical election year. Your support will enable us to push hard for state legislation and the federal Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would restore voting protections that were stripped away from the Voting Rights Act in 2013.

Julia T. Brown, Esq.
Board Chair

Holding Space: How to Start and Continue Conversations on Race, Equity and Inclusion

AAUW hosted a collective journey towards gender, race, equity and inclusion dialogue led by Dr. Taharee Jackson. Dr. Jackson expands the capacity of federal agencies, corporations and diverse organizations to achieve their goals for equity, inclusion, belonging and organizational transformation. She is a certified trainer of diversity trainers, Lead Equity Specialist and expert trainer, as well as a federal EEO counselor who is committed to “helping you do your best work in peace.” This webinar was made possible through the generous support of GEICO.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=23&v=KLpBL-FH0Vk&feature=emb_logo
IGNORING EQUITY HURTS US ALL

In 1988, former AAUW president Sarah Harder gave the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates some good advice: Stop dismissing crucial topics like child care, fair pay and affordable housing as “women’s issues.” Instead, she framed them as the “kitchen-table issues” that are discussed daily in the homes of families everywhere.

More than three decades later, as our nation grapples with a pandemic, an overdue reckoning with racism, and a dismal economy, the wisdom of Harder’s words has never been more apparent. For far too long, our country has ignored the problems that matter most to millions, resulting in deep inequalities that hurt us all.

Now is the time to finally achieve the equity that AAUW has fought for since our inception 139 years ago.
- Push policymakers to raise the minimum wage to keep millions of families from living in poverty.
- Champion tuition- and debt-free educational options and loan-forgiveness programs to reduce crippling student-loan debt.
- Bolster the protections afforded by Title IX to ensure equal access to education for women and minorities.
- Ensure the right to vote is a prerequisite to establishing all the other policies we advocate.

As we approach this year’s pivotal presidential election, we must ensure the conversations we have at our kitchen tables are not disregarded by the leaders we select.

Kimberly Churches
Chief Executive Officer

Voting in Pennsylvania: 2020 and Beyond
Wednesday, September 2
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Please join us for the second in the 2020 AAUW Pennsylvania Convention Webinar Series, where we bring to you virtually speakers who were scheduled for the in-person cancelled 2020 AAUW Pennsylvania State Convention. Suzanne Almeida, Interim Executive Director, Common Cause Pennsylvania, will share updates on all the voting topics relevant today -- redistricting reform, mail-in voting, and the November 3rd general election.

Register in advance for this webinar:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_edF-w87pQh6xK-PLHU6R5Zw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
The 2020 Census will provide a snapshot of our nation—who we are, where we live, and so much more. The United States Census, which as we all know occurs every ten years, has important deadlines that affect our entire way of life. Covid-19 has given us an extra few days to be counted. The current timeline is as follows:

I. Online, phone and mailed self-responses - cut off date of **September 30, 2020.**
II. Nonresponse Followup (NRFU) - in person interviews to be completed by **September 30, 2020.**
III. Data reviewed - finalize information for inclusion in the apportionment count file by **December 31, 2020.**
IV. Process Redistricting Data - ensure confidentiality, run tabulation programs per state by **March 31, 2021.**

**Did You Know?**
Responding to all census questionnaires is required by federal law. While it rarely happens, the Census Bureau can impose fines for failing to answer the census or the American Community Survey or for intentionally providing false information.

**Importance of the Data**
The 2020 Census will determine congressional representation, inform hundreds of billions in federal funding every year, and provide data that will impact communities for the next decade from school lunches and plans for highways to support for firefighters and families in need.

**Impact in Your Community**
Census results affect planning and funding for
- employment and training, including programs for vocational rehabilitation state grants, dislocated workers, and American Indian and Alaska Native employment and training.
- education, including programs such as Head Start, Pell Grants, school lunches, rural education, adult education, and grants for preschool special education.
- healthcare, including programs such as Medicaid, Medicare Part B, State Children’s Health Insurance, and the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.
- infrastructure, including programs for highway planning and construction, Section 8 housing, federal transit, community development, and rural water and waste disposal systems.

**Redistricting - a Key Legislative Concern in Pennsylvania**
Census results are used to adjust or redraw electoral districts, based on where populations have increased or decreased. The new count determines the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives. The counts are also used to draw congressional and state legislative districts lines. In Pennsylvania, the congressional district lines are drawn by the state legislature, rather than an advisory commission consisting of legislators or non-legislators or a mix. Once the U.S. Census comes out, the Pennsylvania State House and Senate pass a bill that determines how the districts are drawn. The Pennsylvania Legislature continues to be in an intense discussion with constituents over gerrymandering issues that have evolved from this method of allocation.

Our legislative leaders have been talking non-stop about transparency, accountability, and elevating the voice of the people.

It’s time for them to put those words into action and pass the Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Act, LACRA, introduced by Representative Wendi Thomas and Senator Tom Killion as HB 2638 and SB 1242.

The bill is designed to ensure transparency in the redistricting process and to provide significant opportunities for public participation. It also introduces enforceable mapping criteria essential to real accountability. You can see a more complete summary of the bills here.

Fair Districts PA Legislative Director Pat Beaty, Committee of Seventy Executive Director David Thornburgh, and members of the Princeton Gerrymandering Project will explain the bills and the ways they would improve the current redistricting process. They’ll also demonstrate current metrics to demonstrate partisan bias and to show that a district map is responsive to PA voters.

YOU ARE ALSO INVITED to an Advocacy Team Training
This is open to anyone who would like to be part of a group Zoom meeting with a legislator, or who would like to learn how to do advocacy on ANY issue. Advocacy Advisors Tony Crocamo and Mark Pavlovich will present a non-confrontational, respectful, relational team approach to advocacy with legislators and legislative staff. They will be joined by FDPA Legislative Director Pat Beaty and Advocacy Advisor Team Chair Keith Forsyth.

Advocacy Team Training: September 9, 7 to 8:30 pm
This will be a Zoom virtual event.
RSVP on the Fair Districts PA website to receive a link before the event.
It will also be recorded and available afterward on the Fair Districts PA Youtube channel.

Redistricting happens just once every ten years. The districts drawn in PA in 2021 will impact every part of our lives. We are doing all we can to make sure those districts are drawn fairly so our voices are heard for the decade ahead.

Thanks for your part in this!

Carol Kuniholm
Fair Districts PA Chair
Harrisburg Branch Dues Assistance Fund Information

AAUW Harrisburg Branch is currently undergoing a membership renewal process for the 2020-2021 year. Our branch offers Dues Assistance to any member who needs help in payment of renewal fees. This service is confidential and can be obtained by either contacting Patricia Pacifico or Lillian Grieco. Our email addresses are pacifico2003@yahoo.com or liliangrieco@verizon.net

Notice of potential dues increase in July 2020

The AAUW Board of Directors will consider and vote on a change in Individual Member dues at their upcoming Board meeting on October 16, 2020. Any increase would take effect on July 1, 2021. The Board will consider two different options:

A. An increase to take effect on July 1, 2021, of an amount between $3 and $10.
B. An increase to take effect on the 1st of July of each of the next three fiscal years of between $3 and $10 each year.

The selection of option A or B and the exact amount of the increase for the option chosen will be determined by the board at its October meeting. Any change to Individual Member dues will impact paid Life Membership as well, since AAUW’s bylaws require paid Life Membership to equal 20 years of annual dues. The Board is not considering a change to College/University Member dues at this time.

Membership dues cover between 15% and 20% of AAUW’s annual budget. While AAUW’s expenses increase annually, in recent years dues have not increased with enough regularity to keep pace with expenses. Increasing Individual Member dues will help AAUW cover more expenses, including important functions like the Connect team, critical technology, and infrastructure such as the website and Member Services Database, and other member support.

Please send any comments regarding this dues increase to connect@aauw.org no later than Friday, September 25, 2020, for review by AAUW staff and the Board of Directors prior to the Board’s vote. Thank you.
The Brandywine River Museum of Art has officially reopened. Liv Elicker has provided some ways of visiting the museum both in-person and virtually.

When the Museum closed to visitors back in March, they were forced to cancel all visits and tours of the Votes for Women: A Visual History exhibition. Fortunately, they have been able to extend the exhibition through September 27th, and the Witness to History: Selma Photography of Stephen Somerstein exhibition through November 1st. While they are happily starting to welcome groups back to the museum, they are unable to provide guided tours for the remainder of the year. However, they do hope that you take time to come visit these exhibitions if you feel comfortable.

They also recognize that you may not be able to visit the museum at this time and wanted to make sure you were able to virtually visit and explore these exhibitions. They have a special mini site for the Votes for Women exhibition where you can access many of the virtual events that they have held over the months of their closure, and link to other organizations. In addition, AAUW members may be interested in signing up for the museum’s free Seeing Suffrage 2020 Vision Virtual Lecture Series (available to stream online through September 27th) with the exhibition’s curator, Amanda C. Burdan, or their upcoming free virtual Women’s Leadership Roundtable on September 17th.

You can also preview the Witness to History exhibition online. They hope to have more virtual programming related to this exhibition and a discussion with the photographer, Stephen Somerstein, in the Fall. If you are interested, watch for updates on their events page.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to Liv Elicker if you have any questions or want to try to schedule a discounted group rate to visit.

Liv Rothfuss Elicker
Adult Group Tours Coordinator
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
610.388.8333

Brandywine River Museum of Art
1 Hoffman's Mill Road
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Hours:
Wednesday–Monday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
(closed Tuesdays).
Special Interest Groups: 2020-2021
The Covid-19 pandemic continues. Most of the Special Interest Groups have elected to suspend in-person meetings. Please consult the Branch’s website calendar or the group contact for how, or if, any of the listed events will be held.

Afternoon Book Group
Contact: Lorraine Slattery slatteryp@pa.net 717-766-7940
Books chosen in June by members are reviewed by a member each month. This group meets October through June on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm at a member’s home, with a few exceptions. Tuesday, September 1; 12pm – 2pm. Picnic and planning for the coming year. Bring a dish and book(s) to share. Please notify Lorraine at least 3 days in advance, if you plan to attend. Because of the increased size of our group, space will be provided for the first fifteen people who RSVP.

***Plans for this event are tentative and may be modified due to the current pandemic situation.***

Chefs at Home
Contact: Joan Swetz jszet3@yahoo.com 717-564-4983.
This group plans and prepares gourmet meals in each other’s homes.

Cuisine Club
Contact: Joyce Ensign ensignjohn@aol.com 717-697-2869.
The group dines out seven or eight times, starting in September or October and ending in May. We welcome new members, couples or singles, to join us. Members take turns hosting - which involves contacting members by e-mail, making reservations with a restaurant (your choice or one suggested by the group), and being there.

Culture Vultures
Contact: Barb Warfel warfelb@yahoo.com 717-774-5559
AAUW members have the first option to reserve space for themselves and friends on trips to blockbuster art exhibitions, cultural events, beautiful historic sites and gardens in the tri-state area and internationally. Suggestions for future trips are always welcome. This group is currently on hiatus. Look for upcoming trips when the virus is eliminated.

Dine Around & Dine Around Lunch & Dine Around Brunch
Contact: Kathy Silks kms107@verizon.net 717-315-5440
This group meets once or twice monthly to enjoy great meals and lively conversation at a wide variety of local and regional restaurants, with dinners on the second Wednesday and lunches on the fourth Wednesday.

Fine Film Group
Contact: Erica Voss Meloy ericameloy@comcast.net 717-432-83263
The group meets approximately once a month, usually at the Midtown Cinema; and usually for a matinee movie, coffee and conversation.

Morning Paperback Book Group
Contact: Dorothy Brown dorothymb2@verizon.net 717-763-1080
The morning paperback book group meets monthly to discuss books members have selected. We read fiction literature, and discuss in depth ideas and structure of current books and classics. The group meets September through June (except December) on the third Thursday of the month at 10 am. Thursday, September 17, 10am – 12pm; Villette by Charlotte Bronte will be reviewed by Helen. Please contact Carol Buskirk cmbuskirk@verizon.net if you plan to attend.

***Plans for this event are tentative and may be modified due to the current pandemic situation.***

Nonfiction Book Group
Contact: Lillian Grieco liilangrieco@verizon.net 717-541-1643
Nonfiction books are chosen by members and are reviewed by a member. The group meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm, from September through May (except December). This group is currently on hiatus. Anyone willing to reactivate it should contact Lillian for details.

Walking Group
Contact: Lee Johnson leee6646@verizon.net 717-761-2935
If you would enjoy occasional walking excursions with AAUW companions, this group is for you. Anyone may propose a walk (or even a hike) and we’ll see who would like to go along.

***FOR SPECIFIC DATES & TIMES, GO TO www.aauwharrisburg.org***