

AAUW VIEWPOINTS

North Hills Pittsburgh, (PA) Branch

May President's Message



While we all love a little togetherness, we're oh-so ready to be able to roam free again when the coast is clear. We may be stuck inside for a while longer, but that doesn't mean we have to miss out on all of our favorite activities.

Our world changed with the spread of COVID-19. Originally, this column focused on all the social activities that members have and can participate in. Instead, we're social distancing and finding online ways of staying in touch. The Board, committees and some of our interest groups have been meeting via Zoom conference calls (See the calendar of events).

Our April branch meeting was held via Zoom on April 22, 2020. We had 20 members log onto the meeting. It was great to see everyone. We used the April meeting to elect several officers for our branch. Janis Kapadia was elected for Membership VP and Betty Kroniser was elected for Finance Officer. I welcome both individuals to their second term for our branch. State Representative Sara Innamorato was our guest speaker at this meeting. She discussed what is happening on the state level and answered questions from the members.

These changing times have required us to take the responsible step of cancelling all of our spring events. It is unfortunate we had to take this step but in the interest of the safety of our members it was necessary. In July or August, we will begin to assimilate the situation and make decisions concerning the start of face to face meetings.

During this unfortunate time some of our members have shared links to events that we can go to online to view and I urge you to take advantage of these suggestions. Several of our members have also been making face masks to help out or volunteering their aid to contribute to this fight. I personally would like to thank those of you that I know of and those that I don't for your participation in this crucial fight. I am looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

Until then, follow the guidelines and stay safe.

Debbie

Helping Us to Stay Connected.

The Branch is using a Zoom virtual platform to stay connected. Zoom can be used on Windows and Mac computers, Tablets and both Apple and Android based phones. The set up will look differ depending on which device you are using.

How do you sign into a Zoom meeting?



Instructions: Step 1: **Sign** in to **Zoom**. Step 2: To join a **meeting** in **Zoom** through an invitation email, go to the link provided. Step 3: If you are using **Zoom** for the first time, your browser will prompt you to download and run **Zoom**. If you already downloaded **Zoom** to your device your **meeting** will start automatically.

MAY MEETINGS VIA ZOOM

Wednesday, May 6 10:00 AM
[AAUW May Board meeting](#)
 Meeting ID: 849-7203-2500

Friday, May 8 04:00 PM
[AAUW Happy Hour](#)
 Meeting ID: 858-5348-7200

Tuesday, May 12 10:30 AM
[AAUW Morning Book Group](#)
Leadership in Turbulent Times
Debbie Rosenfelder, Leader
 Meeting ID: 846-5994-0428

Wednesday, May 13 06:00 PM
[AAUW Fundraising Meeting](#)
 Meeting ID: 873-6279-0516

Monday, May 18 07:00 PM
[AAUW Evening Book Group](#)
Leadership in Turbulent Times
Debbie Rosenfelder, Leader
 Meeting ID: 871-3091-9855

Wednesday, May 20 06:00 PM
[AAUW May Branch Meeting](#)
 Meeting ID: 815-9497-1339

Thursday, May 28 04:00 PM
[AAUW Program Planning Meeting](#)
 Meeting ID: 832-0467-7475



We had a wonderful virtual happy hour last Friday! My partner made three signature drinks which we debuted - "Cosmo Quarantini," "It May be Dark now, but We'll Weather the Stormy," and a "7 and 7 equals 14 days of Quarantine!" It was a lot of fun! Our next happy hour is **Friday, May 8 at 4pm**. Maybe I can convince my resident bartender to whip up another themed drink! I hope you can join us!

Our program planning meeting will be on May 28 at 4pm. Since we'll still be social distancing at that time, we'll be holding the meeting via Zoom.

Submitted by Kelley Clouser

YOUR SUGGESTIONS NEEDED.

Are there other Zoom meetings of interest that you would like to see during this time of social distancing until we can meet again face-to-face? A book lecture? Learn to cook vegetarian? A travelogue? Quilts? Speakers on Women's Issues, the Environment? Other ideas? Email Barb Matthews to let her know if you would be interested, ideas for topics, if you prefer these Zoom meetings to be morning or evening. Open to all. **Barb's email: matville2@gmail.com**

For All Our Book Lovers:

The Oldest Book Store In America Is Right Here In Pennsylvania — And It's Amazing

The Moravian Book Shop in Bethlehem is not only the oldest book shop in the country, but it is also quite possibly the oldest continuously running book shop in the world. It was opened in 1745 by the Moravian Church, which has a strong presence in the area.



New Website National

The long-awaited update to our website www.aauw.org happened on April 6. The Member Services Database (MSD) in the Membership section will get an upgrade later this year. Branch and state websites haven't changed. However, we have linked to content on the old AAUW site and those links are probably broken. We will be going through and deleting outdated links and replace them with updated links. UGH!?!? Consequences of progress!

April 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

CHECKING:

Beg Balance	\$9,329.45
Deposits	\$659.00
Expenses	(\$463.49)
Ending Balance	\$9,524.96

SAVINGS:

Beg Balance	\$4,833.98
	\$0.08
Ending Balance	\$4,834.06

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ALERT!!

By now, **ALL** AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh Branch members should have received an email from National, subject – **AAUW Membership Renewal Notice** that will instruct you on how to renew your membership and pay your dues online. Again, we ask you to **please utilize this feature** as so many of you have done in the past. It is easy and safe.

As a thank you for doing this promptly, if you pay your dues online, you will be entered in a drawing to receive a \$59 rebate, which is the amount of AAUW National Dues.

The drawing will take place at our **virtual, Joint Board meeting on Wednesday, June 3, 2020**. If you pay dues by May 1st, you will receive two chances; by May 15th, one chance!

If, for any reason, you are unable to complete the dues renewal online, you may send your check for \$100.00 to **Betty Kroniser, Finance Officer, 920 Camelot Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.**

Thanks so much for your cooperation!

Betty Kroniser, Finance Officer &
Janis Kapadia, VP of Membership

AAUW State and National 2020 AAUW Pennsylvania State Convention

Current knowledge indicates that a gathering of 113 (number of registrants for April) cannot safely occur in July. At the April 18 AAUW Pennsylvania Board meeting, we voted to cancel the 2020 AAUW Pennsylvania State Convention. At least the face-to-face part. AAUW PA is writing a comprehensive message to address all the moving parts. Stay tuned for more information.

April 22nd Branch Meeting



State Representative Sara Innamorato accepted the 2020 AAUW Gateway to Equity Award at our Virtual Meeting on Wednesday evening.

She talked with members about current efforts in PA State Legislature to help Pennsylvanians during the Coronavirus Pandemic. We are grateful for the work that Sara is doing to help our community.



Primary Election Information

The Pennsylvania Legislature approved and the Governor signed SB 422 on Friday, March 27 which changes the date of the Primary Election from April 28 to June 2. Here are the new dates:

- Mon. May 18 Last day to register to vote
- Tues. May 26 Last day to apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot
- Tues. June 2 Primary Election Day: 7 am – 8 pm
- Tues. June 2 Last day for County Boards of Elections to **RECEIVE** absentee or mail-in ballots **by 8 pm**

Get Out & Vote!

As we approach the 2020 presidential election, engaging in the political process has never been more important. **You can make a difference, even in a time of lockdowns and social distancing.** To encourage active participation in the political process, the [Equity Network](#) and [AAUW Action Fund](#) hosted a webinar outlining three key ways to help ensure that every American has the opportunity to cast their ballot in an informed.

Go to AAUW web site to learn more:
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/get-involved-in-elections/>



“Why We Joined” Stories, and Others, Are Beginning to Come In.

Sina Murphy wrote “I was invited by a friend to attend an AAUW meeting with her. I knew about the organization from the time I was in college and had always admired the efforts of the organization and what it stood for. Upon arrival I was greeted by Marge Backus who was membership VP at the time. She immediately made me feel welcome and introduced me to others. I was impressed by the confidence and dedication of the women and decided that I wanted to be a part of AAUW.”

“I felt this was a great way to meet other women who believed in and emphasized the same philosophies that I espoused,” wrote Debbie Rosenfelder. “Belonging to AAUW has been an enlightening and exhilarating journey with an amazing array of women.”

Jane Depee was a member of AAUW before coming to Pittsburgh. Here’s an excerpt from her “Why I Joined” that speaks to how important AAUW has been to her: “As we got close to the Pittsburgh area, George pulled over on the side of the road next to a phone booth. I asked “who are you calling?” as I knew he knew no one in the Pittsburgh area. He answered, “I’m calling the National headquarters of AAUW to see where their closest branch is located in Pittsburgh. We’ll need to know that before we start looking for a house.”

The stories are beginning to come in, not only about why we joined but on other topics such as Great Decisions, belonging to a bridge group. Book clubs, International Dinners and IPODs adventures (I hear there are lots of them!) Do you identify with any of these topics? Something new, such as N.O.R.T.H.? The Martin Luther King Breakfasts? International Day of Peace Festivals?

We all have a story to tell, why we joined, what we appreciate most about our branch, which AAUW causes mean the most to us. We are compiling a book of stories about us as part of the commemoration our branch’s 50 years. It needs your personal touch! Send your articles by email to junemaier@gmail.com, or you can also write out your story and send it to June Maier, 959 Broad Meadow Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15237. Happy writing!

Support AAUW's Mission *Submitted by Linda Tozier, AAUW Funds Chair*

In April's Viewpoints I talked about the urgency of giving to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund.

These are the three other strategic funds and what they support:

1. Education & Training Fund supports STEM, Title IX, Fellowships & Grants, Public Policy & Research
2. Economic Security Fund supports Pay Equity, Title VII, Work Smart & the Legal Advocacy Fund
3. Leadership Fund supports Career Workplace Training, Campus Action Projects & NCWSL

When you renew your membership for next year, you are given the opportunity to contribute to AAUW Funds.

Because all our meetings and interactions have been virtual, I'd like to suggest that you donate the cost of one actual lunch or happy hour to one of these four AAUW Funds. You can do this electronically when you pay your dues via the MPP or via check to our Finance Officer, Betty Kroniser. Or just go to the new AAUW website (aauw.org) and click on DONATE.

Social Determinants of Health in the COVID 19 Crisis

Submitted by Cora Koller

A range of personal, social, economic, and environmental factors contribute to individual and community health. This is true during ordinary times as well as during the current COVID19 pandemic. The effects of the COVID19 crisis and social determinants of health on individuals and families living in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County were discussed at many ZOOM meetings in April 2020. Some key points from these meetings are:

Everyone is expected and encouraged to stay calm, stay home and stay safe. Everyone is expected to maintain safe social distance from others, especially when away from home for essential business. Following these guidelines has enabled Pennsylvania to flatten the curve of new COVID19 infections. As of May 1, 2020, Allegheny County remains on the “red” list for community closures.

Employees of essential, life-saving industries, businesses and organizations continue to work creatively, proactively and productively. They provide many basic necessities, health care, community services and other resources. Guiding principles are:

1. You are not working from home. You are at your home, during a crisis, trying to work.
2. Your personal physical, mental and emotional health are more important than anything else right now.
3. You should not try to compensate for lost productivity by working longer hours.
4. Be kind to yourself, Do not judge how you are coping based on how you see others coping.
5. You will be kind to others and not judge how they are coping based on how you are coping.
6. Your team’s success will not be measured in the same way it was when things were normal.

Some COVID19 innovations in the workplace (like the new focus on on-line training and education, government benefit applications, committee meetings, healthcare or counseling appointments and court hearings) will change the way work is done long after the COVID19 pandemic is over.

Over 60% of employees laid off in the first wave of COVID19-related business closures were women. They are the majority of employees in the hardest hit industries: hospitality, tourism, restaurants and retail. Many of the jobs lost pay poorly; especially when the employees can collect “tips. These employees often live from paycheck to paycheck, with savings that equal less than 6 months of income. Unemployment compensation will provide only a small amount of money for them. Rent and mortgage relief programs are providing temporary respite from those bills; but beneficiaries of these programs have increasing anxiety about their ability to pay them retroactively, as a lump sum some months from now.

Most of the food supply stream remains in place and functional. Grocery stores have reduced hours to allow for more cleaning time; and have set aside times for older shoppers, those with immune disorders and those who are health care workers or first responders to accommodate their needs. The Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank is holding many events to distribute tons of food to families in need. Yet it is extremely hard for many low-income individuals and families to obtain food and other necessities due to lack of increased parenting and childcare responsibility plus reduced availability of public transportation and ride services. In addition, those who receive SNAP benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or WIC (Women, Infants and Children) benefits cannot use for grocery deliveries.

Schools and institutions of higher learning remain closed. Most are offering online courses, but not extracurricular activities. Decisions about how to grade students’ work and whether to pass them on to higher grades or graduation have been difficult. A key reason is that many students do not have access to the computer hardware, software or internet connections needed for online education. This problem disproportionately affects students from rural or low-income

families. Trade school and college students, and their parents are asking whether they are getting value for the tuition, room and board money they have paid; and when their student loan bills will come due if schools do not reopen. Many students enrolled in higher education are understandably reluctant to register for the Fall 2020 terms; incurring more debt but uncertain about the opportunity, safety or desirability of returning to campus, and the quality of education they will get. Students who are foreign nationals are far from home and family support. In addition, they may be unable to remain in this country if their schools are closed and their current student visas expire. The question for them will be whether and when they can return.

Incidents of family violence (including child abuse/neglect, partner violence and elder abuse) have increased due to social distancing, sheltering in place, social isolation, and anxiety related to job losses and financial losses. Calls to domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse hotlines have decreased by 60% or more; because victims have no privacy to reach out for help. Many do not know that courts still able to provide emergency court orders at the Allegheny County Night Court and that victims service agencies can provide essential safety services and counseling by telephone or online.

The good news is that communities are pulling together to meet the needs of individuals and families. Health care providers, including first responders and hospital employees, grocery store workers, law enforcement officers, social workers, counselors, court officials, restaurateurs, hoteliers, the food bank, meals on wheels, community volunteers and many others are stepping up, going above and beyond the call of duty to help individuals and families during this unique time in our world.



Five Star National Recognition Program

rewards affiliates (states, branches other organizations) for aligning their work with the AAUW strategic plan and other initiatives that

foster the organization's mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls.

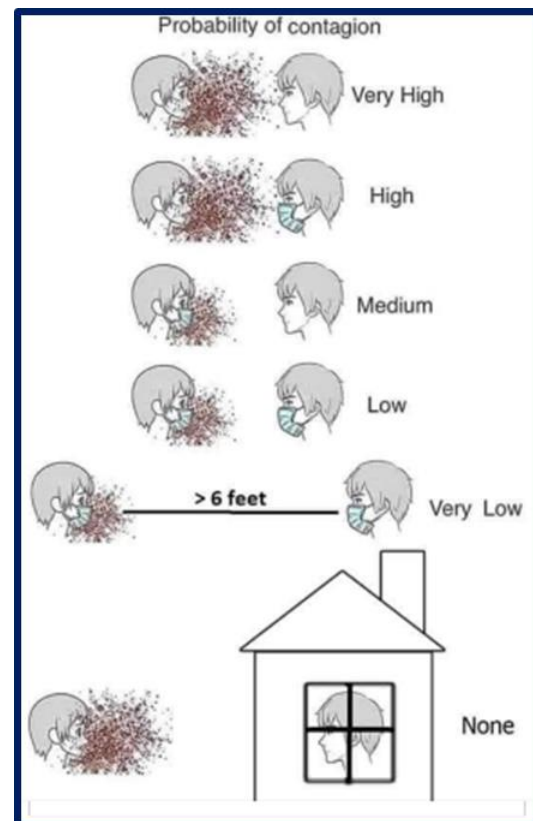
Congratulations to our branch as we have thus far accumulated 3 stars:

Advancement Communication & External Relations Public Policy & Research

We were on track for achieving our 4th star (Programming) with the events we had planned for March, but we will have to wait and see how the state proceeds with recognition of branches moving forward. We can be proud of the work we have done thus far this year.

Social ...

... Distancing



MISSION STATEMENT OF AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

LAF provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

AAUW MEMBERSHIP

AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold an associate's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

AAUW DIVERSITY STATEMENT

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

BRANCH CONTACT INFORMATION

President: Deborah Rosenfelder	412-916-9073 or rosenfelderd@verizon.net
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Branch Website: <http://northhills-pa.aauw.net>

Branch Email: aaunorthhillspgh@gmail.com

Facebook Page: AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh branch

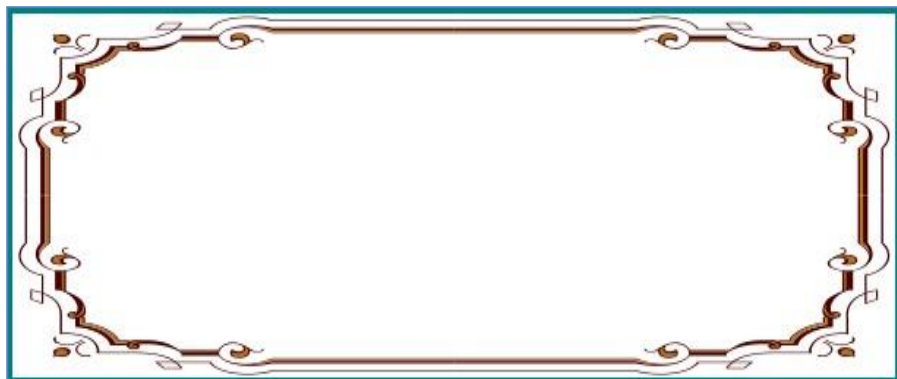
CONNECT2AAUW: 800-326-2289 or connect@aauw.org

National Website: www.aauw.org

State Website: www.aauw-pa.org

Viewpoints

AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh Branch
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Because **Equity** is still an issue