

BRIDGES TO EQUITY

American Association of University Women (AAUW)
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Valley Forge Branch Newsletter
February 2023



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

VALLEY FORGE AAUW BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, February 11th at 10:15 a.m.

At Easttown Library

“The Women’s Resource Center Today”

Presented by Majdah Kaykhan, Director of Development and Communication

When the Women’s Resource Center was founded in 1975, Valley Forge Branch played a key role. The WRC’s mission is “to assist women and girls successfully navigate life transitions.” Located in Wayne, the Center serves women in Philadelphia, Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery and Chester Counties.

Majdah will share with us information about the services WRC provides now. They include counseling, consultations with family law attorneys, a help line that provides referrals to community resources, a financial stability program, and Girls Lead, an innovative program for middle school girls.

The mission of WRC is very close to the mission of AAUW. Do come on the 11th to learn more about what this dynamic organization is doing for women in the Delaware Valley. Do bring guests.



FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear Branch members,

I'm sure that everyone who came to our January branch meeting was delighted to hear about people who became famous after the age of 65. We all agree that the presenter was clear and clever in her presentation, drawing everyone in with her questions. Best of all, she was audible! Let's hear more from her.

We can certainly also be proud of our interest groups. This month the *New Yorker* discussion group had a particularly lively discussion, as did our current events group. We definitely did not hurry home from either meeting. I am hoping that after the worst of the winter weather we can resume our Sunday brunch meetings. Anyone who has a great restaurant in mind is welcome to suggest it, and we will try it out! I am thinking about the Black Powder Tavern for our next restaurant choice, probably in March.

Many thanks to our program planners, Eleanor Erskine and Karen Wellin, and also to the moderators of all the interest groups. You have done a wonderful job!

Maybe each one of you would like to consider attending a new interest group in the coming month. You would be very welcome and definitely have a great assortment of topics to choose from!

Cheers and best wishes from Eris Wickersham

Happy New Year Everyone!

Looking forward to seeing you all at our branch meeting on Saturday, February 11th at 10:15 a.m. We helped start The Women's Resource Center and have supported it since its inception. I am interested in hearing about their current projects and hope we can work with them.

Have you checked out our new website? If you know of anyone who might be interested in our organization, please suggest they look at our website.

Please read the changes to National Bylaws that we will be voting on this year. They are significant. I have outlined them in a separate article. To read the rationale for the changes, go to aauw.org.

Susan

AAUW NATIONAL PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

An email was sent out by Gloria Blackwell on January 19th referencing proposed bylaws changes. Comments must be made by February 3, @ 5:00 p.m... I thought it important for all to have an idea of the changes that are proposed.

Changes of particular note include:

- Revision of the wording describing AAUW's charitable purpose.
- Moving the start of board terms from July 1 to the day following election.
- Having board officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Finance Chair and Secretary) elected by the board, not the membership.
- Limiting the Board Chair term to 2 years, with the possibility of a second term as Chair, only in a second term on the board.
- Creating a one-year term for the Vice Chair, matching existing terms of the Finance Chair and Secretary, and providing the possibility of re-election for subsequent one-year terms for the Vice Chair, Finance Chair, and Secretary as long as the individual remains on the board.
- Establishing the practice that the following committees be chaired by a director: Audit, Finance, Governance, Investment, and Nominating.
- Specifying that the Executive Committee be comprised of the Board Officers.
- Eliminating the requirement for 60 days' advance notice to the membership before board approval of a dues change.

There are numerous changes to wording, some additional provisions added, some eliminated, and considerable re-ordering of existing provisions mostly to eliminate inconsistencies, clarify language, or to fix areas that have been problems to understand or find in the past. There are also some essentially technical drafting changes to align our bylaws with current law, and legal advice and best practices in bylaw drafting that are common among nonprofits. A provision-by-provision guide to all changes is included to assist you in reviewing all the proposed changes.

To aid in your review, a tracking chart, as well as links to the current bylaws and proposed bylaws, can be found at the end of the article.

PUBLIC POLICY

Debbie Talbot Snyder

As we are now in the winter season, perhaps it is a good idea to catch up with some of AAUW's very informative webinars. I have included national's website below so that you can see what is available in terms of empowerment and social justice.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>

In addition to checking out webinars, it is interesting to see how AAUW is much more active on Social Media, especially Instagram. I often see postings about the pay gap and changes in the workforce for women. For example, with changes in the work force, i.e., increased technology and more telecommuting, women make up 58% of the work force that may lose jobs due to technology. To read more about wage gaps, please see the most recent national report ...

https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2022/12/SimpleTruth_12.22_2.1-002.pdf?emci=a4c6d312-257b-ed11-819c-000d3a9eb474&emdi=f4818a52-0982-ed11-9d7a-000d3a9eb913&ceid=931670

Lastly, AAUW can be seen in podcasts and other National papers. Please see the below links.

From [podcasts](#) to [social media](#) to leading media outlets, we got the word out to everyone about the importance of our cause. This year's media mentions included the [Washington Post](#), [ABC News](#), [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#), [The Miami Herald](#) and [Diverse Issues in Higher Ed](#).

MEMBERSHIP

Debbie Snyder

I have a state membership meeting this month so I should have more to report then. However, we will be looking at the best ways to collect memberships due in the coming months since there were issues with the online procedures last year. Also, as a way to potentially increase our membership, please share our new website with friends and family. Again, the website is: ...

<http://www.aauwvalleyforge.org/>



INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON LITERATURE

Connie Kirker 215-840-3907
Susan Norris 610-246-8496

There will be no meeting in February.

On March 8, Elly Warren will review Klara and the Son by Kazuo Ishiguro. Elly will host at 2:00 p.m. Please let her know that you will be there. New members welcome!



CURRENT EVENTS

Charlotte Rowland 484-653-1618

We'll meet on Wednesday, February 15th, 1:30 p.m. Mary Carr will host. Bring an article that you think would interest the group. We welcome new members to our spirited discussions!

Erlis Wickersham will host on March 15.



FILM GROUP

Charlotte Rowland 484-653-1618

We will meet on Friday, February 17th, @ 1:00 p.m. Anne Odenweller will host. Film TBA. Please let Anne know that you can come. We welcome new members.



LIVING THEATER

Karen Wellin 610-551-5070

Living Theater – Calling All Tony Award Wannabees!

We are going to try to do a ZOOM Living Theater meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. We will send the zoom link to anyone who is interested in joining us. We are looking to find a suitable one-act play – any ideas? Please contact Karen Wellin at 610-551-5070 for updated information.



NEW YORKER GROUP

Eleanor Erskine 610-382-4221

The New Yorker will meet on Monday, March 20 at 1:30 p.m. Hostess TBA. Contact Eleanor for the articles to be discussed.



DINING OUT CLUB

Erlis Wickersham 610-687-3071

There will be no meeting this month. The group is hoping to resume meeting in March.



FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

11	Branch meeting	10:15 a.m.
15	Current Events	1:30 p.m.
17	Film group	1:00 p.m.
23	Living Theatre	1:30 p.m.

MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER

8	Afternoon Lit.	2:00 p.m.
11	Branch meeting	10:15 a.m.
15	Current Events	1:30 p.m.
17	Film group	1:00 p.m.
20	New Yorker	1:30 p.m.

Remember to look at our branch website, www.aauwvalleyforge.org
