

The Allentonian

April 2021

Vol. 79 Issue 7



A publication of the American Association of University Women
Allentown (PA) Branch

Breaking through barriers!



A huge thank you to Peggy Tyson, who has not let rain, sleet, or snow keep her from mailing hard copies of *The Allentonian*.

LEADERSHIP

The A-Team

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Happy Spring! This time of year is busy for AAUW. Election of officers at all levels, bylaws revisions and virtual programs and payment of dues fill our calendars. Be sure to visit www.aauw.org for the latest national news and webinars (both recorded and live) and www.aauw-pa.aauw.net for state news. Of course, check your inbox for email updates and your monthly issue of the *Allentonian*.

Election of Branch Officers

It is the time of year when we normally elect branch officers. The team leadership model is working. Therefore, the A-Team would like to recommend to the branch that we continue with the team leadership model. According to National bylaws, the only required branch officers are a finance officer and administrator (who is the liaison to National). Susan Nenstiel is willing to continue as Finance Officer and administrator. Cathy Kane and Peggy Tyson have agreed to continue in their roles as recording secretary and corresponding secretary, respectively.

The team welcomes any branch member to join the team to help run our branch. Our team meetings are open to any member.

Please cast your ballot by visiting: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7PK28Y8>

Wish to mail your ballot? Please send to Susan Nenstiel, 2889 Aronimink Place, Macungie 18062 by May 1, 2021.

2021-2022 Membership Renewals

Soon you will receive your annual membership renewal via email. The A-Team voted to cover the \$3 increase in National dues. So no dues increase for our branch members this year. We hope that you will renew your membership to support the work of AAUW as we advance equity for women and girls.

APRIL BRANCH MEETING

Our April Zoom Branch meeting will be on Tuesday, April 13th at 7:00 PM and our speaker will be Anant Agnihotri, Community School Coordinator at Central Elementary School. He will talk with us about virtual learning at the school, the return to the classroom in April as well as other community partners at Central and how our branch can continue supporting the school. Please join us!



Literature of the Past and Present

Leader: Annette Bonstedt (610-395-5974)

Thursday, March 18, 12:00 pm

Zoom book group meeting

Book: *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman

Reviewer: Susan Galus

If attending, please contact Cathy Kane by e-mail ckane@yahoo.com or phone 610-428-1833.

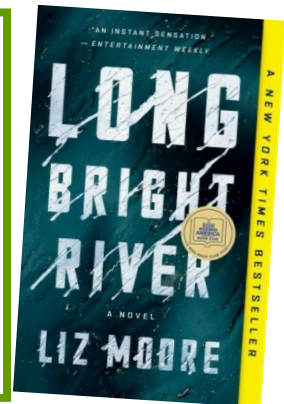
Women's Literature Group

Long Bright River by Liz Moore

Zoom meeting

Join in on April 19 at 2:00 p.m.

Zoom meeting will be arranged by Cathy Kane, who will help anyone learn how to participate. Call her at 610-428-1833.



The Allentonian

Please submit news and announcements to the editor, Kathy Osmond, at kosmond@fastmail.com
Deadline is April 15 for the May issue. Check the website for updated information and to read *The Allentonian* online.
Allentown Branch Website: <http://allentown-pa.aauw.net>

Allentown Branch email address is: aauwallentown@yahoo.com
National Website: www.aauw.org State Website: aauw-pa.aauw.net/

AAUW Member helpline: 800-326-AAUW

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

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

AAUW DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In principle and in 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, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW LAF/EF

AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/
provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sexual discrimination.

**AAUW Allentown Branch A Team Meeting
March 9, 2021**



Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM. Zoom meeting lead by Peggy Tyson.

Members Present: Ginny Delph, Cathy Kane, Lesley Lojko, Susan Nenstiel, Linda Oppe, Karen Peiffer, Bev Tisdale, Judy Trach and Peggy Tyson

Minutes: Minutes of Feb 9, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept by Peggy and second by Bev. Passed.

Finance Report: Only activity was \$500 sent to PA State AAUW for NCCWSL. Susan was contacted by them and they reported that only 9 students had registered so far (the conference will be virtual) so our \$500 isn't needed. Susan will ask that the money be returned to the branch. Susan made a motion to that effect with second by Bev. Passed.

Membership and Dues: Dues increase of \$3 is going into effect July 1. Branch renewal notices will be sent out by Susan around March 15. Susan made a motion for the branch to cover the \$3 increase in dues for all paying members for this upcoming dues cycle. Karen seconded the motion and it passed. Susan will write something up for both the dues notice and the newsletter to tell our members.

Program: March meeting will be on Thursday March 11 at 7:00 PM via Zoom with Ethel Drayton Craig as speaker. Cathy will contact Anant Agnihotri, Community School Coordinator at Central Elementary to see if he would be interested in sharing with us at a future meeting about how things are at the school. Linda shared with us a program she is involved with called Teach Rwanda. She will contact them about sharing information about this program at a future branch meeting. May's Annual Luncheon is on hold due to the pandemic.

Newsletter/Yearbook: Bev noticed that she was not included as a member of the A Team in the newsletter. She will contact Kathy Osmond to put her name on the list. Newsletter submissions for April issue are due to Kathy O by March 15.

Website: Linda reports that the website is updated.

Public Policy: No report.

Branch Updates:

- Book Corner – the Lehigh County Assistance Office is still closed to in-person clients.
- Dictionary Project – no report.
- Dan Schantz – The Monthly Madness coupon information was in last month's newsletter but Cathy had no response. At this meeting however, several people did express an interest so Cathy will put it in the next newsletter and hope for a better response. Need to be able to sell 20 coupons at \$20 each.

Gateway to Equity Award – We hope to be able to find a time to give this award to Nicole Jensen and her team at Pinebrook Family Answers and the Leaving Jail Program.

New Business:

NCCWSL: see Finance Report.

Nominations for Officers: According to National By-Laws, the only required branch Officers are a Finance Officer and an Administrator. Susan is willing to continue in both of these positions. From the A Team, Cathy Kane has agreed to continue as Recording Secretary and Peggy Tyson has agreed to continue as Corresponding Secretary. ALL BRANCH MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND A TEAM MEETINGS AND ANY BRANCH MEMBER IS WELCOME TO JOIN THE A TEAM TO HELP RUN THE BRANCH.

A-Team Minutes, continued

By Laws: Our branch By-Laws do not reflect the current configuration of the branch governing structure (The A Team). With the possibility of a change in the National By-Laws after the National elections/voting in April, our By Laws will then be updated.

State voting: Voting for PA AAUW Officers (Membership, Finance and Secretary) continues through March 31st. Either vote online or Karen will submit ballots for members.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned 7:00 PM.

Next A Team Meeting will be Wednesday, April 7th at 6:30 PM Zoom. Peggy will chair.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Kane – Recording Secretary

Public Policy

Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair

Happy Spring Everyone!

True signs of Spring are the mailings and petitions we're asked to sign, for the upcoming Primary Election. May 18, 2021 is Primary Day in PA.

If you wish to get a mail-in ballot you must request it by calling the Lehigh County Election Office at: 610 782 3194 or go on-line to VotesPA. Remember that you can only vote for candidates who are in the party in which you are registered for the Primary elections only. In the General election in the Fall you can vote for anyone regardless of their party. As I understand it you must apply each year for a mail-in ballot. There is no reason to request one if you plan to vote in person.

Lehigh County Judge of Common Pleas seems to be the most active race because 3 current judges are retiring. We have already met 2 candidates at markets while we were out and about. They were cross filed and informed us that we can sign 3 petitions because there are 3 positions open. Allentown's mayoral race looks interesting as do the County Commissioners races and local school board races.

A question arose at our A-team meeting about school testing during the pandemic. The U.S. Dept. of Education has decreed that testing for this school year may not be cancelled but that states may have flexibility for scheduling the tests. As I understand it, Governor Wolf is allowing testing for the school year 2020-2021 to be held in the fall of 2021.

Another concern of Education policy is that the Title IX rules that were reset under Secretary Betsy DeVos regarding sexual assaults and harassment on campuses will be reversed under our new Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. The Rules revised under DeVos favored assaulters over the victims. The newest rules will revert back to favoring the victims, but will take a while to become effective.

\$15 MINIMUM WAGE

Who Needs It and Why Should I Care?

Jacqui Rogers

AAUW PA Public Policy Chair

will share the latest economic data, the myths about minimum wage, and current legislation to make the minimum wage a livable wage in Pennsylvania.

April 14, 2021

7:00 pm

Registration Required for this Zoom event

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_V6qsH9uNT7yjTYsRkt8kfQ

Who benefits from a higher minimum wage?

WHAT PEOPLE THINK

Teenager

Works part time after school

Lives with parents

Earning extra spending money



THE REALITY

Average age: 36 years old

89% are not teens, they're 20 or older

37% are 40 or older

56% are women

28% have children

57% work full time

On average, they earn more than half of their family's total income



Statistics describe civilian workers, ages 16+ that would be affected by an increase in the federal minimum wage to \$12.00 by 2020. The median age of affected workers is 32 years old.

ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE

go.epi.org/raisethewage



Don't Forget to Register...

Tuesday, March 30th Town Hall, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Join Dot McLane, AAUW Past President and former AAUW national board member to learn about this change, and the reasons it is being proposed. At this event, attendees will be able to break out into smaller groups to have more intimate conversation with other members. This event is open to all AAUW members in the state of Pennsylvania. The event will run from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM on Tuesday, March 30th, 2021. Advance registration is required. Click [here](#) to register.

April Small Groups

If you want to have further conversation with other members about the change, or have questions, register for a small group session during the month of April, conducted by Jordan Glover, AAUW-PA Diversity & Inclusion Chair. These sessions will be small and interactive, and require advance registration.

Tuesday, April 13th 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM ([registration link](#))

Friday, April 16th 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ([registration link](#))

Monday, April 19th 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM ([registration link](#))

Wednesday, April 21st 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM ([registration link](#))

Online Resources

AAUW National has already been creating resources specifically for members to use around the membership vote. If you haven't already, check out the Open Membership Toolkit found [here](#). As we get closer to the voting timeframe, expect to see more information come out from National.

AAUW-PA Social Media

Follow AAUW-PA Social Media accounts for frequent updates regarding the vote, including information on dates and deadlines, and stories from AAUW-PA membership. If you aren't already following our accounts, you can find us on Facebook [here](#), and Twitter [here](#).

Facebook Group

If you'd like to connect with other AAUW members in the state that are passionate about this membership vote, you may want to connect in our new Facebook post to be able to easily interact, ask questions, etc. The Facebook group is private, and users must request to join. If you'd like to do that, you can click [here](#).

AAUW-PA Website

Our [website](#) has been updated with lots of relevant content and resources for you regarding this voting effort. We will continue to update the website with more relevant content, including FAQ's that are relevant to members in our state, and information on how to vote as that becomes available.

Member Stories

If you feel passionately about the membership requirement and have a personal story you want to share on social media, please fill out the form to submit your story [here](#). Please note: not all stories may be used on social media.

Dan Schantz

Monthly Maddness

coupons

UPDATE

I have requests from our members for the purchase of 10 Monthly Maddness coupons from Dan Schantz. Each coupon gets you a free item each month for 12 months.. The coupons are only \$20. In order for me to go ahead with this fundraiser though I need to buy a minimum of 20 coupons. Anyone who is interested in a coupon or two (they make great gifts), email me at ckane3930@yahoo.com or call me at 610-428-1833.

Cathy Kane

Testimonial from your editor: This is well worth the \$20, plus it gives a person a good excuse for a little drive and some browsing at Dan Schantz!



Today

by Billy Collins

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze

that it made you want to throw
open all the windows in the house

and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,
indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,

a day when the cool brick paths
and the garden bursting with peonies

seemed so etched in sunlight
that you felt like taking

a hammer to the glass paperweight
on the living room end table,

releasing the inhabitants
from their snow-covered cottage

so they could walk out,
holding hands and squinting

into this larger dome of blue and white,
well, today is just that kind of day.



Kathy Osmond
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