

AAUW Pittsburgh Branch

The Newsletter of American Association of University Women - Pittsburgh Branch

Visit us at www.aauwpgh.org

Issue No. 31

March 2013

On March 9th, AAUW-Pittsburgh Welcomes

Nancy Patton-Mills



Nancy Mills was born and raised in Allegheny County. She is a life-long democrat who has actively worked to elect democratic candidates to public office in Allegheny County and throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

Nancy is a member of the Democratic State Committee, the Allegheny County Democratic Women's Division, The Pennsylvania Federation of Women, and the Allegheny County Democratic Women's Caucus, and in 2008, was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Denver, CO.

"My primary goal is to elect qualified democratic candidates. I am currently working with Chatham University to encourage women to become involved with the political process and run for public office in Allegheny County and the State of Pennsylvania."

In October 2010, Nancy was the Vice-Chair of Allegheny County Democratic Committee and one of three speakers who spoke about how they "work to elect democrats". In addition, she was named the Caucus Chair for Allegheny County at State Committee in 2010 and still holds that position. Most recently, she was named Chair of the Allegheny Democratic Committee, Delegate to the 2012 Convention, and the 2012 Inauguration. She is also a member of the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce and a board member of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden.

Nancy earned a B.A. in Communications from Chatham University in 1989 and a Ph.D. in Communications and Rhetoric from Duquesne University in 2006. Through education and experience, Nancy provides a new voice for unity, communication, and strength in the Allegheny County Democratic Party. She has been a member of the Pittsburgh Branch of AAUW in 2011.



Don't miss the March program. Our speaker will be Nancy Patton-Mills, a former Pittsburgh Branch Member and an active member of the Democratic State Committee. Her program is entitled, "The Process of Elections in America."

The meeting will be held at the PAA in Oakland located at:

4215 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

10:30 – 11:30 Board Meets
11:45 – 1:00 Lunch
1:00 – 2:00 Program

(412) 621-2400
www.paaclub.com

Please R.S.V.P. no later than February 5, 2013 to reserve your seat! Cost of lunch is \$20.00 payable upon arrival.

For more information or to reserve your seat, please send an email to aauwpgh@aauwpgh.org

AAUW MISSION

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

About AAUW

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.

Because AAUW is a 501(C)(3) charitable membership organization, most of your national dues are tax deductible on your personal federal income tax return.



The February program on methods in the early detection of breast Cancer was given by Dr. Geetika Chakravarty.

If you missed Dr. Chakravarty's presentation you can see it on the branch's web site at:

http://www.aauwpgh.org/WhatsNew_201302.htm

Shape the Future: Teacher Appreciation

The Pittsburgh Branch will hold a "Shape the Future" event. The theme will be "Teacher Appreciation" and the event will be held at Propel Montour Charter School, 340 Bilmar Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

We will need many volunteers to help with this event which is to be held on Thursday, April 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. If you can't volunteer your time maybe you can volunteer your cooking skills. We will need to serve refreshments at the event and are asking members (if they can) to prepare a hors d'oeuvre type snack or dessert.

We still need volunteers to help with this event. Won't you please consider lending your support to this event?

Contact Pat Byerly for more information.



40 years ago this month at the Pittsburgh Branch of AAUW

The March 10th meeting of the Pittsburgh Branch of AAUW was held at Rockwell Hall Auditorium of Duquesne University. The program was referred to as Association Day, and introduced the four new program topics for 1973-1975:

Panel for discussion:

Woman: Searching for Self

Media: Issues in Communications

Global Interdependence: Budgeting for Earth

Dynamic Learning: Releasing Human Potential

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A conference entitled, "ONE WORLD: INTERDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS" was scheduled to be held in Pittsburgh in the late spring or early summer of 1973. A variety of organizations sharing an interest in human survival were listed as participants. According to the conference planning group, "The U.S. understanding of development aid has not kept pace with the realities of a changing world. They (the conference planning group) believe that we must substitute a new public logic encompassing humanism and deep understanding of the economic and ecological interdependence of all citizens of this planetary community...we (the U.S.) must examine our thinking in terms of protection of our environment, orderly worldwide trade, the stability of the international monetary system, and the creation of a peaceful interdependent world."

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The Legislative Discussion Group was scheduled to meet on March 10. The topic was, "DO YOU FAVOR REORGANIZATION OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE?", and concentrated on the present bills in both the State House and the State Senate regarding the reorganization of the State Legislature.

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The Betwixts celebrated their recent success in the dinner theater with a Playhouse Party, and scheduled a "Bridge and Canasta Night" for later in March. [I cannot find any confirmation about the formation or the mission of the Betwixts but I am fairly convinced that it was the social arm of the Branch in 1973.]

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The Branch approved a couple of amendments to the By-Laws concerning membership and the composition of the Board of Directors.

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Cultural Interests

Inquiries were made into the possible participation in the National AAUW project of a search for American paintings before the year 1914; and

A final appeal was made to the members for contributions for the upcoming Book Fair. Considered especially salable were books on travel, hobbies, foreign language, poetry, music and art, text books, cookbooks, children's books, and reference books. The Book Fair project made it possible for the Branch to fulfill its commitment for the Fellowships Program.

Submitted by
Karin Neilson



Pittsburgh Branch Officers and Board

Elected Officers

President, Dr. Shari Muench
aauwpgh.president@gmail.com
Program Vice President, Karin Neilson
aauwpgh.programVP@gmail.com
Membership Vice President, Trina Hall
aauwpgh.membershipVP@gmail.com
Finance Officer, Bernie Cerasaro
aauwpgh.financeOfficer@gmail.com
Recording & Corresponding Secretary, Marci Henzi
aauwpgh.secretary@gmail.com

Appointed Chairpersons

Communications/Web, Patricia Byerly
aauwpgh.communication@gmail.com
Public Policy, Advocacy & Diversity,
Gwendolyn Ormes
aauwpgh.publicpolicy1@gmail.com
Michele Buford
aauwpgh.publicpolicy2@gmail.com

Supporting Liaisons and Committees

Public Relations Liaison, Rosemary Martinelli
Scholarship Committee Chair, Susan Banerjee
aauwpgh.scholarship@gmail.com
Nominations Committee (2012-13), Karin Neilson and Gwendolyn Ormes

SAVE THE DATES

Shape the Future: Teacher Appreciation – April 4, 2013

World Book Night – April 23, 2013

This is an event that the board is very excited about. Learn more at <http://www.us.worldbooknight.org/> and watch for more information in future issues of the newsletter. It would be great if we can get everyone to participate in this very important event.



AAUW Pittsburgh Branch Blood Drive – spring 2013.

We are working with Chatham University to sponsor a blood drive. Volunteers will be needed to pass out refreshments. More details will follow.



STEM Event planned for September-October 2013

Letters to the Editor

Do you have something you want to say? Well, here is an opportunity to let everyone know what you think. If you have something you want to speak out about please say your piece in an email to Pat Byerly at aauwpgh.communication@gmail.com and watch for it to be published in future issues of *The Newsletter of American Association of University Women - Pittsburgh Branch*.



Investing in Pennsylvania and Creating Jobs

With the support of a diverse coalition of business groups, senior advocates, agriculture advocates, and the AAA, Governor Tom Corbett advocated today for his common sense plan for investing in our transportation infrastructure. Here are the five things you need to know:

1. Recognizing the needs of Pennsylvanians, the Governor's plan proposes **reducing the flat tax on gasoline at the pump by 17%**.
2. The Governor's plan **will help to create 50,000 jobs** in the industry, and will encourage investments in new construction equipment that will generate manufacturing jobs.
3. The Governor's plan makes **an additional \$1.8 billion available for transportation investments**, providing stable funding for the future of the system.
4. The Governor's plan **addresses a public safety concern** with more than 31,000 buses carry 1.5 million children to school on our roads and bridges each day.
5. The Governor's plan **protects economic growth throughout Pennsylvania** by ensuring that the half a trillion dollars in goods that annually travel through the state will have a smooth ride.

Joining Us at Our February Meeting



Katherine Parker, a University of Pittsburgh Ph.D. student. Her mother and sister are AAUW members in Oregon. She enjoyed the program and hopes to come to future programs. In July she leaves for England for a year but we hope to see her when she returns.

Good luck Katherine!



We are very pleased to welcome new member, Nishi Singh. She received her B.S. from the University of Albany, New York.



Also joining us was Henny's friend Patricia Faber. She is currently the newsletter editor for a branch in New York.

February 12, 2013 . . .

Senate Passes Violence Against Women Act, With No Help from 22 Republican Mail Senators

The Violence Against Women Act reauthorization passed through the Senate on Tuesday (2/12/13) afternoon, by a vote of 78 to 22. Of those opposing the legislation, all 22 were Republican men. Every female Senator supported the bill.

VAWA expired during the previous Congress, and because of Republican opposition to provisions for Native American, undocumented, and LGBT victims of domestic violence, the different versions approved by the House and by the Senate were never reconciled, and the bill died without final passage at the end of 2012. Read more at: <http://thinkprogress.org/health/2013/02/12/1556601/senate-passes-vawa-again/?mobile=nc>

February 13, 2013 . . .

House Republicans Plan to Act On VAWA In 'Coming Weeks'

One day after the Senate voted overwhelmingly to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act with expanded provisions, a top aid to House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) said House GOP leaders intended to consider their own, yet-to-be unveiled version of the legislation in the coming weeks.

"The House will consider a strong Violence Against Women Act in the coming weeks so we can protect all women from acts of violence while prosecuting offenders to the fullest extent of the law," Doug Heye, Cantor's deputy chief of staff said on Wednesday (2/13/13).

House Republicans have the same concerns with the Senate bill that derailed the reauthorization last year: expanded provisions aimed at protecting gays, illegal immigrants and Native American women who suffer from domestic abuse. Read more at: <http://tpmdc.talkingpointsmemo.com/2013/02/house-vawa-coming-weeks-eric-cantor.php>

Why Would Anyone Oppose the Violence Against Women Act?

22 Republican senators voted against reauthorizing the law Tuesday (2/12/13). Assuming they don't favor domestic violence, why would they take such a politically risky stand?

The objections can be grouped in two broadly ideological areas -- that the law is an unnecessary overreach by the federal government, and that it represents a "feminist" attack on family values. "The ideological foundations of the law are flawed and have led to an inability to help victims effectively," Christina Villegas, a visiting fellow at the conservative Independent Women's Forum and adjunct professor of political science at Cal State San Bernadino said.

VAWA, Villegas said, is premised on the theory that violence against women is a product of sexism and patriarchy -- "men's desire to keep women down" and the sexes' unequal social status. But research shows that such violence has many sources, from substance abuse to marital conflict, according to Villegas. "VAWA provides so much funding [based on this model] that could be so much more effective if it focused on the proven causes of violence," she said.

Want to know more? Read on at:
<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2013/02/why-would-anyone-oppose-the-violence-against-women-act/273103/#>

Sources:
<http://thinkprogress.org/health/2013/02/12/1556601/senate-passes-vawa-again/?mobile=nc>
<http://tpmdc.talkingpointsmemo.com/2013/02/house-vawa-coming-weeks-eric-cantor.php>
<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2013/02/why-would-anyone-oppose-the-violence-against-women-act/273103/#>

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Supports Virginia LeBlanc's Case against Trustees of Indiana University

WASHINGTON — The American Association of University Women Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) announced that it will provide case support to the Equal Pay Act and Title VII lawsuit *LeBlanc v. Trustees of Indiana University*.

Virginia LeBlanc, former director of Indiana University's Hudson and Holland Scholars Program, filed a complaint against the university in federal district court alleging gender discrimination and unfair pay. LeBlanc says she filed the lawsuit after encountering resistance to her attempts to resolve the pay disparity internally.

LeBlanc's complaint alleges unfair and inequitable hiring practices and processes, preferential treatment toward men in salary and other practices, a hostile work environment, verbal sexual harassment and intimidation, and failure to process gender-discrimination complaints through internal systems. The unequal pay portion of her complaint alleges that LeBlanc's pay was not commensurate with that of the two previous male directors of the scholarship program and that Indiana University generally pays higher salaries to men than to women.

"While unfair pay affects all women's economic security, the gap impacts Hispanic and African American women the most," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "AAUW has advocated for fair pay for decades, and we're proud to stand with women like Virginia LeBlanc, whose case we hope will be a catalyst for change."

A study of the latest census numbers by AAUW found that earnings for African American women in 2011 were 70 percent of what white men were paid and 85 percent of what white women were paid. Legal Advocacy Fund support has been instrumental in the success of many gender discrimination cases during its 31-year history. Other LAF initiatives include community and campus outreach programs, an online resource library with downloadable advocacy tools, a Legal Referral Network, and research reports.

AAUW's strategic case support program provides financial and organizational backing for a select number of cases that have the potential to provide significant protection for all women. The funds come directly from the generous contributions of AAUW members who support the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Source: www.aauw.org

New AAUW logo and website coming soon . . .

AAUW will unveil a new organizational logo and website at the end of February. Here is an advance look at the new logo. "Bold and bright it complements our reinvigorated branch activities and expanding international efforts. The readable typeface and tagline Empowering Women Since 1881, will welcome visitors, potential members, and supporters and effectively introduce and explain AAUW and its mission, while showing off our impressive history and the stories behind our work". The new website will enhance our thriving online community with new and improved tools to engage members and supporters. Customized logos for branches and states will be available for members to download on February 21.



Source: www.aauwmi.org

Since the AAUW-PA Annual is held on the same date as our April branch meeting, we will not be having a meeting in April. Instead, the AAUW Pittsburgh Branch Board would like to encourage branch members to attend the AAUW-PA Annual meeting on April 13, 2013.

EMPOWERING WOMEN

AAUW-PA 2013 Annual Meeting Program

Saturday, April 13, 2013

AAUW Orientation Friday April 12

Toftrees, 1 Country Club Lane, State College, PA 16803

Friday, April 12

- 5:30-7:30 Registration
- 6:00-7:00 **Welcome and pizza/salad dinner**
AAUW Orientation, board introductions
Nominating and Elections Committee members start certification process
- 7:00-8:15 **AAUW (national) update and Town Hall (PA)**
- 8:30-10:00 Movie: *Miss Representation*

Saturday April 13

- 8:00-11:30 Registration
- 8:30-10:00 Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00 **Concurrent Sessions Part I**
Focus on AAUW: membership, student affiliates, national priorities; website
Book discussions: *Caleb's Crossing*, *Enrique's Journey*, favorite books
- 9:00-11:00 *Chair Massage*
- 10:00-11:00 *Chair Yoga*
- 10:15-11:00 **Concurrent Sessions Part II**
Leadership: leader coaching and mentoring
Advocacy: public policy, pay equity, Marcellus shale, human trafficking, CQ Tracking, gun violence
Learn & Share: icon identification, social media, visibility & publicity, website
- 11:15-11:30 Musical Interlude, Kim Cook
- 11:30-12:15 **Keynote - Christianne Corbett**, author of *Graduating to a Pay Gap*
- 12:15-1:00 **Lunch**
- 1:15-2:15 **Annual meeting and elections**
- 2:15-3:00 District meetings and election of members of Nominating and Elections Committee
- 3:00-4:00 **Awards Ceremony and Desserts**
- 4:00 Adjourn

AAUW-PA Annual Meeting Registration Form*—April 12-13, 2013

AAUW-PA 84th Annual Meeting, Toftrees Golf Resort & Conference Center, One Country Club Lane, State College, PA 16803

*Online Registration also available. To complete: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AAUWPA2013RegistrationForm>

Name _____ Branch _____ First-time Attendee? _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Special Needs: Dietary _____ Physical _____ Need a roommate Friday? _____ Yes

Reminder: You must make your own reservations. See bottom of form.

Please indicate below if you are:

____ Branch member ____ Branch President ____ State Past President ____ State Board Guest
____ State Board Member ____ College/University Rep. ____ Student Affiliate

2012-2013 Outstanding Woman? _____ Yes

2012-2013 Teal Award Recipient? _____ Yes

Check sessions you plan to attend: (Meeting ends at 4:00 pm)

FRIDAY, APRIL 12:

____ Welcome (Pizza/Salad dinner), 6:00-7:00 pm ____ National Update & Town Hall, 7:00-8:15 pm
____ Movie (*Miss Representation*) 8:30-10:00 pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 13:

____ Breakfast, 8:30-10:00 am ____ Chair massage 9:00-11:00 am ____ Chair yoga (group session), 10:00-11:00 am

Concurrent Sessions 1 (select one)

9:00-10:00 am

Focus on AAUW: ____ Membership ____ Student Affiliates ____ National Priorities
Book Discussions: ____ *Caleb's Crossing* ____ *Enrique's Journey* ____ Favorite Books

Concurrent Sessions 2 (select one)

10:15-11:15 am

Leadership: ____ Leader Coaching and Mentoring
Advocacy: ____ Public Policy ____ Pay Equity ____ Marcellus Shale
 ____ Human Trafficking ____ CQ Tracking ____ Gun Violence
Learn and Share: ____ Icon Identification ____ Social Media ____ Visibility & Publicity ____ Website

LUNCH CHOICES (select one)

____ Curried veggie kabobs ____ Chicken picatta ____ Roast pork loin

Registration: ____ \$40 Early Bird by March 20 ____ \$45 by April 4
 ____ \$15 Student Early Bird by March 20 ____ \$20 Student by April 4 (with Student ID)

Core Sessions will be from 11:15 am—4:00 pm.

DISCOUNT AND REFUND POLICIES

Early Bird Registrations with full payment must be postmarked before **March 20, 2013**. Regular Registrations must be postmarked before **April 4, 2013**. Onsite registration will be available with a \$15 late fee. Registration is cancellable with full refund if AAUW is notified by April 4, 2013. Include a stamped, self-addressed postcard or your email address for registration confirmation. If you have any questions about registration, contact Sherry Crassweller at (814) 237-3861 or (814) 574-2400, aps@psu.edu. Use "Annual Meeting 2013" in the e-mail subject line.

FOR HOTEL RESERVATION—Call Toftrees for room reservation: 814-308-0782. Mention AAUW-PA.

Rate: \$99 for double occupancy. AAUW block of rooms will be released on March 20, 2013.

Send registration form/check made payable to AAUW-PA to: **AAUW-PA c/o
Sherry Crassweller, 2264 Charleston Drive, State College, PA 16801**

Meet AAUW-PA Officer Nominees

The AAUW-PA Nominating Committee is pleased to present the names of the following candidates for election at the 84th Annual AAUW-PA Meeting, April 13, 2013. Respectfully Submitted, Susan McNamara, Nominating Chair.

Susan Donahue—Finance Officer, 2013-2015 Susan Donahue joined the Lansdale Branch in 2006, and in that short time, she served two terms as Finance Officer, secured 501C3 status for the branch, was named an *Outstanding Woman*, and is the Co-Chair of Lansdale's Excellence in Writing Committee.

After earning degrees from Millersville University (Accounting) and Temple University (Health Care Administration), Susan worked in hospital administration, clinical research, IT and software quality and testing, in addition to raising her children. She is now an adoption consultant and consignment sale owner. Susan commented, "As finance officer, my primary role will be to continue to maintain fiscal responsibility and oversee management of state funds."

Susan Norris—Secretary - (re-election term 2013-2015)

Following life's path, Valley Forge is the fifth AAUW branch in which Susan Norris has been active since 1974. She served as Valley Forge branch president from 2005-2009, co-chair of the branch book sale for six years, and is a member of their *Let's Read Math* team. She has attended several AAUW national conventions, and has been a regular participant at state conventions since the 1980s.

Additionally, Susan is active with the League of Women Voters. Susan has a BA from Wheaton College, and an MLS from the University of Pittsburgh. Her professional experiences include appointments as Librarian, Library Director, and Informational Specialist. Though retired, Susan works as needed for her family-run manufacturing and self-storage business.

Susan believes that a primary focus of AAUW-PA's job is "to support and encourage struggling branches while awarding and emulating successful ones. Keeping accurate and timely minutes of board meetings is important to assisting branches." Susan says she would be honored to continue to serve the organization.

Jackie Heaney—Co-VP Membership, 2013-2015

Jackie Heaney has been an active member of the Beaver Valley Branch since 1990, serving two terms each as Public Policy Chair and Branch President. She developed the branch website, was named *Outstanding Woman* twice, and Educational Named Gift Honoree. Jackie attended Edinboro University (B.S.ED) and Penn State (M.ED).

Jackie's career has included work in career services, vocational counseling and case management. She volunteers with the Women's Center of Beaver County and the United Way. In her new position, Jackie wants to be sure branches are equipped with the tools to attract new members. "The more active the branch, the better opportunity for membership growth," she added.

Linda Tozier—Co-VP Membership - (re-election term 2013-2015)

Linda Tozier's experience with AAUW is long and broad. Currently, she is a member of the AAUW Leadership Corps and AAUW Nominating Committee, AAUW-PA membership Vice President, and North Hills McKnight branch president. Prior to this, Linda was national Director-at-Large 2009-11, Middle Atlantic Regional Director, 2005-2009 and AAUW-PA President, 2002-2004. Linda has attended many national, state, and regional conventions, some which she has chaired. She has also served as a National AAUW Leader-on-Loan to several state conventions as well as for branches within Pennsylvania.

Linda's education includes a BS in Elementary Education and MS in Education from Bucknell, which she applied to a career as mentor, teacher, and children's center director.

Linda is running for a final term as Co-Membership Vice President because she wants to mentor others who share her passion for AAUW. She feels that it is imperative that the state Board continues to encourage members to stay active and recruit others to join AAUW. She adds, "I will support each of you as we advance equity for women and girls in PA."

2013 OFFICIAL AAUW-PA BALLOT

Please mark choices with an "X."

Finance Officer 2013-2015

Nominees:

Susan Donahue _____

Other _____

Secretary 2013-2015

Nominees:

Susan Norris (re-elect) _____

Other _____

Co-Vice President, Membership 2013-2015

(Please vote for 2 candidates)

Nominees:

Jackie Heaney _____

Linda Tozier (re-elect) _____

Other _____

Please mail ballot, using instructions provided on this page, to Susan McNamara, Nominations Chair. Your ballot must be received no later than **Friday, April 5, 2013**, in order for it to be valid and counted.

AAUW-PA Election of 2013 Voting Instructions for Members

Susan McNamara, AAUW-PA Nominations Chair

aauwpaeast@gmail.com

Submission deadline: Bring the ballot to the annual meeting or return it to your branch president to bulk mail or hand carry to the Annual Meeting on April 13. Alternatively, you can mail it yourself. If mailed, your ballot must be **received** no later than **Friday, April 5, 2013**, by Dr. McNamara at the address below, in order for it to be valid and counted.

All instructions for voting must be completed exactly as required in order for your ballot to be valid. Please ask for clarification from your branch officers or from AAUW-PA officers before voting if you have any questions or concerns about the appropriate way to file your ballot.

Your official ballot is on this page, to be clipped out and returned to the Nominations Chair, listed below.

- **Read** the information about each nominee on page 2 and make your choice for each office. Mark an "X" in the blank provided on the ballot. Fold and insert the completed ballot into a small (4" x 6" or similar) envelope. **Do not place any marks on this envelope.**
- **Insert** the **blank envelope**, containing the ballot, into a larger (#10 or similar) envelope. Seal the envelope and, on the reverse or flap side of this envelope, do the following:
- **PRINT legibly** your name as it appears in AAUW membership records so that the Nominations and Elections Committee can locate it in our membership files.
- **SIGN your name** as you normally would, below your printed name.
- **PRINT the name of your branch –or–** if you are not a member of any particular branch, PRINT the letters "MAL" below your signature.
- **FILE** your ballot either by returning it to your branch president or by mailing it.

If mailing your ballot, please send it to: **Susan McNamara, Ph.D., AAUW-PA Nominations, 2060 15th Street, Bethlehem, PA 18020**. Your mailed ballot must reach Susan no later than **April 5, 2013**, in order to be counted.