

EASTERN DELAWARE COUNTY BRANCH

# THE COUNTY LINE



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## AAUW Value Statement

By joining AAUW we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

## Mission & Diversity Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to members to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national orientation, disability, or class.



## *Letter from the Chairperson*

Dear Ladies,

This June our branch lost our dear co-chairperson, Sally Rhode, to a cardiac event. At our July board meeting we discussed establishing a memorial fund for our branch. The money that is donated in a member's memory would be used toward our DCCC Scholarship Fund as well as new branch ventures, such as our STEM initiatives. As you may remember, our branch established the DCCC Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$400.00, but in recent years we have had to give lesser amounts. We welcome and are very interested in the membership's thoughts about setting up of a memorial fund and the use of any monies from this fund.

Recently Nancy Maclay and I spent a few hours going through old newsletters. We sorted and organized them, then got them ready to go to Harrisburg to be archived. There is still a lot more to be done and we welcome all helpers! Please contact Nancy Maclay or Greta Hodgson if you can help with this task in any way. The help would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Greta Hodgson



### New Partners!

With the success of our branch collaboration with Delaware County Community College last May with the STEM Scholar Event, we now have begun a partnership with DCCC. Since May's event, they have become a college/university member of AAUW! We will also be part of their upcoming Women in STEM roundtable. Their enthusiasm about our branch being a partner with them on women's issues especially in STEM is energizing and stimulating. We will let you know more details about this exciting venture in future newsletters.

Our branch is now a co-sponsor with the League of Women Voters on two League events:

Wednesday, September 27 @ 7:00pm – “Fake News” panel discussion (see review below)

Friday, November 17 @ 11:30am—League of Women Voters Hot Topics Luncheon on “Redistricting”. For more information, please go to the League of Women Voters website: <http://www.lwvcdc.org>



On Wednesday, September 27 several branch members attended the panel discussion on “Fake News” which our branch co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters. The speakers were Dr. Jim Caccamo, St. Joseph's University Associate Professor of Theology, whose teaching emphasizes Christian social ethics, Dr. Michael Boyle, West Chester University Professor of Communications whose teaching reflects how news media present issues to the public, and our own branch member, Anne Mosakowski, Instructional Technology Specialist and conducts online technology courses for educators. Dr. Caccamo started the discussion by defining “news” and its origins, how “fake news” is false information caused by obfuscation. He summarized by saying “we need accurate data (facts) to be a good society, with communication brings respect.” Dr. Boyle's slant to the topic was to use the analogy “Food vs. Media” that there is good and bad in each and decisions made about each of these can be emotionally charged. He focused on “information overload”, how this ‘overload’ makes us take shortcuts in understanding and relating information we have been given, and lastly, how our biases govern how we “listen” to news. Anne's approach to the night's topic was through educators' eyes. We must learn what sites are legitimate news sites versus those that are not and how to recognize fake news story on the internet. Anne introduced her Wiki page that she uses with educators that take her online courses.

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**FAKE**  
NEWS (continued)

On her Wiki page, you can find valuable websites and podcasts that instruct what to look for when evaluating a news website, a list of 1001 URLs (web addresses) that are fake or bias news sites, and how to recognize fake news stories. Her Wiki address is:

[amits.wikispaces.com/Information](http://amits.wikispaces.com/Information)

This was a very informative evening and the topic is one that we need to continue to learn more about...please take the time to really look at Anne's website and to paraphrase Dr. Boyle "learn to recognize accurate data so we can be a better society".

***Important Information from Marge Holcomb***

Branch member, Marge Holcomb, has been working with groups involved in Anti-Human Trafficking. On **October 7<sup>th</sup>** *Walk Her Home* will be having their first 5K run at the Westtown School in West Chester. *Walk Her Home* ([walkherhome.org](http://walkherhome.org)) is an organization governed by a Board of Directors with a mission to create awareness and raise funds for organizations that provide support and housing for victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in the United States. Proceeds from participants, donors and sponsors of this charity walk will be donated to:



Another event about Human Trafficking will be on **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** at Swarthmore Presbyterian Church on Harvard Ave. Carol Metzger, a well-known author and activist on Human Trafficking will be speaking.

***Note from Greta***

Greta Hodgson received a letter from Dot McLane, president of AAUW-PA, stating she had received a thank you letter from a young woman who was a recipient of funds made possible by the Mary H. Purcell fund. Mary Purcell was a very active member of AAUW and our branch. To quote Dot, "Mary made you understand what a superstar she is, and she is a remarkable woman." Attached you will find the letter from Marissa Heller, who is now a MS Occupational Therapy student at Thomas Jefferson University.

**Remember to look on our branch website for more information**  
<http://edelco-pa.aauw.net>