



Eastern Delaware County Branch

The County Line

special edition

February 2019



Dear Ladies,

This special edition of The County Line is to inform all our branch members of a new program called Laundromat Library League. In December, Margaret Staarman, of the AAUW West Chester Branch, reached out to us, asking if our branch would be interested in collaborating on a project called Laundromat Library League. The goal of Laundromat Library League is to make books available to children who have little or no access to books at home. Children can borrow a book, return it and take another home. The Laundromat Library League seeks to encourage children's literacy at a fundamental level with free books. It is a small but important link in a support network to encourage lifelong learning.

Here is an outline of how Laundromat Library League works. The LLL participant places "Library Boxes" in laundromats and occasional other sites. A deliverer monitors these twice a month and, when needed, delivers a bag of replacement books to refresh the box. From time to time a "sort and sticker" session of volunteers is convened to place the LLL sticker on received books, sort them, and place them into bags for eventual use. Each replacement bag has the full range of books from toddler to teen, fiction and nonfiction.

The founders, Arlene Rengert and Karen Iacobucci, began the Laundromat Library League in 2014. The idea has spread all over the Delaware Valley (Pennsylvania/New Jersey/Delaware) and beyond. They have created a network of laundromat libraries. Also, their website includes reproducible flyers, stickers and additional information that any participating group would need to get this project started.

A few of our board members contacted Arlene with questions about the laundromats in Delaware County that would benefit from LLL. As you can imagine, the list was quite extensive. The need for this type of literacy program is crucial in our area. We feel that this program connects easily with AAUW philosophy and its mission. Also, it is the type of project ALL of our branch members can participate in, piece-by-piece or whole-heartedly. For example, there are many in our branch who now live in retirement and/or 55+ communities that have a community center with activity bulletin boards. A branch member can post flyers requesting donations, such as: books that grandchildren no longer read and would like to find a “new home” for them or ask those who would purchase a book to donate for LLL. Also, there are those in our branch who might be willing to place our branch logo/LLL sticker on books that would be included in the “Library boxes”. What a tremendous help that would be! All those small steps together create a much-needed service to support literacy in communities throughout Delaware County.

Our plan is to go forward and start this process. However, we will start with only one (1) laundromat. Our greatest hope is that we can start other “laundromat libraries” throughout Delaware County along with the support and help from our Junior girls who can use it as a service project in their respective communities. We plan on sharing information about Laundromat Library League and how to get involved with these girls at our Junior Girls Recognition Award ceremony on Wednesday, April 3, 2019.

If you have any questions, offers of help in any way, or need further information, please contact:

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or

Go to the Laundromat Library League website:

<http://laundromatlibraryleague.org>



Branch Happenings to remember:

Wednesday, April 3—Junior Girls Recognition Awards

Thursday, May 9—STEM Scholars Recognition Awards