

West Side Stories

Western Sussex (DE) Affiliate of the Delaware AAUW
May 2019 Edition



Dana Bowe, DE TOY

What a great program we had in the month of March, with a visit and presentation from Dana Bowe, Delaware's 2019 Teacher of the Year. Her infectious enthusiasm for educating the most vulnerable students with compassion, high expectations, and genuine love was evident in her presentation and shared video.

Dana is the youngest daughter of Shirley and Jim Blackwell. Their oldest daughter Kim is also a compassionate, dedicated educator, serving as principal at the ECEC in Woodbridge. It's obvious Shirley and Jim instilled a love of education in both their girls.

Dana talked about her Shared Inclusion Classroom at West Seaford Elementary school, and how she set up a "Choose to Include" club, encouraging strong relationships with students who are different than others. Her hope is that her students will be welcomed into the community as they are welcomed into the school community.

Dana did not come alone. She brought Stephanie Tyler who represented the Project Search Program at Nanticoke Memorial Hospital. This is a global employment readiness program that was started in 1996 with the goal of employing adults with disabilities. Currently, those who are served in this program are attending 1 hour in a classroom setting, then spending the rest of their time at NMH. While there, they are working in different areas of the hospital, learning new skills and even "auditioning" for employment.

The goal of this program is to help them find real jobs out in our communities. They are prepared with coursework in financial literacy and create "video" resumes of their skills. The program has provided many students with jobs, including employment at NMH.

Both ladies emphasized that this program "offers the opportunity," but the students are doing the rest. (continued on page 3).

2018-19 Meeting Dates:

~~September 26, 2018~~

~~November 28, 2018~~

~~January 23, 2019~~

~~March 27, 2019~~

May 22, 2019



**All meetings begin with dinner around 6pm,
followed by a program ending around 8pm.**

**We currently have
27 branch members.**

MENU

RSVP to Shirley 629-8806 or
blackwell629@comcast.net

May Menu

Plated Salad
Chicken Marsala with Mushrooms
Tilapia topped with Crabmeat
Zucchini and Squash Casserole
Asparagus
Key Lime Pie
Chocolate Spoon Cake

RSVP by
May 17



DE AAUW information can
be easily accessed by
going to their website at:
<https://aauw->

WESTERN SUSSEX LEADERSHIP

President - Joyce Mackler

Treasurer - Ellen Wright

Secretary - Pat Davidson

Membership - Barbara Johnson

Program - Shirley Blackwell & Mikki Madden

Newsletter - Mikki Madden

International - Rajani Purandare

Scholarships - Marcia Windley & Lisa Tobin

Sunshine - Mary Ellen Farquhar

Past Pres. & State Nominating - Pat Davidson

VACANT - Bylaws & Public Policy



Yearly membership is \$70.
**If you have questions, please
contact Barbara Johnson,
Membership Chair.**
**Just a note, non-paying
members will be removed
from our rosters.**

**Please continue to bring
friends who may be interested
in joining. The only way we
can grow is if we keep sharing
with our friends!**

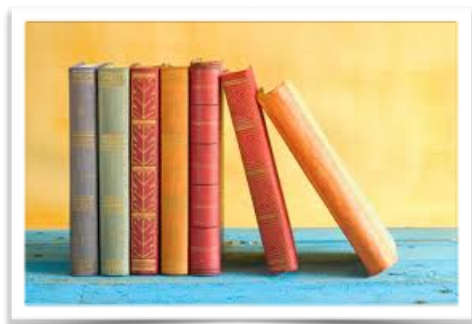
For more information about Dana, visit:
<https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/education/2018/10/16/west-seaford-elementary-ed-teacher-wins-2019-teacher-year/1663251002/>

For more information about Project Search, please visit
www.projectsearchnanticoke.com



Dana Bowe, Shirley Blackwell (member),
and Stephanie Tyler

Please take the time to visit our state site at <https://aauw-de.aauw.net> for information about upcoming events that are taking place in and around our state. Our state webpage is a plethora of information about what's happening through our AAUW, especially at the national level.



Did you know that in our area, planting before May 1 (or some use Mother's Day) is not a good idea? It's best to wait for May 1 or afterwards to avoid possible frost.

JOIN THE BOOK CLUB!

Come and meet up the second Monday of every month in the Allen Room of the Seaford Library at 4:00pm.

Visit at: <http://www.seaforddistrictlibrary.org/adult.html> for more info!



TREASURER'S REPORT - March 2019

OPERATING EXPENSES ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance	\$1282.33
Income Total	\$0.00
Dues	\$0.00
Expenses Total	\$182.00
Cash (Geranium Sale)	\$220.00
TOTAL	\$220.00
Ending Balance	\$1062.33

SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance	\$7203.67
Income Total	\$601.22
Geranium Sale (Early Deposit)	\$1218.50
Interest (April)	\$0.59
Expenses Total	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$8422.76

Our financial records were audited by
Gerri Mitchell and Ann Bleile.
Everything was in perfect order!



We kindly ask each member to submit their yearly dues at our May meeting if you are able. Dues for the coming year are due by July 1, 2019. If we can get a head start on this we'd be very thankful!

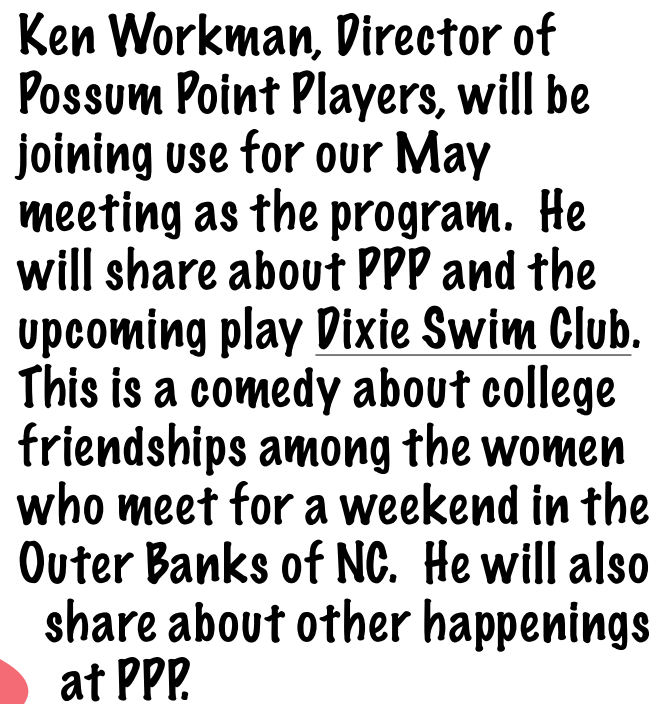
Please send any newsletter information to Mikki Madden at
mikssterlingstyle@gmail.com



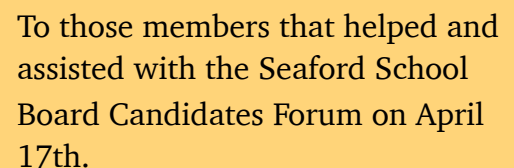
A community wide thank you goes out to member Leanne Phillips-Lowe for her tireless service to the city of Seaford as a council member. Leanne has "retired" from her seat, but leaves behind a service record of commitment and compassion to the city. Thanks Leanne. We are proud to know you!

We are always searching for program ideas for our meetings. If you happen upon something that interests you, share it with Shirley or Mikki.


We'd love to have as many ideas as we can when planning our programming!



We talked at our March meeting about the possibility of hosting a Meet and Greet at Heritage Shores in Bridgeville, with the intent of raising our club's awareness with the ladies living there. We need to add members ladies!



It was is a pleasure to share this opportunity with the community and to allow candidates the chance to share their views for the future of our school district.



Did you know? In any given year, no month ever begins or ends on the same day of the week as May does.

Dues for AAUW will soon be done through an on-line portal system as per AAUW National. Our branch will set up this process to allow ALL our members the convenience and ease to complete this, including help from more "tech-savvy" members. Stay tuned for more info.

Board Minutes



April 11, 2019. Western Sussex AAUW Board Meeting

Attendees: Joyce Mackler, Lisa Tobin, Ellen Wright, Pat Davidson, Shirley Blackwell

Geraniums: Orders are a little less than last year but equal to the year before. Kathi Adams son and friend have volunteered to help with unloading. Ellen is preparing the cash box and change, Anne will provide the cones for color signs, Mikki will provide tables to help with large orders, Pat will bring the card table and chairs, Shirley will bring donuts. Pat will text those that volunteered to help and Joyce will send a notice to the members to call and remind customers.

Membership: Form for membership needs to be updated with the new method to join. This needs to be ready for the newsletter. Joyce is checking on the sequence to process membership online.

May meeting: May need to use the laptop to demonstrate the new method to join online. Will need a cheat sheet for members to take home.

Possum Point singers will not be able to attend. The director will attend and share how the process is handled for new productions.

Forum: The Forum for local school board candidates is ready for April 17th at Central Auditorium at 7:00. Members have volunteered to help with the questions, greet people and hand out question cards, timers, and Joyce will introduce Steve Schwartz as moderator.

Scholarship: Lisa will be checking if Maria will be needing the money that was set aside for her second semester and can be used in September. If not needed the money will be returned to our account for future use.

Lisa reported that we have 14 applications for the current scholarship money. We shared a concern about only one applicant from Seaford. It was discussed about speaking with the guidance counselors to understand the process in Seaford and if there is anything that we could do to help.

An email will be sent asking the membership to help work on the interviews. They will be meeting the week of May 5th, finishing before May 22nd meeting date.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Davidson, Secretary

President's Message May 2019



Greetings members. We have had a very busy and productive April. First, our School Board Candidate Forum went off well thanks to the planning and leadership of Jean Gandek and Gerry Mitchell and assistance of the other members who came to help and support the event. So much was done to publicize the event that it is hard to understand the low public turnout. But we did our part to give the candidates a chance to be heard. Don't forget to vote this Tuesday, May 14th at the high school.

Thanks to Lisa Tobin, we received a number of applicants for our high school graduate scholarship from Woodbridge, Laurel, Seaford, Delmar and Sussex Tech high schools. We completed the interviews last night and have chosen 2 recipients, each of whom will be awarded \$1000. Lisa is inviting the young ladies to our May meeting so you can all meet them. Thank you to Lisa and the committee members for making this possible.

Lastly, our geranium sale went extremely well. We have to acknowledge all of the work that Pat Davidson does every year with this. It takes a lot of time and organization to keep all of the orders straight for almost 2300 geraniums! We had a nice day for the sale and our members who came to help beginning at 7 am were wonderful. Thank you so much to those of you who sold geraniums for our branch. This fundraiser and our fall raffle make all of our scholarship offerings possible.

We have our final branch meeting of the year coming up in a few weeks. We hope you will be there to meet our scholarship recipients and celebrate our year. Also, you will have one more opportunity to donate to the Students in Transition Fund if you desire.

It is time to renew your membership in AAUW for the new year which begins on July 1. Barbara Johnson and our new membership chair, Pat Reilly-Butcher would really appreciate you taking care of your dues at the May meeting so we can be prompt in reporting to national by the end of June.

Lastly, our branch needs your help to keep things moving forward. Please invite a friend to a meeting to boost our membership. Also, as you fill out your membership renewal, please think about what you can do to help sustain our branch. We are in need of one or two members to take over as Program Planners and it would be really nice to have someone move into the position of branch president. This is everyone's branch and we cannot always rely on the same people to pilot the ship. Please look over the opportunities to participate in branch activities that are listed on your renewal form. I guarantee you will find it to be a great experience.



Joyce