

American Association of University Women  
Huntingdon Branch

For Release Right away

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50 Year Award

Photo: Pat Croissant (left), Huntingdon Branch member, is shown presenting Joanne Gordon the certificate for her 50 years of membership in AAUW.

Joanne Gordon of the Huntingdon Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) was awarded a 50 year membership certificate for her years in AAUW. Joanne joined the branch in 1966 when she was a young teacher at Smithfield Elementary.

She credits the teachers at Smithfield for introducing her to AAUW. They thought she would benefit a lot from the experience. She tells that she was excited when she met the AAUW ladies. There was tremendous energy as well as a diversity of people working towards goals that were important to her. Joanne served in several positions as a member of the Branch. She was President (1989-1990), Treasurer and Membership Chairman for many years. She was also a Woman of the Year in 1989.

She helped with the successful Career Shadowing Program (1990-2010) that was carried out in the Huntingdon Area School District and Juniata Valley School District. She also assisted with some of the candidates forums that the branch sponsored. For many years she was also in charge of the Huntingdon Branch AAUW High School Senior Girls Awards which honors one senior girl from each of the four county high schools.

Joanne was raised in Somerset County PA and she obtained a BS in Education at Juniata College and then finished a Masters in Language Arts at Pittsburgh. Her first teaching job was in Windsor Township York County PA in 1961. She says that they offered her the highest salary, \$4000 a year. In 1966 she moved to the Huntingdon area where she taught at Woodcock Valley and Smithfield.

In 1966 she married Sam Gordon and they had two children Ben and Amy. She was asked to substitute at Juniata Valley Elementary in 1989 and that turned out to be almost a full-time job. About that time decided she wanted to finish her certificate as a Reading Specialist so

she also took classes at Penn State. She had not realized when she was at Pittsburgh that her studies for her Masters would not qualify her for her certificate.

She is thankful to her husband for taking on the extra duties of helping with their two children on those long days of teaching and driving to the Penn State Main campus. She was finally handed the certificate and eventually she became a full-time teacher in the Juniata Valley Area School District.

She retired from the school system in 2001 and has 5 grandchildren, Brayden, Adelyn, Madison, Cody and Cory. Her home for many years was in Hartslog Valley and now lives in Martinsburg at Homewood.

AAUW is committed in advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. In principle and 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 and disability. Call Pat Croissant for further details on membership, 643-0606.