

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

From the President ~ Mary Crane-Franek

This is my last column as your president. I want to thank you for the honor of serving as your president. I have increased my knowledge of AAUW, our community, and expanded my relationships. I now better understand the commitment, energy and in-depth expertise of the Board and committee members. I will move on to Membership VP and, again, my appreciation of Chris Ferrando will grow as I begin to walk in the footsteps of someone who has held this position for six years.

I just returned from the AAUW Michigan State Convention that was held in Port Huron. Some highlights are:

- Susan Barley, National AAUW Board member, shared that National has been running a deficit for the last three years, but will adopt a balanced budget for 2017-18 at the upcoming National Convention. This entails cutting programs, developing more efficiencies and cutting some staff. To do this they must prioritize what AAUW does well and eliminate some programs - Tech Track will be transferred back to the state level and Elect Her, a program AAUW developed to help women run for political office, has been sold to another company that is better positioned to utilize its potential.
- *Outlook* magazine will be available electronically which will save a lot of money. The electronic version will be more robust and include links. A printed issue will be available for those who want it.
- National's new priorities will be: (1) Research (2) College & University Relations, (3) Public Policy with an emphasis on Gender Pay Gap, and (4) STEM.

On Tuesday night, June 6, I attended the Midland Area Foundation Scholarship Award Night where I had the opportunity to meet the recipients of our Women in Transition Scholarships. Amazing women! I am so pleased we are able to help them and two graduating high school seniors in their academic endeavors.

AAUW Midland Branch will hold a summer planning meeting. All members are invited. Our 2017-18 President, Kim Steinke, will set this up. Look for an announcement from Kim.

Three Branch Members Attain 50 Year Status

At the May meeting, three Midland Branch members were recognized as Honorary Life Members of AAUW. Carol Hoerneman-Plaush, Sharon Salinger and Cathy Heng were presented with certificates and pins from National.

Over the years, each has been active in the Branch and each still serves in various ways. Carol is chair of the NCCWSL committee that selected our 2017 young college leader to attend the national conference. Sharon serves on the Used Book Sale committee arranging for donation barrels to be placed in stores and then helping pick up books. Cathy is a past Branch President and currently writes memorials for the *Twig*.



What's Next for Fund #4277? ~ Jane Wirth, AAUW Funds

One year ago we got word from AAUW National that our goal of contributing \$100,000 to an American Fellowship Fund in our name was complete. We heaved a big sigh. What happens now you ask?

The selection of recipients of AAUW fellowships is underway right now in Washington, DC. They will be announced in mid-summer. Our branch president will be notified of the winner and it might even be someone in Michigan. The awards committees keep location in mind as they make their selections. We will have a chance to communicate with our fellowship winner and might even have the opportunity to invite her to speak to our branch. So, stay tuned; there will be information in the September *Twig* about the first recipient of the Midland Branch American Fellowship!

Thank You Notes

From our 2017 NCCWSL awardee – “I can never thank you enough for all that you have done for me. I can't wait for the conference. I have been wanting to go for the longest time. ... Without the Midland AAUW there is absolutely no way I could have gone. I'm so incredibly thankful.” Sarah Chase

Thank you letters were also received from Shelterhouse, Zonta Club of Midland and Friends of the Standish Library. Our Branch Used Book Sales benefit the community in more ways than scholarships and the recycling of books. Attractive boxes of books were donated to two community fundraisers, Shelterhouse and the Zonta Club of Midland, to benefit their missions. Friends of the Standish Library pick up all of our remaining books and sell them to fund a variety of community projects.



In Memory of Irene Fleming & Charlotte Seiler

~ Cathy Heng

Irene W. Fleming, a native of the Tri-City area, generously shared her multiple talents of music, organization and leadership. A graduate of Central Michigan University, she was a teacher and professional musician in Detroit.

Irene worked for The Dow Chemical Company and was a member of the Midland Symphony League and Midland Music Society; she directed St. John's Lutheran choir. She spread her work through Women's Study Club, Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, Northwood University's Town and Campus and Trinity Lutheran Church.

Irene was a lifetime member of AAUW. She was active in various Branch board positions, reading and study groups and special committees. She was a Named Gift Honoree in 1971 and was named to the Honor Roll of Women as Agents of Change in 1977-79.

Life Member Charlotte Seiler passed away Sunday May 21, 2017 in Venice FL where she had resided for about the last 9 years. Charlotte was very active in the Midland Branch during the 50s and 60s and was a Named Gift Honoree of the Branch in 1979. She had been a member for 76 years. The family has suggested AAUW National be a recipient of donations in her memory.

Scholarships Awarded ~ Karen Adams, Scholarship Chair

The Midland Area Community Foundation announced the winners of AAUW Midland Branch Endowed Scholarships for 2017. Each \$2,000 scholarship will enable four women to begin or continue her studies at Michigan schools. The Scholarship Committee chose recipients based on merit, goals, need, and potential for success or potential for contributing to society.

Graduating Senior Woman Scholarships

Katie Avery is a 2017 graduate of H.H. Dow High School who plans to begin her college career at Central Michigan University, majoring in psychology. Katie's goal is to become a clinical psychologist working in a mental health unit or perhaps in addiction therapy or as a child psychologist. As a high school student, Katie maintained a high GPA while participating in several extracurricular activities. The scholarship from AAUW Midland Branch will help Katie become a psychologist to, in her own words, "help people get through rough times".

Brynn Rohde, a 2017 graduate of Midland High School, will begin her studies as a double major in art and biology at Hope College in the fall. With a focus on ecology and visual arts and communication, she hopes to develop new techniques for bioremediation, improve methods of conservation, and share her ideas and passions in a visual form to bring about change and inspire others. While in high school, Brynn maintained a high GPA and participated in several extracurricular activities. Citing Rachel Carson as her inspiration for a woman who used her literary skills in the sciences, Brynn says, "I have a plan for my future and I intend to follow it."

Woman in Transition Scholarships

Mary Jo LaRue is a student at Saginaw Valley State University and a second-year recipient of the AAUW scholarship for women in transition. In the fall, Mary Jo will be a senior at SVSU in the Social Work program with a goal of becoming a Medical Social Worker in a hospital setting. She says, "I want to give back and help society, particularly those who have had difficult times while being hospitalized."

Chelsea Sauve is currently on the staff at Carpenter School in Midland. For the last five years Chelsea has served as an after-school tutor and taught in the summer school program. She is one of the teachers piloting the curriculum for a new STEM program and will be working to train and mentor other teachers. She will use the AAUW scholarship to continue her studies at Central Michigan University, working toward a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

The Scholarship Review Team consisted of Dave Wirth, Karen Adams, Sue Bufka, and Melissa Port.

Branch Dues Notice ~ Judy Donahue, 2 VP Membership

You should have received an invoice via email or regular mail by now. Dues for 2017-18 are \$78. Of this amount, \$49 goes to national (\$46 of this \$49 is tax deductible). Another \$12 goes to AAUW of Michigan. The remaining \$17 will fund Midland Branch operations. If you did not receive notice or if you need help to renew, contact Judy Donahue. Please see the *Membership Directory* for Judy's contact information.

Women and Student Loans ~ June Turley, Public Policy Chair

The student debt crisis is more than an economic problem — it's a gender problem because it affects women even more than men. AAUW's new research report, [Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans](#), notes that women hold 64 percent of all U.S. student debt, a total of \$833 billion compared to \$477 billion held by men. Although a college degree generally leads to higher earnings, women with college degrees are paid 26 percent less than men with college degrees. As a result, women carry student loans longer than men, with black and Hispanic women facing particular financial hardship. A college degree should open the doors to possibility, not bury students in debt. *Taken from a May 24, 2017 e-mail sent by [Kevin Miller \(AAUW National\)](#).*

Gardening for Fun - August Excursion ~ Jane Wirth, excursion planner

Do you remember the Traverse City State Hospital? Part of the 1,000+ acre facility included farms to feed the several thousand residents and staff. It has been transformed into The Village—Grand Traverse Commons. The Historic Barns Park (part of The Village) includes The Botanic Garden where “environmental sustainability is a guiding principle.”

The Gardening for Fun group is planning a visit to the Botanic Garden on **Tuesday, August 1** (rain day alternative—August 8). Rough plans for the trip: Leave Midland at 7:30 a.m.; Tour at 11:00 a.m.; Lunch in The Village; Other Traverse City options. There is interest in staying overnight by some, but a second car could plan to return to Midland at the end of the day. The travel time is about 2.5 hours.

The website says: “Our Botanic Garden Tours include guided exploration of areas like our Visitor Center, Pavilion, Walled Garden, several Garden areas (some that are currently works in progress), the Historic Barns, and more. Tours last approximately 45 minutes-1 hour (it depends on the Docent and the group interaction!) The Tours involve walking and we do have a golf cart available for those who may need some extra support. There is no cost for tours but donations are kindly requested.” Get more information at: <http://thebotanicgarden.org/visit/>

If you would like to join us, **please indicate your interest to Kerry Buell by Wednesday, June 28.** Please see the *Membership Directory* for Kerry's contact information.

President: Mary Crane-Franek; President-elect: Kim Steinke; 1st VP Program: Chris Ferrando;
2nd VP Membership: Judy Donahue; The *Twig* Editor: Pauline Pittsley

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