



# The Twig

Midland Branch Newsletter ~ June 2018

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

## Branch to Host Women's Issues Candidate Forum

The Midland Branch Board approved a Public Policy Committee proposal to host a forum addressing women's issues for candidates for state house 98<sup>th</sup> district, state senate 36<sup>th</sup> district, and the US House of Representatives 4<sup>th</sup> district. A late July date is proposed contingent on participants' schedules. The forum will be held in the evening at a venue to be selected.

Questions will be formulated by Branch public policy members regarding AAUW National priorities: Equal Pay, Gender Equality, Living Wage, Title IX in schools, and Sexual Harassment. The audience will be able to submit written questions limited to these topics. It will not be a debate; the purpose is to solicit the candidates' viewpoints.

LWV, Zonta and other local organizations, the general public, and the media will be invited. Members interested in volunteering to assist in this project are asked to contact Jane Wirth. Assistance is needed to 1) follow-up with candidates on participation and forum details, 2) distribute cards for questions, then collect and review audience questions to pass on to the moderator, 3) other behind the scenes tasks. Once the date and place are set, notice will be sent to members. These topics are of particular interest to women; your participation and attendance at the forum are encouraged!

## President's Message ~ Kim Steinke

*Thank You All for a Successful Year:*

As the end of my term as President of the Midland Branch approaches, I very much want to thank all our Officers, Committee Chairs and members for your hard work and support. Some key highlights include:

- The Used Book Sale team's very successful year that enabled us to increase our support for local scholarships and contributions to various national AAUW Funds to \$17,000.
- Program Chair Mary Crane-Franek and her committee's presentation of a wide range of programs which included a local focus in addition to two key National areas of focus, STEM and public policy.
- Judy Donahue's leadership on public policy issues both locally and at the state level; in particular, her engagement related to the gender pay gap. Judy developed an Equal Pay presentation offered to AAUW branches, and as a workshop presented at the annual AAUW of Michigan State Convention.
- It was my privilege to attend the State Convention and support passage of a State Board Resolution supporting the National Board's by-law changes and their Strategic Plan to be implemented in June 2018. The Strategic Plan includes: Maintaining Level of Scholarships (AAUW gave more fellowships/grants to women than any other organization) and a Commitment to Change: (AAUW can no longer be "all things to all people," partner where appropriate, help all women survive and thrive.)

*Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer! Kim*

## 2018 Named Gift Honorees

*Jane Wirth, AAUW Funds*

The Midland Branch was pleased to name two members as Named Gift Honorees this year.

**Anne Johnson** served the Branch as Finance Vice President for a total of 8 years (two 4-year terms). She has been a member of the Branch for 32 years. As a CPA, she has served Midland Senior Services for 18 years. She enjoys reading, playing cards and traveling. Anne especially enjoys spending time with her family and her three dogs. Anne designated the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund to receive the \$1000 contribution in her name.

**Liz Kapla** has been a member of the Branch for 12 years. She served on the program committee 6 years and will assume the duties of Finance VP for the term beginning July 1. Liz led the mentoring activities at the Midland County Juvenile Care Center, serves on the board of King's Daughters Home and recently completed service as a Trustee for the Midland Area Community Foundation.

Our branch will make two \$1,000 contributions to the funds of their choice at our national headquarters in their honor. We deeply appreciate the contributions they have made to our branch and to the community.

## Branch Contributions for 2018

The 2017-18 Used Book Sales were very good this year. The Branch was able to send \$8000 to the Midland Area Community Foundation to cover our local scholarships (see page 3). We also made contributions at the national level: \$3000 to AAUW Funds, \$1000 to the Legal Advocacy Fund and \$2000 to be directed by our Named Gift Honorees. In addition, we covered expenses to send two college student leaders to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (participants were announced in the May 2018 Twig). A hearty thank you goes to all members of the Branch for this accomplishment.

## AAUW Midland Branch Officer Changes

Board action was taken at the June meeting to appoint Mary Crane-Franek as Branch President-elect; she will assume the position of President in July for the 2018-19 term. Carol Arnosky who served as President-elect the past year resigned due to a conflict. Chris Ferrando was then appointed to fill Mary's position of 1st VP Programs for 2018-19.

## Membership News ~ *Judy Donahue, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership*

Membership renewal notices have been sent out. Please renew as soon as possible. Starting July 1, 2018, LuEllen Deline will be the membership chair and your contact for follow-up and questions.

President: Kim Steinke, President-Elect: Mary Crane-Franek, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Programs: Chris Ferrando  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership: Judith Donahue, The Twig Editor: Pauline Pittsley

Web sites: <http://midland-mi.aauw.net> <http://aauwmi.org/> E-mail: [aauwmidland@gmail.com](mailto:aauwmidland@gmail.com)

## 2018 AAUW Midland Branch Scholarship Recipients

Karen Adams, Midland Branch Scholarship Chair

The Scholarship Selection Committee, in partnership with Midland Area Community Foundation, is pleased to extend scholarships to the following three individuals.

### Graduating Senior Woman Scholarships

**Bailie Gagne** – Bailie will be a 2018 graduate of Bullock Creek High School and is in her third and final year of the Early College Program at Delta College. She is a member of the National Honor Society where, as her capstone project, she collected supplies to donate to Midland County's Open Door. She also prepared and served meals to families at the Open Door. Bailie was a member of *The Creekers For A Cause* that worked to help families within the Bullock Creek community. This industrious, community oriented teen is also an entrepreneur as she launched a site on Etsy where she sells vintage clothing.

She will be entering Central Michigan University in the fall where she will major in Elementary Education. Based upon Bailie's academic achievements, work ethic, and career goals, Bailee will have opportunities to excel.

**Kristy Srodawa** – Kristy is a 2018 graduate of Midland High School. She participated in many extracurricular activities and community events while excelling at academics. Kristy will graduate with a 4.6 GPA and is one of the top ten students in her class based on scholastic merit. Kristy is a member of The National Honor Society and National Art Honors Society. She is a dedicated member of her church youth group. In community outreach, she has helped with *Kids Against Hunger* and helps with tutoring other students.

Kristy will apply her AAUW scholarship award to study Biological Sciences. Her career goal is to be involved in solving health and environmental issues. She has preselected either the University of Michigan or Calvin College. Because of her determination and work ethic, this remarkable teen will be a valuable member of any collegiate community and excel in her chosen career path.

### Woman in Transition Scholarship

**Amy Tesolin-Gee** – Amy graduated from Lakeland High School in 1990. After high school she attended Saginaw Valley State University and the University of Michigan. She earned Bachelor of Science degrees from each university. Following her studies at university, Amy worked in cancer research at the University of Michigan and for the national marine fisheries service at both Woods Hole, MA and at Sandy Hook, NH. She then worked at Dow Chemical Company as an Analytical technologist.

Amy also volunteered on a medical related mission to Haiti. This trip left her yearning for a deeper, more personal clinical involvement with caring for children and families. As a physician, Amy wants to eliminate barriers such as financial, geographic, or access to professional medical care. Amy is currently in her second year of attaining her Doctorate degree in medicine from Central Michigan University College of Medicine. Amy still finds time to volunteer at Mid-Michigan Health-Midland, be an active member of her church, and remain involved with the ACS-STEM Outreach group. With the financial support of AAUW along with the valuable message that AAUW believes in her work, Amy is looking ahead to graduating in June of 2020 and sharing her clinical skills with the communities she serves.

*The 2018 AAUW Scholarship Selection Committee consisted of reviewers David Wirth, Chair; Sue Bufka; and Melissa Port. Karen Adams and Susan Hillman represented AAUW Midland Branch during this process. This Committee evaluated 43 Graduating Senior Woman and 9 Woman in Transition applications. Each reviewer used a matrix with points awarded for academic achievements/merit, extracurricular activities, work experiences, potential benefit to society, family financial need, and application preparation. The review Committee selected 5 candidates from each category which were then forwarded to the Midland Area Community Foundation for final selection.*

## The Equal Rights Amendment

June Turley, Public Policy Chair

“The American Association of University Women is committed to the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The majority of Americans mistakenly believe that women and men have equal rights under the Constitution. The 14th Amendment of the Constitution explicitly states that men are guaranteed equality under law but is poignantly silent about women. The advancement of women’s equality continues incrementally through patchwork legislation and court decisions, but women’s equality under law remains illusory because these laws can be changed or even revoked at the whim of legislators and judges. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) provides the constitutional guarantee that all men and women are truly equal under the law and that these rights cannot easily be abridged. [...]

The ERA was first introduced in Congress in 1923 and was reintroduced every year until its passage in 1972. The proposed constitutional amendment required three-fifths of all states to ratify the amendment before fully implementing the ERA. State legislatures were given until 1979 to ratify the amendment, and Congress later extended the ratification deadline to 1982. By the time the final deadline passed in 1982, 35 states approved the ERA, three states short of ratification.”

The Equal Rights Amendment says:

“**Section 1:** Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

**Section 2:** The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

**Section 3:** This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification. [...]

Since failing to ratify the ERA in 1982, subsequent sessions of Congress have taken action to propose legislative solutions to include women in the Constitution. Members of Congress have proposed a bipartisan resolution calling for an amendment to the Constitution of the United States declaring that women will have equal rights when compared to their male counterparts. Typically referred to as the “start over amendment,” this resolution prohibits denying or abridging equality of rights on the account of sex.

A similar yet separate strategy, often referred to as the “three-state strategy,” is a resolution eliminating the ratification deadline from the 1972 ERA bill. If passed, the existing 35 state ratifications would still be in effect, and only three additional states would be needed to successfully ratify the ERA. [...]

The lack of constitutional equality reaches every aspect of women’s lives. The ERA would clarify, once and for all, that sex discrimination in employment, reproductive rights, insurance, Social Security, education, and more is a violation of our constitutional rights as Americans. The ERA provides the opportunity to seek legal recourse when an individual faces sex discrimination. [...]

Taken from [AAUW Issues: Equal Rights Amendment](#) - Posted by AAUW ([www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org))

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