

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

Branch General Meeting

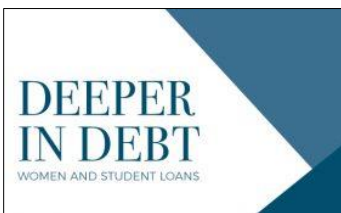
October 16, 7:00 pm, Grace A. Dow Library Community Room

Getting a Handle on Student Debt The Problem and Some Solutions

Student debt has been increasing for decades; is it a crisis or merely a problem? Can anything be done to solve it? Jarrett Skorup, director of marketing and communications at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, will share some information about student debt in Michigan and across the nation. The discussion will focus on the size of the student debt problem, what's driving it and optional solutions.



Jarrett Skorup



AAUW reports that “right now, about 44 million borrowers in the United States hold about \$1.46 trillion in student debt. The scale of outstanding student loans and an increasing share of borrowers who fail to repay them are presenting significant challenges to our society. Yet despite the fact that the majority of college and university graduates are women, many people do not think of student debt as a women’s issue.”

President’s Message

Co-President Pauline Pittsley

What a fantastic start to our 2019-20 year! On top of another very successful used book sale, we recruited new members with a special introductory offer. In addition to the 10 members who joined, many other women were introduced to our branch and what we have to offer. Lu DeLine has done a wonderful job as Membership VP.

The Used Book Sale crew spent many hours getting the sale ready. Special thanks go to Trudy Dutot and Gina Pederson for coordinating the pre-sale production of the sale and then the three days of the sale. It’s a lot of work, but they manage to have fun.

Another duo deserving of praise is Ann Hilty and Deb Kaiser who tackled a very large collection of children’s books, pricing each one and sorting them into categories that made a very attractive display.

The year will continue to be special with great programming and the anticipation of hosting the AAUW Michigan State Conference. In this issue, read about this month’s regional AAUW meeting and consider attending it to learn more about our great organization from other branches around the state.



Lu DeLine talked to a woman about the Branch.

Used Book Sale Report

Trudy Dutot, Used Book Sale Chair

Thank you everyone for helping to make the Fall Book Sale so successful.

We started with 254 banana boxes of books on Friday morning and had only 64 at the end of the sale. Sales totaled \$10,526.

Various local agencies and Friends of the Standish Library received the leftover books.



Friday morning is always the busiest time at the book sale.

Branch Officer Nominees Sought

Barb Galloway, Nominations Officer

The Nominations Committee is seeking to recruit members for election as Branch officers for terms beginning July 1, 2020. Please give thoughtful consideration to becoming an officer if you are contacted by a committee member. Committee members are: Barb Galloway, Chris Ferrando, Liz Kapla, Ruth Copp and Lu Ellen DeLine. The following officers will be elected at the Branch Annual Meeting, March 2020.

President: (2020-21) Serve as the official representative of the Branch in the activities of AAUW.

Membership Vice President: (2020-22) Serve as chair of the membership committee.

Finance Vice President: (2020-22) Collect, distribute and account for the funds of the Branch.

Delegate-at-Large: (2020-21) Represent the membership on the Board and assume duties as requested by the President(s).

Nominations Officer: (2020-21) Chair the Nominations Committee. Prepare a slate of officers and present to the membership for election at the Annual Meeting.

Mid-Michigan Fall Leadership Workshop

Jane Wirth, Co-President

Rather than host a large state-wide leadership workshop, Michigan AAUW is presenting regional leadership workshops around the state. Our region meeting will be October 19, a Saturday, at the Saginaw YMCA. Branch leaders and members can discuss challenges with state leaders and leaders from area branches.

Midland Branch policy encourages attendance by branch members and provides for registration fees to be covered by the Branch. Think about how inspiring it could be to discuss with another branch the challenges we face! We will pass along additional information as soon as we receive it. We do know that Deb Kennedy the AAUW Michigan President will be one of our workshop leaders.

Discussion Topics at the Workshop will include: Membership Recruitment and Retention / Fundraising / Community Engagement / Support for Student Leaders and Updates from State and National.

If you are interested in attending, please communicate that to Jane Wirth. We will plan to car pool.



Membership ~ Lu DeLine, 2nd VP Membership

Outstanding success with our Introductory Membership Campaign. **Ten new members!** Thank you everyone for making this a success. Welcome to AAUW Midland Branch: Larabeth Battaglia, Kari Battaglia, Sandra Burmester, Patricia Devlin, Virginia Florey, Nancy Jewett, Melanie Kline, Ann Moe, Suzane Ostahowski and Tina Predmore. More information about these new members will be in next month's newsletter.

Done in a Day ~ Kerry Buell

Get on your holiday gear and help us in hosting a house on Zonta's Homewalk on either December 7 or 8, 2019 from noon – 5:00 pm. Zonta's mission is Empowering Women through Service and Advocacy. The Homewalk is their fundraiser to provide scholarships for women and grants to area nonprofits. The five tour homes will be lavishly decorated for the holidays.

Our group would be at the same home and relay to the guests information about the home and its decorations for the holiday season. Everyone is given a tour of the home, assigned to an area and provided the information for that area. Volunteers are generally standing inside the home during the walk, though we can provide a spot to sit if needed.

Each volunteer gets a ticket to tour the other homes on the day they are not volunteering. Please sign up with Kerry Buell to participate. Indicate if you can work either date or just a specific date. You will be contacted by email, so please indicate your email if you are not currently receiving messages for Done in a Day events.

Joint Venture with Done in a Day and Gardening for Fun

Let's put on our gloves and bring gardening tools to clean up the resident garden areas at Medilodge on Wednesday, October 9 at 1:00 pm. If it is raining this day, our second date is on Thursday, October 10 at the same time. We will trim the day lilies and make the area look better for the residents. Medilodge is located at 4200 Hedgewood.

Public Policy Update ~ Judy Donahue

The AAUWMI September Lobby Corps conference call under the leadership of Mary Pollock, AAUWMI Lobbyist, was dedicated to a presentation by Andrea Gerald-Taylor who is leading a campaign called Pledge to Repeal. The campaign is an attempt to be organized early in case there is a need to repeal two proposed bills by Right to Life and Michigan Heartbeat Coalition.

AAUWMI is being asked to participate in stopping two new ballot initiatives that will restrict or remove access to abortion in Michigan by working with the Pledge to Repeal campaign. Mary's summary of Andrea's presentation is as follows:

In Michigan right now two ballot initiatives are being circulated for signatures. They will restrict or remove access to abortion ... The campaign will work with other organizations such as [#declinetosign](#) to (1) prevent these bills from bypassing the governor and being passed into law via the legislature (2) attend rallies, lobby and contact our legislators (3) if all else fails, we start now to prepare to submit a referendum repealing these bills.

AAUW trusts that every woman has the ability to make her own informed choices regarding her reproductive life within the dictates of her own moral and religious beliefs. Further, AAUW believes that these deeply personal decisions should be made without government interference.

Take the Pledge to Repeal. Send your email and zip code so we can contact you when it is time to sign the repeal. We organize now, to defeat these anti-women measures in the future. They only win if we let them. Pledge to Repeal is traveling all over the state to build a rapid response database and organize now to prevent ourselves and our family members from being subjected to these ballot initiatives. Take the Pledge now. Sign the Repeal if we need to later. <https://petitions.moveon.org/sign/pledge-to-repeal-any...> Find us on Twitter @pledgetorepeal.

► If you don't want to sign the MoveOn Pledge to Repeal petition, send your name, email address, phone number and zip code to Andrea Gerald-Taylor at pledgetorepeal@yahoo.com and she will add your name to the database for future communications.

Other News: Redistricting Commission Challenges

In early September, a Michigan judge consolidated two lawsuits seeking the invalidation of voter-approved Redistricting Commission. The AAUWMI Lobby Corps will be following the challenges.

Mark Your Calendar

October 16, Wednesday, 7:00 pm, General Meeting, GAD Library Community Room
December 5, Thursday 10:00 am, Christmas Luncheon, GAD Library Community Room
January 23, Thursday, 10:00 am, General Meeting, GAD Library Community Room
March 19, Thursday 6:30 pm, Annual Meeting
May 15-16, AAUW MI State Convention at the H Hotel
June 4, Thursday, 11:30 am, Spring Luncheon

Co-Presidents: Jane Wirth & Pauline Pittsley ~ 1st VP Program: Chris Ferrando
2nd VP Membership: Lu Ellen DeLine ~ The Twig Editor: Pauline Pittsley

Web sites: <https://midland-mi.aauw.net> <https://aauwmi.org/> **E-mail:** aauwmidland@gmail.com