

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



Annual Branch Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 10:30 am, Grace A. Dow Library, Community Room

Chase Away Those Winter Blues! Spring into Action! Attend the March meeting!

Kristi Kline, Director of Student Reading Programs at the Legacy Center for Community Success, will share stories of successes and triumphs from her ten years of experience tutoring for the Legacy Center. The Center offers one-on-one tutoring to adults and children. They offer Adult Basic Education, Dyslexia Remediation, English as a Second Language, and Workforce Skill Development. Learn how they change the lives of over 200 people a year with only 2.5 staff people and an amazing group of volunteer tutors.

The meeting will include the election of Branch officers and delegates to the state convention, as well as updates on the AAUW MI Convention to be held at the H Hotel in Midland (see convention news on page 4). Branch Chair Judy Donahue will present an update on public policy issues. Branch members will be given the opportunity to sign up to work at the Spring Used Book Sale to be held on April 24-26 at the Midland Mall.

Lunch will be catered by Panera with a choice of soups, salads, dessert and beverages. Guests are welcome. Cost is \$12. **Reservations are required by March 16.** Make checks payable to AAUW – Midland Branch. Send to P O Box 30, Midland, MI 48640.

We hope to see all of you there!

President's Message *Jane Wirth, Co-President*

March 10 is the Presidential Primary in Michigan. It will be important in selecting delegates to the respective party conventions to pick candidates for President to be on the ballot next November.



Thanks to passage of legislation in Michigan last year, there are several changes to the process this year. "New Voting Rights" with speaker Ann Manary, Midland County Clerk, was recorded on February 3 and can be viewed on Charter Channel 191 at 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. as well as other times. It is also available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEgIRRQzdOA>. This program was produced by our local League of Women Voters (LWV).

You do not need a specific reason anymore to obtain an **absentee ballot**. The option is open to anyone for any reason. By the time you receive this newsletter you will need to go to city hall or your township clerk's office to request an absentee ballot, but you could get it and vote that day if you wish. Otherwise, your absentee ballot must be returned to your clerk's office by mail or in person by 8:00 p.m. on March 10.

Election related information provided by LWV is available at <https://www.vote411.org/michigan>. For information on the status of your registration, your appropriate polling place, and sample ballots (Democrat or Republican) go to <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/>. If you need to register to vote, you can do that up to March 10 at the city clerk's office or your township clerk's office.

Other election dates to put on your calendar:

- Tuesday, **August 4**, Primary Election (to narrow the fields of candidates for local/state offices.)
- Tuesday, **November 3**, General Election

Branch Members Asked to Consider Office of President

Barb Galloway, Nominations Officer

The election of Branch officers for 2020-22 will be held at the Annual Meeting on March 19, 2020.

As you will note when you review the slate of candidates listed below, the position of President for 2020-21 is not filled. Please know that this office is not as time consuming or demanding as it was in the past. It is now a one-year position that can be co-chaired with another member. Co-Presidents can share the responsibilities as Pauline Pittsley and Jane Wirth have done this year, easing the demands of time and effort. We have very competent Board members who get things done independently. In addition, past presidents are available for direction and encouragement.

Members, please consider stepping up and taking the position of President or Co-President for the coming year.

Slate of Officers to be elected

President/ Co-President: open

Membership Vice President - Judith Cox

Finance Vice President - Liz Kapla.

Nominations Officer - Barb Galloway

Delegate-at-Large - Marie Johansen.

Join the Book Sale Team

Used Book Sale is April 24- 26 ~ Trudy Dutot, VBS Chair

The Used Book Sale SCRUB* team will meet at 11:30 am March 11 in the meeting room at Pizza Sam's to plan the Spring sale. All Branch members are invited to contribute their ideas and talents. The sale is a great opportunity for team work and camaraderie. You may purchase lunch if you like and let them know you are in the meeting room. They will bring your lunch to you.



We will begin to collect books March 28. Then books need to be picked up daily from grocery stores and delivered to our sorting room at the mall. During the month of April, we will need all the help we can get to sort the books. The job is actually fun and you get first pick at buying books.

HERstory--an exhibit at Midland Center for the Arts



Women of Midland--highlighting their accomplishments--are being featured in an exhibit through April 26. See it soon!!

Explore 20/20 Vision: Seeing HERstory as we take an in-depth view of women's contributions to the nation and the local community that shaped the last 100 years in the U.S. See portraits of and learn about local Michigan women making a difference today that changes the makers of tomorrow.

Equal Pay Day Billboard & Voting News

Judy Donahue, Public Policy Chair

AAUW Midland has again joined Zonta Midland and LWV Midland in sponsoring Zonta Midland's Equal Pay billboard on US Rte. 10 near Midland. This Equal Pay display can be seen sometime in March to coincide with US Equal Pay Day 3/31.



Plans are being finalized for the Michigan Equal Pay Day Coalition's program and rally in Lansing for the 4/29 Michigan observance of Equal Pay. I will have the final information in the April TWIG.

Easy early voting is here in Michigan. No more excuses for not voting because of long lines, bad weather or not having the time. Resulting from the passing of Proposition 3 containing the provision for eliminating the need for a reason to vote by absentee ballot, voting for all qualified voters has become very easy. For the March 10 Presidential Primary, absentee ballots have been available since Jan. 25, 2020. These ballots can be obtained by mail from the Midland City Clerk's office and returned by mail or in person, or by voting at the Midland City Clerk's office during working hours with a ballot obtained there. For further information, please visit, <https://cityofmidlandmi.gov/145/Voting-Election-Information>.

This manner of early voting will be available for all future elections, primary and general. Vote Now. No Excuses. The City of Midland continues to need poll workers for the March 10th primary election. If you are interested, contact the Midland City Clerk's office. 837-3310.



From AAUWMI newsletter

AAUW Michigan State Convention May 15-16 in Midland

"Developing Wonder Women for the Next 100 Years"

We are very excited for AAUWMI members to join us in Midland this May for the AAUWMI State Convention! As 2020 is the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, this year we will be looking at the leaders who came before us, the women working on equality today, and how we, as AAUW, can help shape the leaders of tomorrow. The weekend begins Friday afternoon with an optional tour of the Canopy Walk at Dow Gardens.

Friday evening provides another not to be missed option - our reception, "Wonder Women: Then and Now". The evening features Dr. Tracy Busch, lead faculty at Ferris State University's Museum of Sexist Objects. She will present "Off the Pedestal, Into the Streets," a history of women leaders and the waves of feminism from the 19th Amendment to recent developments with the ERA. We will also honor AAUWMI branches that earned AAUW 5 Star Recognition.

Saturday will be a full day of the Spring Convention at The H Hotel. The day starts with registration and a continental breakfast while networking with other members from around the state. Attendees can look forward to a day filled with educational workshops, inspiring speeches, and an empowered panel of women leaders. We will focus on how we can all develop the future's Wonder Women by focusing on the newly defined principles of AAUW. We will also conduct the Annual Meeting.

Mark Your Calendar

March 19	Thursday, 10:30 am, Annual Meeting, Grace A. Dow Library Community Room
April 24-26	Spring Used Book Sale, Midland Mall
May 16	AAUW MI State Convention at The H Hotel
June 4	Thursday, 11:30 am, Spring Luncheon, Midland Country Club

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