

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

President's Message *Co-Presidents Jane Wirth & Pauline Pittsley*

We deeply regret it was necessary to cancel the Spring Used Book Sale, but with book pickup and sorting slated to begin at the end of March, we didn't want to be caught with the need to cancel in the middle of the sort. It turned out to be the right decision. Despite this turn of events, we will be able to meet our scholarship commitments because our budget has maintained a designated scholarship reserve of \$7000 for just this purpose. We have income from the 2019 Fall Book Sale and spendable funds in our Midland Area Community Foundation account. We already miss the activity of preparing for the sale, but look forward to an exceptional sale next fall. The Fall Book Sale will be held October 2-4, 2020. Please pass the word to all your book loving friends.



Jane Wirth & Pauline Pittsley

It is also a great disappointment to have the State Convention cancelled. We looked forward to hosting AAUW members from around the state and impressing them with what Midland has to offer. Our convention planning team, Barb Galloway, Liz Kapla and Chris Ferrando, had wonderful plans for convention activities. They worked very hard and we thank them for their creative efforts. The Convention Committee would like to thank Smith's Flowers and Gifts for graciously allowing us to return our centerpieces. They hope you will consider ordering flowers from this very generous "local" florist in the future to show our appreciation.

Until the library is open again, the Branch Board is "meeting" electronically to conduct business. The Board e-voted to reschedule the election of 2020-2022 officers to the June 4 luncheon meeting. The slate of officers will be presented again in the June Twig.

General Meeting Updates ~ *Chris Ferrando, 1st VP Program*

Due to the coronavirus pandemic the March General Meeting was cancelled and all luncheon reimbursements have been made. There is no General Meeting scheduled in April. AAUW MI scheduled the state convention at The H Hotel on May 15-16. That has been cancelled. The Program Committee has decided not to schedule a program in May. So, mark your calendars, our Spring Luncheon will be held Thursday, June 4 at the Midland Country Club. Our speaker will be Judge Doreen Allan followed by lunch and the annual business meeting.

To all of our wonderful members, please stay safe and healthy. We want to see you all at the Spring Luncheon and celebrate a new beginning!

Program Committee; Chris Ferrando, Barb Galloway, Liz Kapla, Deb Kaiser and Sandy Collinson

Nominee for Board President for 2020-21 Announced

Barb Galloway ~ Nominations Officer

It is with great pleasure that the Nominating Committee reports that LuEllen DeLine has accepted the nomination for Branch President for 2020-21. LuEllen brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this position along with a hopeful vision for the future of our organization and our board.

Branch Awards Scholarships for Women Student Leaders

Carol Hoerneman-Plaush ~College/University Liaison

Each year, the Branch uses proceeds from our Used Book Sale to send young college women to attend the National Conference for College Student Leaders (NCCWSL). The Branch Committee, Dorothy Arthur, Paula Jonas and myself, have chosen two young college women for our 2020 NCCWSL Scholarships. The winners are Simone Vaughn, a junior at SVSU and Sasha Boileau, an Honors student in Secondary Ed at Delta.

Simone Vaughn has an associate's degree in Communications from Delta College. Her goal is to continue her education to receive a PhD. She was homeless when little and has developed a mission of helping homeless children through 2020 Vision and partnering with Rescue Missions of MidMichigan. She is very accomplished as a first place winner of the 2019 Saginaw Valley Sims Public Speaking Competition, currently holds the title of Miss Saginaw County, and is a cheerleader for the Detroit Tigers.



Simon Vaughn

Sasha Boileau is part of the Dow College Opportunity Program. She calls it Dow C.O.P. It's a program aimed to help low income students go to college. She interned through the Career & Technical Education program in 6th and 8th grade English classes. She has published three books on Amazon.

The applicant who did NOT receive this scholarship said, "That's OK. Just **thank you** for the scholarships. It means a lot to the young students who receive them!"

AAUW National Update ~ Jane Wirth, Co-President



Kim Churches, chief executive officer of AAUW, advised in a recent webinar that we should watch for revisions to the AAUW Strategic Plan in light of recent changes to AAUW and to our country.

Other information in that webinar:

- Go to salary.aauw.org (the Work Smart Online site) for tips on negotiating—a tactic you might be needing to reschedule a trip you had planned for this spring, for instance.
- AAUW National expects to launch its redesigned website on April 6. A webinar on the use of the website will follow soon thereafter—stay tuned.
- AAUW National is continuing to cope with the challenges of its reduced revenue as it responds to branches and members. Use of connect@aauw.org will function as “traffic controller” for inquiries to the national office. So be prepared to clearly state your question as you contact the national office.
- Watch for opportunities to use AAUW's Two Minute Activist to encourage action by our Senators and Representative. Changes to the way we vote may be considered this general election year —e.g., greater use of absentee voting in light of the lingering coronavirus.

Equal Pay Day ~ Judy Donahue, Public Policy Chair

U.S. Equal Pay Day is March 31, 2020. Michigan Equal Pay Coalition's originally scheduled day (April 29, 2020) for its lobbying and rallying in Lansing, MI, has been rescheduled for September 16, 2020. As that date approaches, I will have more details to report.



Zonta Club of Midland's Equal Pay billboard, supported by AAUW Midland and LWV of Midland Area, is visible on Rte. 10 East just before the Garfield Rd. Exit going to MBS Airport. The Equal Pay message will be there until mid-April.

As I am sure you will hear many times, be sure and fill out your census form.

Membership ~ Lu DeLine, 2nd VP Membership

Please make these corrections to your membership directory:

Betty Huntress: arnhunt@arnhunt.digitalspacemail8.net

Pat Munt: 73kalie@gmail.com



Lu DeLine answered questions about AAUW membership at the fall book sale.

Membership Renewal

Time flies and our fiscal year ends June 30th. I will be sending out renewal notices by e-mail the 15th of April. Our goal is 100% renewal. Midland Branch has 63 members and 16 Life Members for a total of 79 members.

For our new members, this will be your first time to renew online. You will have two options. There will be a link in the message you may click on. This link will take you to AAUW.org and you may pay your dues by credit card. If you prefer not to use your credit card online, the second option is to mail your check to me. The instructions are in the e-mail along with my address. Any questions, please call me 989-948-3023 (cell). A second notice, if necessary, will be sent May 15th.

The "Shape The Future" campaign is still active. We have our June meeting to recruit new members at 50% of the national dues, or \$29.50; with state and local dues it totals just \$58.50. Please invite potential members to our June luncheon meeting as guests of the Branch.

Shelterhouse Event & Ribbon Cutting Update

We are sad to announce the annual Chefs for Shelterhouse event, scheduled for April 23, has been postponed as we do our part to minimize the impact of COVID-19. Also please note we will reschedule the ribbon cutting for our new building, which had been scheduled for May 6.

Janine Ouder Kirk, Executive Director & Diane Brown-Wilhelm, Board President

Mark Your Calendar

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

Other dates to mark:

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

Tuesday, **November 3**, General Election