

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

General Meeting Updates ~ Chris Ferrando, 1st VP Program

No Branch meeting is scheduled for May; we anticipated hosting the AAUW Michigan Convention and it is cancelled. Next month, the Spring Luncheon scheduled for Thursday, June 4 at The Midland Country Club is on hold for the moment. I contacted Tyler Johnson, Director of Banquet Sales, and he emailed this response, “The Midland Country Club will continue to remain in compliance with the governor’s executive orders and guidelines. I will reach out to affected events ASAP”. If our Spring Luncheon can be held, members will be notified by e-blast. Meanwhile, if possible, take a ride around our beautiful city and enjoy in wonderment what the season of Spring is painting for us. “A thing of beauty is a joy forever.” John Keats --- (1796-1820)

VOTE for AAUW National Directors ~ Jane Wirth, Co-President

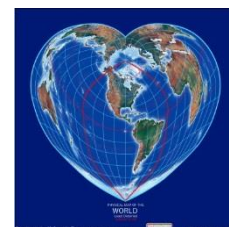
The window for voting for AAUW National Directors is at hand. You have until May 18 to cast your ballot for four AAUW Directors. A link to voting was included in the Mission & Action newsletter from the National Office which arrived via email on April 23. Scroll down to the “In Focus” heading, then check the Leadership section and click the link in the paragraph on the National Election. Your ID and password for voting are in an April 8 email from the National Office.

Another route to the ballot is via the AAUW website—aauw.org. (A good opportunity to check out the revamped AAUW website!) Click on the “Membership” tab and scroll down to the Nation Election box. The candidates’ qualifications are behind their photographs in both scenarios.

One of several opportunities for voting this year!!

President’s Message ~ Pauline Pittsley, Co-President

We’re all in this together. How many times have we heard that in the last few months! It’s a great statement that brings home a great truth. May we learn that truth and become a better world.



There are signs that we “get it”. It’s wonderful to see all the reports on the news about people helping others. The emphasis on our new heroes, those braving the virus to serve their fellow man, keeps us from the despair we could succumb to in such trying times.

We’re all in this together is a mantra for the entire world. Never has there been such a threat to so many. Let us hope great changes will come from this to lead people all over the world to understand the truth of our common humanity.

As members of a caring organization, AAUW, we can commit to examining the work we do and how it fits in the grand scheme of a better world for all people in all nations. Our commitment to equity for all is needed more than ever.

NCCWSL Update ~ Carol Hoerneman-Plaush ~ College/University Liaison

Due to the COVID-19 concerns, the 2020 NCCWSL Conference has been postponed to the end of May 2021. Both of our Branch’s 2020 NCCWSL scholarship winners have transferred their paid registration fee to the 2021 Conference. They are looking forward to next year’s conference.

Slate of Board Officers to be Elected in June

Barb Galloway ~ Nominations Officer

It is with great pleasure that the Nominating Committee reports the following slate of officers.

Lu Ellen Deline - President (2020-21). Lu joined the AAUW Midland Branch in 2004. She has served our Branch as President, Membership Vice President, Chairman of EF/LAF, Handbook Editor, Nominations Chairman and AAUW Funds Co-Chair. Lu Ellen brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this position along with a hopeful vision for the future of our organization and our branch.

Others nominated for office are: **Judith Cox - Membership Vice President** (2020-22); **Liz Kapla - Finance Vice President** (2020-22); **Barb Galloway - Nominations Officer** (2020-21); and **Marie Johansen - Delegate-at-Large** (2020-21). Bios for these nominees are in the March 2020 issue of the Twig.

Membership ~ Lu DeLine, 2nd VP Membership

Membership renewal invoices have been sent by email. If you did not receive yours, please let me know and I will resend it. Our goal is 100% renewal. Let's do it! Please help with recruiting new members. If you have any suggestions for potential new members, please send contact information to me. Thank you for your help.

We may not be able to meet again before September. In the meantime, please check out AAUW.org. The website is new and updated. Very nice!

We welcome Margaret "Meg" Harding as the newest member of Midland Branch. Meg is not new to AAUW. She followed in her mother's and college roommate's footsteps and joined AAUW after her graduation from the University of Michigan.

Our Branch Members Talk about Staying Positive

Carol Arnosky ~ Technology Officer

I asked our members to tell us how they are coping during the COVID-19 quarantine. As expected, these strong women are finding ways to stay positive, connected and to continue to learn and grow.

Zoom meetings have been "a Learning" for all of us, but once we know how to Zoom, we connect more frequently with our family and friends. We have attended Zoom exercise classes and connected with college friends. We are reading LOTS of books! And Baking! Baking! Cooking! Cooking! Eating! Walking!"

Games have been played online: Pictionary, Words with Friends, and Sing-A-Longs are other ways we have stayed connected. DIY Home Projects are getting done. Drive to Stratford Park or the Tridge on a sunny day staying in the car to enjoy the scenery. Have you noticed how many people are taking walks! The roads have much less traffic, but sidewalks are busier.

Pray more! Sing more! Watch Netflix and other streaming services!

Stay safe and healthy during this time. We are all in this together, and we will come out stronger at the end!



Mark Your Calendar

June 4, Thursday, 11:30 am, Spring Luncheon, Midland Country Club (to be confirmed)

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