

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

President's Message ~ Lu DeLine, President



Hello Members,

We are facing a challenging year. As I write this, we know there are no in-person meetings at least through August. Our priority is to keep ourselves and others safe. Midland Branch will be using Zoom for meetings and Interest Group activities whenever possible. As always, phone contacts are great for keeping in touch.

We continue to support AAUW's mission of Gender Equity and Economic Security. We've led the fight for fair pay and economic opportunity for women — and the battle continues. Women still get just 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man, and men continue to dominate the top roles and highest-paying professions.

We will be looking for creative ways to continue our work while social distancing and wearing our masks! There are many webinars at the new AAUW website. While you are there be sure to sign up for the Equity Newsletter. This newsletter will keep you informed of new podcasts and webinars from AAUW.

Best wishes to you and your families as we navigate this unusual time. Please stay safe.

Have a great summer. Please call me any time with questions or just to chat..

We Carry On With the Help of Zoom

What do you do when you can't meet face-to-face? You take advantage of available technology and meet virtually. Let's not be stymied by Covid-19 and orders to "stay home"; we can overcome this obstacle and carry on AAUW's mission!!

That's what our branch and many others are doing in the current situation. Two branch board meetings, our annual meeting, and our planning session have already been conducted via Zoom, a computer application that enables up to 100 people to see one another and converse to transact business. The branch is subscribing to this service for the next year and it will be available to conduct general meetings, board meetings and interest groups so our work can continue even though we can't enjoy one another's company. Individuals do not need to subscribe to participate in a meeting; you do need a computer or a smart phone, however.

What we need at this point is a member who can manage our subscription, schedule meetings, and get each of them started. **Who is willing to step forward and offer to do that for the next year??**



Branch Contribution Acknowledged

Jane Wirth, Past Co-President

In a letter dated June 18, 2020, **Kim Churches the AAUW CEO wrote to us:**

"Thank you for your contribution to AAUW. Your support will help us to create a future where all women have access to bias-free educations, fair pay and the careers of their dreams.

"Because of you, we've made steady strides toward equity. In the past year alone, AAUW has trained more than 102,000 women to negotiate for the salaries they deserve, helped 11 states pass fair-pay laws, and expanded our Empower leadership workshops to Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco and other cities.

"Your investment will enable us to build on the progress we've made to realize a fairer future for the next generation. Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of women and girls.

"Again, thank you very much for your generous gift. We cannot do this important work without you."

Our branch contribution of \$7,000 was divided between AAUW Greatest Needs Fund--\$6,000 and the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund--\$1,000. Our branch has been recognized in a national newsletter for branch contributions over \$5,000. Our used book sale profits put to work in addition to \$10,000 awarded locally!!

Kim Churches also sent a Thank You letter for our participation in national's **Five Star Recognition Program**. The Branch was awarded a Star for Programs. Churches stated, "With programs and activities, you've demonstrated the strength of local engagement to educate and mobilize people for change."



Kim Churches

AAUW Midland Branch Scholarship Recipients

Judi Cox, Midland Branch Scholarship Chairperson

The Scholarship Selection Committee, in partnership with Midland Area Community Foundation, is pleased to extend \$2000 scholarships to each of the following four individuals.

Graduating Senior Woman Scholarships: Kylie Herkel & Jacqueline Poston

Woman in Transition Scholarship: Jessica Jones & Julia Singh

The 2020 AAUW Scholarship Selection Committee consisted of reviewers David Wirth, Terry Townley, and Carol Sarnacke. Judi Cox represented the AAUW Midland Branch during this process. This Committee evaluated 21 Graduating Senior Woman and 14 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 6 candidates from each category which were then forwarded to the Midland Area Community Foundation for final selection.



Midland Believes Scholarships ~ MACF letter to the Branch

Dear AAUW Midland Branch,

It is my amazing privilege to inform you of the 2020 Midland Believes Scholarship award recipients. This is our fourth year of awarding the Midland Believes Scholarship, and to date, we have impacted 24 students in their journey through post-secondary education. This year, the scholarship program will surpass \$80,000 awarded to low income/first generation college students. This program would not be possible without the generous support of donors like you. Your care and concern help Midland County students for whom the cost of college provides a significant barrier to attendance.

As an indicator that your dollars are well-placed, this spring, a Midland Believes Scholarship recipient from 2017 (Year 1) earned her bachelor's degree in three years. She is now pursuing her master's degree in occupational therapy, which she plans to earn in another year and a half. The funds from the Midland Believes Scholarship were a major factor in her being able to afford to continue toward her advanced degree. And she's not alone in taking advantage of your scholarship dollars. Coming into this year, the program had 12 of 13 award recipients renew their scholarship for a second year.

I look forward to working with these students throughout their college careers to watch what great things they will accomplish. Again, thank you for your kind donation to the Midland Believes Scholarship Program. We couldn't help these wonderful young men and women without you!

Sincerely,

Doug Wright, Career and College Access Network Coordinator, Midland Area Community Foundation.

Note: The Branch contribution of \$2000 supports the program, not a specific individual.

Vote August 4! ~ Jane Wirth, Public Policy

If you are concerned about visiting a polling place, do request an absentee ballot from your city or township clerk. You no longer need some prescribed reason for obtaining an absentee ballot—just ask for one by written, signed request—but don't wait. There will be a dedicated drop box outside city hall where you can deposit your city of Midland ballot by August 4. If you have questions, call the City Clerk's office at 837-3312 or your township clerk.

The League of Women Voters has produced an online guide at **Vote411.org**. It includes all the races on the ballot for this election. Both major political parties may not have candidates for all positions in the general election in November, so this primary could essentially be the election in some cases. BUT there is a dilemma. Since this is a primary, you can make selections among only one party's candidates. There are four millage proposals that are non-partisan.

Exercise your civic responsibility—vote the August 4 primary!

Mark Your Calendar

President: Lu Ellen DeLine ~ 1st VP Program: Chris Ferrando

2nd VP Membership: Judi Cox ~ The Twig Editor: Pauline Pittsley

Saturday, **September 12**, 10:00 am, Fall Open House, Brunch at the Midland Country Club

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

Tuesday, **November 3**, General Election

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