

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

President's Message ~ LuEllen DeLine



September is here and we will continue with no in-person meetings. We can support AAUW's mission in creative ways that will keep us safe and healthy. As most organizations at this time, Midland Branch will develop new ways to use Zoom and other social media to move forward.

Our big initiative this fall is to Get Out The Vote. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, a milestone in feminist history. But the amendment, widely thought of as giving women the right to vote, did not fully deliver on its promise. Native Americans and Chinese immigrants were not granted voting rights. And, due to Jim Crow laws and other voter-suppression tactics, Black women and Latinas couldn't cast their ballots until the Voting Rights Act was passed 45 years later.

Let's all work to "Get Out The Vote" for this November.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission: Gender Equity and Economic Security.

General Meetings Update

For the 2020-2021 AAUW year, our General Meetings will have a very different tone. Due to the Covid-19 virus and orders to "stay home," all General Meetings for 2020 will be via Zoom. There will be no September meeting. Our first Zoom program will be in October. In all probability, the first half of the new year will also be Zoom meetings. The Program Committee hopes to have in-person meetings for the March Annual Meeting and the Spring Luncheon. A majority of our members have participated in Zoom meetings already. For those who haven't, there are helpful and EASY tutorials available on the web. Here are some recommendations:

[WWW.youtube.com>watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) Zoom Tutorial 2020/How to Use Zoom Step by Step

[WWW.youtube.com>watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) How to join a Zoom Meeting for the First Time

If you have difficulty setting up your Zoom program, the Program Committee will try to find someone to help you. We want all of you to participate in our new creative way of presenting branch programming.

See You on Zoom!

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



Issues on the way to achieving our mission: Equity for all

Jane Wirth, Public Policy chair

There are several pressing issues facing us as AAUW members this fall. As your new Public Policy Chair I'm going to address only a few in this newsletter:

Have you responded to the 2020 census? It's important that you do because the count of residents determines the number of representatives in the House of Representatives for our state as well as "the distribution of federal funding for vital services." If you haven't been counted yet, go to www.my2020census.gov and complete the form. We want to get what we're entitled to get!

If you're planning to vote by mail, have you requested your absentee ballot? If you live in Midland, contact the city clerk or your township clerk to request an absentee ballot and then return it by mid-October to assure it will be counted. For Midland residents there is a drop box next to city hall on the side across from First Methodist Church. If you live outside Midland, deliver your ballot directly to your township clerk if you can't mail it by mid-October. Every vote is important!

AAUW provides a very easy way for us as members to **communicate with our members of Congress**. AAUW even sends out reminders when there are issues of interest that are in line with our (AAUW's) goals. If you want to be proactive, just go AAUW's Two-Minute Activist: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>. It can't be much easier!

We will discuss equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education, leadership and more in the months ahead.

School Board Forum and Election information

Jane Wirth



At this time the dates of the broadcasting of the school board forum are yet to be determined. MCTV will broadcast the forum after the recording date of September 28. Watch for specifics in the October TWIG. Candidates are: 4 Year term - John Hatfield, Kurt Yockey, Lynn Baker, and Betsy Diegel. Candidates for a 6 year term are: Tiffany Torain, Brad Blasy, and Scott McFarland. There will be two to elect for each term.

Election Inspectors and Absentee Ballot Counting Board workers are needed for the upcoming General Election on November 4. Contact the City Clerk's office, 837-3310, to request an application. Expect to work a 16 hr. day at least, but you do get paid; a morning snack and supper are provided. There is also training and a manual describing your duties.

Branch Interest Groups

Deb Kaiser, chair

The Book Lovers: 1st Monday at 7:30 pm. Join these passionate readers who tell it as they see it about books and authors. Fun is the game and hearing what others have to say about a book you may love or hate invites a lively discussion. Each member puts a book into the rotation; books are passed on a regular schedule. In addition, a few times a year we choose a book we all read at the same time. **New members are welcome.**

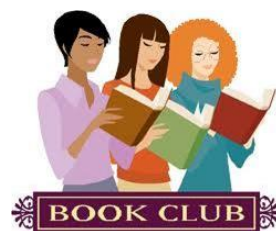
Reading for Fun: 4th Monday at 7:00 pm. Members read recent edition hard cover books, fiction and non-fiction. Each member buys one book at the October meeting. Books are passed every 3 weeks. At the first meeting members plan a few outings.

Explorers: meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except June, July and August) at 10:00 am. We “explore” a wide range of fascinating subjects in Midland and nearby communities. Lunch (optional) and discussion follow the program. **New members and guests always welcome.**

Matinees and More: This group enjoys quality films and meets in the afternoon. Members gather based on interest and availability of movies. A discussion may follow the movie over coffee. **New members are welcome.** Barb Galloway 835-8593, barbgllwy@yahoo.com

Gardening for Fun will be taking a leave of absence for the fall and winter. We hope to resume spring and summer activities with trips and speakers. New members are welcome.

Done in a Day: This group serves the community via one-day projects. It gives the branch some publicity and it's fun getting to know each other a little better. Past projects include: a day at the Habitat for Humanity's Women's Build; a shift helping at the Shelterhouse Resale store; and a fun session at the Diaper Alliance bundling diapers. Suggestions are welcome! I would be interested in having a Zoom meeting to brain storm and see if there are some opportunities that we could do and still be safe. There might not be as many ways to team build but still serve. Is there something you'd like AAUW to be a part of? **New members are welcome. You may participate in one event or all.**



To join a book club, call the group chair. To start a new book group, call Deb Kaiser.



Done in a Day members helped prepare lunch for the Salvation Army summer program. Kerry Buell and Mary Crane-Franek unloaded supplies.

AAUW Midland Branch Branch Officers

Board meeting are held via Zoom.

Elected Officers

President	LuEllen DeLine
1st VP Program	Chris Ferrando
2nd VP Membership	Judi Cox
Finance VP	Liz Kapla
Recording Secretary	Ruth Copp
Communications Officer	Donna Wedge
Delegate at Large	Marie Johansen
Nominations Chair	Barb Galloway

Appointed Officers

AAUW Funds/LAF	<i>open</i>
College/University Relations	Carol Hoerneman-Plaush
Parliamentarian/Bylaws	Maria Sablo-Yates
Public Policy	Jane Wirth
Branch Communications	Mary Crane-Franek
Technology	Carol Arnosky
Twig Editor	Pauline Pittsley
Used Book Sale	Trudy Dutot

Committee Chairs & Team

Archivist	<i>open</i>
General Meetings Team	Barb Galloway, Liz Kapla, Sandy Collinson & Deb Kaiser
HELPS Editor	Mary Crane-Franek
Historian	Betty Huntress
Interest Group Coord.	Deb Kaiser
Scholarships, Local	Judi Cox
School Board Candidate Forum	Jodie Gardner
Social Capers Calendars	Alice Morgan

Mark Your Calendar

President: LuEllen DeLine ~ 1st VP Program: Chris Ferrando
2nd VP Membership: Judi Cox ~ The Twig Editor: Pauline Pittsley

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