



## President's Message ~ LuEllen DeLine

### Happy 2021 and New Beginnings!

It's traditional to review the past year and visualize/identify new goals for the year(s) ahead. AAUW Midland Branch has many accomplishments to be proud of; soon it will be time to set new goals.



The Midland Branch is proud of a rich heritage of accomplishments since it began in 1934. In its early years, members helped establish several community organizations that focused on the arts, education and community service. Many of these organizations now benefit our community, especially women and children.

The Branch continued some early initiatives that have grown significantly. Used book sales now bring in approximately \$17,000 annually with proceeds funding college scholarships for girls and women. These proceeds also allow the Branch to send local college women to an annual national leadership conference and provide financial support for legal advocacy for women at the national level.

Our commitment to education continues with two programs: an annual update of scholarship information, Higher Education Loans Plans and Scholarships (HELPS), used by school counselors and students seeking financial aid to attend college. We also present School Board Candidate Forums in partnership with the League of Women Voters.

Financial security for women is a growing concern for AAUW. The Branch participates in Equal Pay Day events and programs such as Start Smart that promote equal pay for women. At the national level, the Branch supports programs that advance leadership, attempt to end sexual harassment, and ensure economic security and quality of life for women and girls.

### Going Forward

AAUW and the Midland Branch continue to evolve to meet the needs of women and girls. The year 2021 may see significant changes in our economy and social structure. This presents an opportunity to review our Branch activities and potential for new ventures.

The Branch Board holds a Planning Session before the beginning of each fiscal year which starts July 1. Branch members will be asked to contribute ideas for revisions and new ventures to be considered for the 2021-22 program year.

In the meantime, visit the AAUW.org website and assess AAUW priorities, listen to webinars presented this past year, and consider how AAUW could help you or your daughter or granddaughter achieve goals and gain equity going forward. There is plenty of work that needs our attention!

## Branch General Meetings

It has been a difficult year to schedule speakers. We hoped to schedule a speaker via Zoom for January but that has not worked out. There will be no January General Meeting. The Zoom meetings we have conducted were well received. Our December sharing program held via Zoom was delightful with members sharing special holiday stories.



We expect to offer a February 17<sup>th</sup> program via Zoom - speaker pending. We hope meeting restrictions will be lifted in the Spring, so we have reserved Ballroom C at the Midland Country Club for our Annual Meeting on March 18. We normally do not schedule April meetings since that is the month we conduct our used book sale (no news on that yet).

We have scheduled the Annual Spring Luncheon for May 20 in Ballroom C at the Midland Country Club. Depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic, these program venues are subject to change.

*Your Program Committee- Chris Ferrando, Barb Galloway, Deb Kaiser, Liz Kapla and Sandy Collinson*

## Ruth Copp, Named Gift Honoree ~Barb Galloway, Nominations Officer



Congratulations to Ruth Copp who was recognized at our December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting as the 2020 Named Gift Honoree. Our branch will be donating \$1,000 in Ruth's name to a local scholarship fund.

A long-time educator and community volunteer, Ruth is devoted to her family and enjoys traveling, reading and going to the movies. She has served on the branch board for the past five years as Recording Secretary. She is a member of the Nominations Committee, which she will chair next year and enjoys the following interest groups - Matinees & More, Explorers and three reading groups. The Midland Branch is fortunate to have such an accomplished and dedicated member.

The Nominations Committee is pleased that Ruth Copp will be the Nominations Officer for 2021-22. The following positions have not been filled: Recording Secretary (2021-23) and Delegate-at-Large. (2021-22).

### Mark Your Calendar

January 5	No meeting
February 7	Zoom meeting - time to be announced
March 18	Annual Meeting, Midland Country Club - time to be announced
April	No meeting
May 20	Spring Luncheon, Midland Country Club - time to be announced

President: LuEllen DeLine ~ 1<sup>st</sup> VP Program: Chris Ferrando  
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