

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

## AAUW Used Book Sale

**AAUW Used Book Sales are still on hold because of limitations of Covid-19. We plan to resume our sales as soon as possible.**



**Our team is eagerly looking forward to future sales.**

When a sale is scheduled, an email-blast will be sent to members. It will be announced in the Midland Daily News and flyers will be posted around town. **Save your books.**

### General Meetings Update ~ Chris Ferrando, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Program

There will be no April General Meeting. The Program Committee wishes all members of the branch a very Happy Easter and Happy Spring! The May General Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20. At this point plans are incomplete.

The Program Committee would like to thank all the members who have participated in our Zoom programming this season. We appreciate your interest and hope you learned something from these programs.

### Membership Renewal ~ Judi Cox, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership

Time flies and our fiscal year ends June 30. Membership renewal notices will be sent by email April 15. Our goal is 100% renewal. The instructions are in the email along with my address.

Midland Branch has 54 members and 18 honorary life members. Recruiting new members is among the top priorities for our branch. How to do this during the pandemic restrictions is challenging. If you know potential new members, please send their names and contact information to me.

## Public Policy Update ~ Jane Wirth, Public Policy Officer

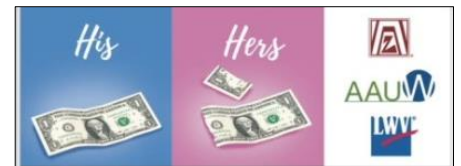
The crocus on our south-facing hillside are causing neighbors to stop and even take photos. It's evidence that Spring is on its way and events like annual meetings need preparation. It is a busy time of the year.

### Activities and policy decisions demanding our attention:

The Michigan Women's Commission hosted a virtual gathering on March 24—Equal Pay Day—which included Governor Gretchen Whitmer and AAUW Michigan's Mary Pollock. More benchmark "pay days" are:

- Mother's Equal Pay Day is **June 4**. Mothers are paid 70 cents for every dollar paid to fathers.
- Black Women's Equal Pay Day is **August 3**. Black women are paid 63 cents for every dollar paid to white men.
- Native American Women's Equal Pay Day is **September 8**. Native women are paid 60 cents for every dollar paid to white men.
- Latina's Equal Pay Day is **October 21**. Latinas are paid 55 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

Our Branch has joined with Zonta and the League of Women Voters—Midland Area to sponsor a billboard spotlighting Equal Pay for women. It's alongside westbound US-10 just before the Bay City Road exit.



**April 1, 4 pm:** AAUW National Town Hall on Member Education

*Requirement.* Go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org), choose "Membership", scroll down to "Recent and Upcoming Events".

AAUW Michigan is hosting a virtual regional meeting on **April 3**. It is appropriate for branch leaders and those who might just be interested in AAUW's issues. If you'd like to participate, contact Lu DeLine.

**April 15:** AAUW of Michigan will be hosting a forum on open membership scheduled at 6:30 pm ET. More information and registration will be forthcoming. (It would probably be wise to listen to the rationale for this bylaws change before voting. See next item.)

The window for voting on the national board of directors and bylaws amendments is **April 7** through **May 17**. We will be voting for national officers and the question on membership eligibility among others. All members without an email address on file with AAUW national will receive notification of the vote by mail. If a paper ballot is preferred, make a direct request to AAUW in early April.

**May 25:** The Michigan Independent Citizens' Redistricting Commission will hold one of its 10 hearings in Midland. Stay tuned for time and place.

Use **AAUW's Two-Minute Activist** to share your support for AAUW priorities with U.S. Representative Moolenaar and/or Senators Peters and Stabenow. Go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and click on "Take Action" and then choose "Two-Minute Activist." Suggested content for an email is presented, but you can customize it as you wish, and send it off to Washington. It really takes no more than 2 minutes!

**Thirty-nine bills** have been introduced in the Michigan senate relating to election regulation. We all need to pay attention to the suggestions and let our state legislators know our support or concern for the implementation of these suggestions.

Keep closer tabs on the Michigan Public Policy issues by reading Mary Pollock's report:

[\*\*GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COORDINATOR REPORT\*\*](#). Also check out *AAUW of Michigan March 2, 2021*, [\*\*TRACKED BILLS\*\*](#) for the list of bills AAUW of Michigan is following and other information related to the bills.

These are just some of the topics of interest relating to girls and women that are before our state and national legislators. Others are sex trafficking, interpretation of Title IX, paycheck fairness, minimum wage, and more.

## Officers Elected at Annual Meeting ~ Barb Galloway, Nominations Officer

President (2021-2022): Carol Arnosky

1st Vice President—Program Development (2021-23): Chris Ferrando

Recording Secretary (2021-22): open at this time

Nominations Officer (2021-22): Ruth Copp

Communications Officer (2021-23): Teresa Beadlescomb

Delegate-at-Large (2021-22): Deb Kaiser

### Nominations Sought for Named Gift Honoree

Every year our Branch selects a Named Gift Honoree - an individual who has been involved in Branch activities in a significant way and who has made contributions to the community as well. In honoring this recipient, a thousand dollar contribution from our Branch will be given to a scholarship fund. This year we will be recognizing this outstanding member at our May luncheon. Please send your suggestions for a 2021 Named Gift Honoree to Barb Galloway.

## New Interest Group for Shelterhouse Birthday Party in a Box for Children

Midland Branch is launching a new project in support of women and children. We asked Midland Shelterhouse staff what we could do for them. Many suggestions were received and a couple grabbed our attention: books and birthday parties for kids. Books for children are an ongoing need. Children get to select and keep books. We can get many from donations to our book sale and we may buy some. Birthday parties will bring some joy to both the moms and their children in a difficult situation.



The Branch Board approved a budget to purchase items and contributions will be welcomed. It is estimated that we might provide a "Party in a Box" for children about 10 times in a year. The Interest Group will decide what goes in a box, such as party plates, favors, etc., a small gift, and of course, a birthday cake with candles. They may also decide to present a bouquet of fresh flowers and a card to the women who are sheltered there on their birthdays. To participate in this group, please call Deb Kaiser.

### Mark Your Calendar

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  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership: Judi Cox ~ The Twig Editor: Pauline Pittsley

Web sites: <https://midland-mi.aauw.net> <https://aauwmi.org/> E-mail: [aauwmidland@gmail.com](mailto:aauwmidland@gmail.com)