



The Twig

Midland Branch Newsletter ~ January 2022

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

Meeting to Feature Our Chief of Police

Thursday, January 20, 2:00 pm via Zoom

Nicole Ford, the first woman to serve as chief of police in the City of Midland will be the speaker for the January Branch meeting. February marks the end of Chief Ford's first full year in Midland. Compared to the other communities she has worked in; Chief Ford believes Midland is unique in the number of resources available to officers to help them improve the service they provide to the community. On a regular basis, the Midland Police Dept. (MPD) works with local organizations such as Shelterhouse, The Arc of Midland, Midland Area Community Foundation and Midland Kids First to expand their reach in promoting communal wellness.

Chief Ford will address several changes she made within the MPD that have equated to higher morale and, in turn, improved its policing. In addition to bringing the department's health and wellness up to date, Ford was able to partner MPD with some new community organizations such as Families Against Narcotics (FAN) and Quick Response teams. She will explain how FAN allows the MPD to serve a segment of the community that has not been served as well as it could be. A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

Branch members and their guests will **receive the link to the meeting on January 19th via E-Blast.**

President's Message ~ Carol Arnosky Happy New Year: 2022!

It seemed that 2021 flew by, as we all tried to simultaneously stay safe and still function as 'normally' as possible. Weddings, sporting events, movies and other face-to-face opportunities recommenced, even as we all learned to embrace virtual meetings as a necessary and (dare I say) convenient way of life.

Some of the highlights for our branch in 2021:

- A record Used Book Sale, both in number of book donations as well as income.
- Approved a new Trade School scholarship, while continuing to fund Graduating Seniors, Women in Transition and Midland Believes scholarships.
- Updated AAUW Midland Branch Membership Handbook.
- Public Policy: we have promoted the Two Minute Activist and Money Smart.
- Our Branch Interest Groups are going strong with the addition of 'Your Special Day', a personalized birthday celebration for Shelterhouse clients.

This fall, several of us took a tour of Shelterhouse, and we were asked by Alison Baldree, Director of Fund Development, to describe what being "empowered" meant to us. Most members said that empowerment is to give yourself back the power of your natural self, and that our power is fully contained within ourselves. AAUW has been empowering women since 1881, and we are proud to continue the effort. 2022 is going to be a big year with the midterm elections and our collective work to create a more equitable country. Please get involved however you can. A new year, like a new snow, seems to hold its breath waiting for footprints. Let us go forth and make new, empowered footprints, and continue our advocacy for women.

Public Policy AAUW ~Jane Wirth, Public Policy

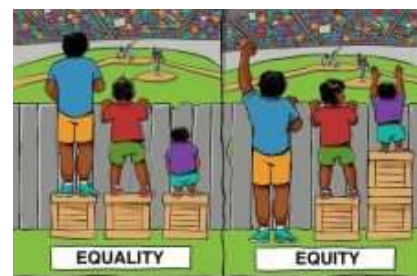
It's the season for resolutions and one to consider for this year is to be more vocal as an AAUW member in the public arena. That doesn't mean you have to stand up at a public meeting and make a statement, but you can take advantage of the Two-Minute Activist format provided by AAUW to let your legislators know what is important to you among AAUW's Public Policy Priorities. Fair pay for women or greater enforcement of Title IX or voting rights are examples of important issues. And don't settle for a one-time message—hammer away at the issue by contacting legislators weekly or daily to let them know of your interest or concern. Alternatively--write a letter-to-the-editor or just talk to your friends and family—you can advocate for policies important to women in many ways!

Do you have difficulty differentiating between “equity and equality”? This definition from the AAUW website may help:

Equity vs. Equality

Although these two words have the same root, they don't mean the same thing. They are often used interchangeably, even though they differ in meaning. Equality means everyone gets the same access to — or amount of — something. Equity, by contrast, is about everyone having equal access to what they need to be successful. And those needs can be quite different.

You may be familiar with Angus Maguire's images of three children standing on boxes to watch a ballgame over the fence. In the first image, each of the children has a box of the same size box: **equality**. However, because the children are different heights, the shortest child still can't see. In the second image, the tallest child, who doesn't need a box to see over the fence, gives theirs to the shortest of the children, enabling all of the children to see over the fence: **equity**! The key difference here is fairness in the distribution of resources (the boxes) to each child enabling them to all achieve their goal (seeing the game).



Secure MI Vote Petitions Being Circulated

You are cautioned to do your research before any consideration of signing a petition being circulated under the title of “Secure MI Vote.” Giving the petition's provisions the opportunity to be enacted would negate some of the hard-earned provisions enacted in 2018 giving voters more options for ease of registering and absentee voting among other options.

There has been no proof of significant voter fraud in the 2020 election.

Know a College Woman Who Would Benefit from Attending NCCWSL? ~Carol Hoerneman-Plaush, College /University Liaison

**Apply now
for
scholarship
to attend
NCCWSL**

The Midland Branch encourages today's young college women to dream big and take advantage of this leadership training opportunity at the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Previous women we have sponsored tell us it was a great experience that taught them leadership skills.

Conference dates are May 26 - May 29, 2022. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is January 28, 2022. Information for this scholarship is on the application form found on the Midland AAUW website <https://midland-mi.aauw.net/scholarships/nccwsl>.

Dues Special for New Members

Judi Cox, VP Membership

Midland Branch is once again offering a member recruitment incentive. Invite a prospective member to attend a meeting and join AAUW Midland Branch for \$31! The AAUW Shape the Future Campaign reduces the national dues by 50%, Midland Branch is waiving both Branch and State dues. What a great opportunity to introduce your family and friends to AAUW at this special rate.



It is that time of year again to remind our members that \$56 of the AAUW annual dues is tax deductible. All \$31 dollars of the new member incentive program are deductible.

Our Branch also offers a **"Community Membership"** for individuals who do not meet the educational requirement of an Associate Degree or comparable certification program.

If you know someone who may be interested in the Community Membership, please contact Judi Cox or Lu DeLine

Mark Your Calendar

January 20, 2:00 pm

General Meeting via Zoom



April 29 & 30, 2022

AAUW-Michigan Annual Convention
H Hotel in Midland
(We cannot wait to show off our city!)

May 6-8 Spring Used Book Sale

President: Carol Arnosky ~ 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/>

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