



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

## Michigan Election Results & What's Next

AAUW MI Government Relations Coordinator  
Tuesday, January 24, 7:00 pm Zoom Meeting

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Michigan legislature will meet for the first time in 2023 to discuss and decide what bills they want to work on for the coming year. Mary Pollock, AAUW of MI Government Relations Coordinator, will present a program on how some of these new bills, if passed, will affect women. This is your opportunity to learn about issues of most concern to you so you can let your government representatives know what you want them to do.



Mary Pollock

Mary handles AAUW of MI priority legislative issues at the State Capitol including education that promotes gender fairness, equity and diversity, economic self-sufficiency for all women as well as equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse society. In 2011 she became the Legislative Representative for the Michigan State Employee Retirees Association for which she is a political adviser, writes a monthly newsletter column, and makes presentations to its chapters and other retirees around the state. She also became the first Government Relations Coordinator for the American Association of University Women of Michigan. She is the only multi-issue women's rights registered lobbyist and advocate covering Michigan state government.

Information on how to join this presentation will be sent to members by email. The Zoom meeting will include AAUW members from around the state.

*Program Committee: Chris Ferrando, Barb Galloway & Liz Kapla*

## Congratulations to Carol Arnosky

### Citizen of the Year Finalist



AAUW Midland Branch president Carol Arnosky was a finalist in the search for the 2022 Citizen of the Year sponsored by the Midland Daily News. We know how much Carol contributes to our Branch. And she does much more. Carol's nomination included the following information:

"Carol has been a passionate advocate for more cancer research, hospice care and palliative care and flood-recovery efforts, and as organizer of the annual AAUW used-book sale. Carol is also the treasurer of four non-profits in Midland and serves on the planning committees of several fundraisers, including Family & Children's Services, Adoption Option Inc. and Midland County Democrats."

## President's Message ~ Carol Arnosky

Happy New Year: 2023! We hope that this issue of the Twig finds you happy and healthy and enjoying our Midland community. Our Midland Branch had a successful and interesting year. Sadly, we will miss some members who are no longer with us, as we remember their varied contributions, energy and support.

Here are some 2022 Branch highlights:

- Two very successful Book Sales, grossing over \$35,000 for future scholarships
- We gained 13 new members, and we welcome them!!
- \$20,000 in scholarships were given to deserving local students
- In April, our branch hosted the 100th anniversary of AAUW-Michigan and we celebrated eighteen 50-year branch members
- Judi Cox received the "Young Leader Award" from AAUW-Michigan.
- We had several wonderful programs, with speakers as varied as the Midland Chief of Police, a Women's History expert, Recycling & Glass Smashers and Santa\* himself! *\*actually, Fred Honerkamp from Midland's Santa House*
- Most recently, thanks to a generous donation by one of our 50-year members, our branch bought \$1,000 worth of Meijer gift cards. With their special "Simply Give" event on 12/17, Meijer then double-matched this amount resulting in \$3,000 donated to Midland County Emergency Food Pantry.

The generosity of our community combined with the boundless energy and unmatched organizational ability of our branch members are the reasons that we continue to do well, providing scholarships and helping our neighbors. Thank you for all you personally do to make our branch and community better!

## Public Policy Report ~ Jane Wirth

**Michigan Recount: There were a few precincts selected to conduct recounts on Proposal 2 and Proposal 3. Results show there were very few changes in the vote count.**

--For Proposal 2, the precincts conducting the recount had a total of 37,527 yes votes and 22,234 no votes. The recount total resulted in a gain of 14 yes votes and 20 no votes, changing it by a net of six no votes for a proposal that passed by more than 861,000 votes in its favor.

--For Proposal 3, there were 418,657 yes votes and 207,539 no votes in these precincts prior to the recount. After the recount, there were 116 yes votes and seven no votes gained, resulting in a net change of 111 yes votes for a proposal that passed by more than 583,400 votes in its favor.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Board of State Canvassers voted on certifying the recounts Wednesday, Dec. 21.

Two days later, on Dec. 23, the proposals went in the Michigan Constitution. **Child Marriage is still legal in Michigan as the fight continues to change the law.**

**Self-determination of one's reproductive health decision (one of AAUWMI Public Policy Priorities)** is expected to fare better with the newly elected state legislators. We will stay tuned to proposed legislation.

**In case you missed this post: December 23, 2022** "In a historic victory, the U.S. Senate today added the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act to the end-of-year omnibus budget package according to the National Women's Law Center! This was the highest priority Lane Duck issue for national AAUW and we had a win!"  
-- Mary Pollock, AAUWMI Lobby Corp

## Holiday Giving ~ Barb Galloway, program committee



Once again, the holiday spirit was alive and well in our AAUW Branch. A heartfelt thank you to all of you who donated books and cash to the Midland County Foster Closet in December.

I delivered 92 board books and a check for \$145.00 to a most appreciative Foster Closet. I was so touched by their genuine gratitude and by our members' generosity - that is what the holiday season is all about.



Kerry Buell, Carol Sarnacke and Liz Kapla enjoyed the books also.

## Deadline for NCCWSL Application is January 27

Carol Hoerneman-Plaush, College/University Liaison

Nominate a college woman to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) May 24--May 27, 2023.

Midland AAUW Branch will offer two \$1,500.00 scholarships to attend this conference 'in person' at the U of Maryland campus. The deadline to apply is January 27, 2023. Info for this scholarship is on the application form found on the Midland AAUW website, [midland-mi.aauw.net](https://midland-mi.aauw.net). Click on the "scholarships" tab.



### Mark Your Calendar

January 24, 7:00 pm Zoom meeting. Michigan Election Results

President: Carol Arnosky ~ 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)

