



The TWIG

AAUW Midland Branch Newsletter

November
2023

President's Message by Carol Arnosky

Hello everyone and Happy November!

I wish you all a great month and a yummy and love-filled Thanksgiving!

I recently attended the AAUW Central States Regional Conference in St Louis, Missouri. The historic Drury Hotel in downtown STL (one block from the Gateway Arch) was the site for 165 participants from 16 states, 28 presenters and 42 sessions! It was a jam-packed three days full of speakers, "Swap Shops" and mini seminars. The Keynote Speaker was Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, who spoke about 'Advancing Equity Together: Manifesting AAUW's Mission for a Strong Future'. It was hard to choose which breakout sessions to attend, but I heard many interesting discussions on Intersectionality, Title IX, Membership, 1619 Freedom School Project, College/University Partners, Public Policy and more. Seven AAUW members from Michigan attended, so we ate together and

networked. We learned many new ideas and took lots of notes which we will share with our branches. Very inspirational!!

If you ever get a chance to go to an AAUW conference, I highly recommend taking the time to do so. I plan on sharing more about this great weekend at our December General meeting. See you there!



Branch Meetings by Chris Ferrando

There will be no General Meeting in November. In the spirit of thankfulness, sharing, and happy fellowship, the Program Committee wishes branch members a Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends.

**Mark your
calendar!**
December 6th
3:30 pm-5:00 pm



The holiday season will soon be upon us. The Program Committee is planning a Holiday Celebration like no other at the Midland Country Club on Wednesday, December 6 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. One of the joys of the holidays is inviting friends and new acquaintances to share the warm hospitality of the season. So mark your calendar and bring a friend to join the Branch in celebrating the merriest of months.

Program Committee: Chris Ferrando, Barb Galloway, and Liz Kapla

Branch Interest Groups

by Deb Kaiser

To join an interest group, call the group chair. To start a new interest group, gather three interested people then call Deb Kaiser at 989-430-1262.

The Book Lovers: This group meets the 1st Monday of the month at 7:30 pm at a member's home or another location (e.g., Grand Traverse Pie Co.). 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—usually a current fiction or nonfiction choice. 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. Contact Ruth Copp at ruthcopp66@gmail.com.

Reading for Fun: 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. We have a few openings for new members. Contact Barb Galloway at 989-835-8593, barbgllwy@yahoo.com or Pauline Pittsley at 989-430-2067, pauline@drymud.com.

Explorers: This group meets 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 are always welcome. **THIS GROUP NEEDS A CHAIR.**

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 and guests are always welcome. Contact Barb Galloway at 989-835-8593, barbgllwy@yahoo.com.

Done in a Day: This group serves the community via one-day projects. It gives the branch some publicity and it is 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. Most recently we "built" sandwiches for children attending The Salvation Army's SHARE program. Suggestions are welcome! Is there something you'd like AAUW to be a part of? New members are welcome. You may participate in one event or all. **THIS GROUP NEEDS A CHAIR.**

Shelterhouse Birthdays: Members take turns providing birthday gifts for mothers and their children who are in residence at Shelterhouse. We believe these small gestures provide a great deal of comfort to women in a stressful situation. Funds are provided by the Branch Board and gift cards from members. New members are welcome. You may also choose to “adopt-a-birthday” for a mom or child on a one-time basis, using your own monies to shop for them and deliver the gift. Contact Pauline Pittsley at 989-430-2067, pauline@drymud.com or Barb Galloway at 989-835-8593, barbgllwy@yahoo.com.



Branch Officer Nominees Sought

by Ruth Copp and Barb Galloway, AAUW Midland Branch Nominating Committee, 2023-24



A sincere thank you to the following members who are serving on the Nominating Committee this year: Chris Ferrando, Liz Kapla, Pauline Pittsley and Judi Cox (who, as Membership Chairman, will assist).

We encourage our membership to contact any of us with suggestions for these positions, especially if you are personally interested in serving on the board.

We are seeking nominees for the following positions: President (2024-25), Vice President of Finance (2024-26), Recording Secretary (2024-26), Nominations Chair (2024-25), Delegate-at-Large (2024-25).

Public Policy Update

by Jane Wirth, Public Policy Chair

Would you like an inside track on legislative issues impacting women and girls in Michigan?

AAUWMI's Government Relations Coordinator, Mary Pollock, can be your link. Join the AAUW of Michigan Virtual Lobby Corps Facebook group to be informed about current issues, events, and legislative actions related to AAUW of Michigan's public policy priorities. This is a private group, so you need to email pollockm@comcast.net to join. Mary shares daily posts with links to news articles from the state and national press.

Stay informed and make your voice heard!

- AAUWMI was an active supporter of the recently passed bills in Michigan that put an end to child marriage.
- Check out the AAUW of Michigan website [aauwmi.org] for additional Michigan legislative action.
- Don't forget you can be a Two-Minute Activist. Go to aauw.org, chose "Take Action" from the top banner, then opt for "Two-Minute Activist" in the list and pick an issue(s) to urge action by our senators and/or representative. JUST DO IT!

Mark Your Calendar

December 6, 2023 – Holiday Celebration, Midland Country Club, 3:30 pm-5:00 pm

April 26-28, 2024– Book Sale at the Midland Mall

President: Carol Arnosky • 1st VP Program: Chris Ferrando
2nd VP Membership: Judi Cox • The Twig Editor: Annette Clapp

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