



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

Website: <http://marquette-mi.aauw.net>

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, one and all. The Board, as well as the Branch, has had a winter respite after our delightful December holiday dinner, but both are back in full swing. Lots of important public policy and program news in this issue.

The Board is currently working on the AAUW National Mandated by-laws changes, and we'll update you when we accomplish all of that.

Please do come to our February brunch as we celebrate Presidents' Day with our own unique take on the holiday!

Regards!

Meg Goodrich, President  
AAUW Marquette Branch

## REMINDER: FIRST LADIES BRUNCH – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

*Did you know.... Bess Truman never gave an interview as First Lady.*

We are looking forward to all members and guests gathering for brunch and a celebration of First Ladies from 10:00 a.m.–Noon, on Saturday, February 20 at the club house. Our program will be an opportunity for member and guest participation. Imagine a room full of First Ladies having a chat!

One of our former First Ladies has offered to be our hostess for our conversation. She *encourages* you, before you arrive, to **choose your First Lady**. Then do some research, if necessary (*Feel free to write your brief notes on cards.*) and prepare to share in 2-3 minutes:

- **What about your First Lady inspires you?**
- **A few facts about her,**
- **Or a story to tell about her.**

Our hostess First Lady knows you are wondering what to wear and advises that you are welcome to dress as your First Lady or as your most comfortable self. Our hostess is looking forward to seeing old

friends and like you, many of her other sister First Ladies she has only read about. How fun it will be to have so many First Ladies in one room.

After this event, "if the walls could talk" will surely ring true!

As we will learn, **NOT every First Lady relished a public role. In that spirit, we expect some of you attending shall prefer to simply enjoy our company and opt out of sharing about a First Lady.** No worries... there will be lots of conversation and celebration for all.

Please join us.

Les Bek, 869-5298, [lbek@qsnwql.org](mailto:lbek@qsnwql.org)  
Program Committee

## Note:

As is our custom, the Hostess Committee will be calling each member for attendance, guests, and choice of what to bring: Quiche, Muffins, or Fruit for a big salad. You will **aid us greatly** if you can email Meg Goodrich [meg.goodrich2@gmail.com](mailto:meg.goodrich2@gmail.com) with this information by **Saturday, February 13th.**

Thank you so much.

*Sincerely,*  
The Brunch Hostess Committee

## S.T.E.M. Program -- May 20, 2016

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Program will be held this year at the Seaborg Center at Northern Michigan University on Friday, May 20, for 5th and 6th grade girls in Alger and Marquette counties. The Marquette Branch of AAUW is the fundraiser for this event and we also help organize the program and serve as volunteers on the day of the event. We have done this in 2012 and 2014. This year we hope to raise the number of girls served from 150 to 210. The cost of funding this is between \$4000 and \$4500.

The funding pays for transporting the students and teachers to the Seaborg Center; printing the brochures for the girls to register; providing notebooks for the students with their sessions and rooms denoted; lunch for the students, session leaders, teachers, volunteers, etc.; S.T.E.M. pins for the participants; paying for the keynote speaker to come to the event; and other requirements.

Several years ago the Young Women in Science, Technology, and Math, was held at the Seaborg Center and funded by the State Department of Education through MARESA (Marquette-Alger Regional Education Service Agency). This funding was suspended. MARESA thought this funding would be renewed. It was not.

This was a good program but was held on a Saturday. Only about 40% of the girls who signed up attended. Because we now do this on a Friday and provide transportation from school, 99% of the girls signed up attend. Some of our members served on the committee with the Seaborg Center and MARESA and we helped register the girls on the day of the program. We decided we needed to support this program. AAUW has done a great deal of research about S.T.E.M.

We get funding from the Rotary Clubs, the Exchange Club, the Lions Club, RTI Surgical (used to be the Pioneer Surgical), the Eagle Mine, the Ishpeming Kiwanis Club, the Border Grill, the United Steelworkers, Chapter ES of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, UP Engineers and Architects, Cliffs Natural Resources, and the Advanced Center for Orthopedics. Jilbert's Dairy provides milk and ice cream for lunch for a very minimal cost. In 2014 it cost \$34 for milk and ice cream for 170 people. We buy vegetable trays from Tadych's Econo Foods and if we buy 4 trays they give us 2 free trays.

We hope some of our members will serve on the STEM Committee. I will be looking for you at the February meeting or contact me by phone or e-mail.

*Kathy Davis, STEM Liaison*  
[kdavismqt@aol.com](mailto:kdavismqt@aol.com), 228-4197

Please save your Econo slips  
and bring them to the  
next meeting you attend.

## WHERE IS OLLIE'S CAMERA?



When Oliver Hardy, Cairn Terrier won his first top dog award for Strut Your Mutt, he was given a digital camera as a prize. Not having opposable thumbs and having a mistress who is technologically

challenged, he suggested we give his camera to the Marquette Branch of AAUW. He knows that a couple of AAUW members did get a chance to use the camera some time ago, but now it has been missing for two years.

Ollie hopes the camera can be found and that whoever finds it will get it to a board member so it can be used once again to take photos for the newsletter, website, and/or Facebook. He wanted to file a missing camera report, however since few people understand his dog speak, he knew making that report would be a challenge. So, if you can help him locate it *anywhere*, please bring it or get it to someone who is coming to the next branch meeting. No questions asked

## TAKING STOCK

January invites a look back and a look ahead. 2015 showed promising changes in the quest for equal pay. Governor Jerry Brown signed the California Fair Pay Act in October. This strong equal pay bill had unanimous bipartisan support and was endorsed by the California Chamber of Commerce. Other states taking steps toward pay equity were New York, Illinois, North Dakota, Oregon, Connecticut, and Delaware. Do we have a federal equal pay law? No. But as a result of Obama's Executive Order the Department of Labor issued final rules prohibiting federal contractors from retaliating against employees who ask or share salary information. It covers pay discussion by job applicants. This rule protects 28 million people working for federal contractors.

2016 will be a critical year. AAUW will continue to work for better policies on paid leave, higher minimum wage laws in states, improved federal overtime rules, better compensation data reporting. AAUW is kicking off the 2016 "It's My Vote I Will Be Heard" get out the vote campaign.

I asked Amanda Phillips, Michigan's Public Policy Chair whether Michigan AAUW is taking on an advocacy effort on behalf of Flint's lead poisoned children. Carol Cappuccio suggested pushing for supportive educational services for these children. Unfortunately, at the state board meeting they did not deal with this. Amanda wrote in an email, "Flint is not directly on our radar. There are many issues on Michigan and National AAUW's agenda. Rights are being slowly eroded. We are working on establishing a state lobby corps." As a branch she wrote, we could advocate in this regard. HB5220 passed unanimously in the Michigan legislature appropriating 28 million for Flint. 3.9 million of this appropriation was allocated for behavior health care for children with high blood lead levels. This will be a drop in the bucket. Perhaps we should watch and advocate as necessary to be sure this tragedy and its aftermath are not forgotten.

Congress replaced *No Child Left Behind* with the *Every Student Succeeds Act* which provided funding and resources for STEM programs and Title IX aiming for gender equity in education. The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights published tools, free resources, a guidance letter and manual. These reinforce authority of Title IX coordinators and supports their investigating sex discrimination, identifies and addresses systemic problems at schools.

Full speed ahead. Let me know if you have a great way to bring attention to Equal Pay Day coming up in April.

*Karlyn Rapport*  
*Public Policy Representative*

## CLUBHOUSE NEWS

1) The Clubhouse Board is pleased to announce **we have hired a new caretaker, Jen Madden**. She will start her duties now, while awaiting the renovation of the upstairs apartment, long overdue, and move in at the end of June. The Board has hired a contractor to oversee the remodeling of kitchen and floors.

The Hostess committees can send their requests for set-up/take-down to Jen via the Clubhouse answering machine. (226-2831). We have been asked not to give out her personal phone number.

2) At our December meeting, Judy Ashby announced receiving a Master Gardener Program grant for the Clubhouse. She sends the following update:

"Only the Lions submitted names for members to become involved in the Master Gardener Program at the Federated Clubhouse. As I understand, those named people are not available to participate in MG requirements such as planning and education components.

Having no other clubs submitting names, I plan to withdraw our application. It is not fair to take up the MG's time. He needs to secure a site(s) so he can fulfill class requirements.

Judy Ashby

*Sally Closser*  
*AAUW Representative to the*  
*Federation (Clubhouse) Board*

## HOSTESS COMMITTEE

A big thank you to the members who have signed up to serve as hostesses for our monthly meetings.

We still need to fill a couple of openings for upcoming meetings. A chairperson is needed for the April 18 Book Sale Potluck. Also needed are 2-3 members for the May 14 meeting. This meeting will NOT be a brunch, but coffee/tea with the branch purchasing the treats.

If you would like to help, please contact me at 250-3546 or [lsolka@aol.com](mailto:lsolka@aol.com).

Thanks!  
Liz Solka, AAUW Hospitality Representative