



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

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From the President

END OF YEAR WRAP-UP

Our Program Committee worked very hard again this year, to bring us a well-rounded assortment of programs to educate us on issues which "promote equity and education for women and girls." Thank you, Les Bek, Karlyn Rapport who have agreed to co-chair again for 2017-2018. Thanks also to Ann Arnold and Mary Snitgen for being part of that team. The dates are set for next year, but the Program folks would like to hear your ideas (soon!) on both entertainment and educational topics. Thanks also to the many hostess committee chairpersons, and Kathy Davis, Hostess Chair.

Other highlights include starting the year off with TWO off-site programs--our Salad Supper finished the evening at Peter White for a Community Conversation, and once again we collaborated on a crucial Candidates forum. Other programs included the second First Ladies Dessert, Holiday Dinner, and speakers on the Alternative High school, status of women in leadership, and mentoring pre-professional NMU students. We also awarded our NMU Martha Griffiths award (with 14 entries!!), chose our NMU Scholarship recipient, pulled together for the Book Sale (Next year, we must have a chair! Repeated thanks to all the sub-chairs and worker bees), collected numerous Econo slips for our operating budget, and sold Younkers (Susan Uballe and Elizabeth Miller) coupons once again for more scholarship money. Further, we again participated in StartSmart (Janel Crooks and Mary Snitgen) AND a large number of us read challenging books (Helen Carlin). Phew! We are an active group!

I thank the board for covering for me a few times, and for balancing the budget (Meredith Kulisheck); creating the Membership booklet (Karen Rudisell); taking minutes (Carol Cappuccio); sending notes (June Davis); (wo)manning the Website and Newsletter (Marge Forslin); choosing honorees (Carolyn Myers, Judy Puncochar); placing our PR (Katherine Larson); finding all those wonderful programs (Les and Karlyn), keeping us all in coffee, tea and hostess chairs (Kathy Davis), and recruiting new members (Mary Snitgen, Kathy Davis). Finally, thanks go to Clubhouse reps Sally Closser and Margie West.

I am proud to be an AAUW Marquette branch member. I look forward to seeing you all in the Fall. Please have a healthy, fun and productive summer.

Regards, Meg

She Believed Retreat – SUCCESS!

A vision began last fall when we first met some of the Marquette Alternative High School students and teacher/ mentor. Their program to our membership educated us about their She Believed program initiative. We learned about their goal setting, personal improvement accomplishments, team building and self-esteem skill building. We learned how they dreamed of a trip to Washington D.C. and made that happen with fundraising and daring to stretch their individual comfort zones.



Many members sensed they wanted to stay connected



with these young ladies on their journey. I wanted to give them

another goal. Another opportunity to strive for new experiences that could



keep our connection going. The offer was made to them to hold a retreat at Girl Scout Camp Pow Low in the spring at no cost.

They ran with it. More goal setting, personal improvement accomplishments, team building and self-esteem skill building. And that was just in putting the retreat plan together!

On May 17-19 over 20 young ladies and teacher/mentors passed through the gates of Camp Pow Low. They were welcomed by the woods, water, campsites, lodge, and trails. It would be their home for a few days and they would grow stronger as a She Believed family. Some pitched tents, slept in cabins or in the lodge. They would grow in their self-confidence from the wisdom and knowledge shared by the many presenters who came out to share their expertise. Examples are: Self Defense, Power Tools, Outdoor Skills, Geocaching, Archery and much, much more.



Learning Self Defense 1



Yes, learning self defense can be



Power Drill Project 2

The spring weather brought its unpredictable changes, sun, wind, mist, downpour of rain and swing in temperature to snow flurries. They were not deterred.



Rain did not dampen the camp fire dinner or their spirits



Lodge Fireplace gathering

Huge thanks to Sue Payant for her participation in the retreat for two overnights and all three days. We were

also joined by my colleague Jill Johnson in preparing two dinners with help from the young ladies. We beat the rain with our campfire meal! Words here cannot capture the impact of this retreat on all who experienced it. We all are forever changed and have our memories to keep for all time.



Heading out

One departing presenter said to her group in part, I am hopeful for our future because our future is you.

*Les Bek
Program Committee Co-Chair*

HOSTESS COMMITTEE for 2017-2018

We will need some members, some have already signed-up, to work on some of our dates. We need to make coffee and tea, have some desserts, and clean-up. There are three meetings at which we have dinner--September, December, and April.

On September 14 is our Salad Supper and we need one more person to help. On December 7



we have our Holiday Dinner. We need a person to Chair this and another to assist. Lately we have had a caterer do the Holiday Dinner but the committee has to get ready for the event. On February 8, March 15, and April 23 we need a person to Chair these dates on the Hostess committee. On May 10 we need a member to Chair and another to assist.

Please let me know if you can help. It is nice to have sometime for members to relax and talk to other members.

*Kathy Davis
Hostess Committee Chair*

PUBLIC POLICY

State Medicaid Spending:

More than 39 million women are now enrolled in Medicaid. One of 10 women in the U.S. receives health care through this program. It is crucial to the nation's family planning. Medicaid covers 20% of women 15-44. Repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the House of Representatives American Health Care Act (AHCA) bring dire consequences. Repeal of the Medicaid Expansion and ending federal subsidies for insurance purchases under ACA will leave the most vulnerable uninsured. AHCA defunds Planned Parenthood which provides access to preventive care for millions of women and men. A vote in the Senate is what we need to watch. AAUW opposes the House AHCA because it weakens women's access to affordable quality health care and puts economic security of families in jeopardy. **Visit AAUW's the Two-minute Activist. Tell the Senate to protect our care.**

Mom's Equal Pay Day:

Ironically Tuesday, May 23 is Mom's Equal Pay Day. Mothers made 71 cents for every dollar fathers make. The motherhood penalty impacts hiring, salaries, and promotions. We celebrated Mother's Day. We should be supporting paid parental leave, opposing the proposed comp time legislation that would leave mothers without overtime pay. All women, mothers or not deserve equal pay for equal work. That's what we want for Mother's Day.

Court Allows Unequal Pay:

Last week the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled employers can pay men and women unequally based on difference in their prior salaries. This overturns a lower court ruling that found that salary differences based on prior pay alone are illegal. It was an AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund plaintiff and AAUW member Aileen Rizo, a math educator who brought this case forward after she discovered that a male co-worker with less experience received a higher salary. Rizo's employer adds 5% to an applicant's previous salary to determine starting wage. This method does not take into account experience needed for the current job posting, or a fair wage for this position. Past discrimination thus follows the employee from job to job.

Bills introduced:

In the Michigan Legislature, the following bills have been introduced: HB 4510 of 2017 and SB 318 of 2017 amends the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to increase damages for unequal pay and specifies that the statute of limitations starts from the time the employee learns about the disparity in pay. HB 4516 of 2017 and SB 324 of 2017

amends the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to prevent an employer from inquiring about past compensation during the application or hiring process. These bills are in committee presently. Hope springs eternal.

*Karlyn Rapport
Public Policy Representative*

From the Treasurer

As of the May 18 board meeting, we had \$8183.79 in our checking account. This includes the book sale and dues have started to come in. We had \$7117.55 in the STEM account.

Dues are Due

The amount has not changed since last year. If you aren't sure how much yours are, send me an email mkulishe@nmu.edu or give me a call, 226-2372.

Save your Econo slips

You may drop them off at my house or put them in the mail: Meredith Kulisheck, 617 Hampton, Marquette

*Meredith Kulisheck
Treasurer*

Special Request

OUR LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEEDS YOUR HELP

Scholarship Funds Down, Tuition Up

As you know, our book sale and some of our other fundraising work benefits our local scholarship fund. It, in turn, "awards monetary assistance to local women who demonstrate a financial need in their pursuit of educational goals at Northern Michigan University." Unfortunately, over the past few years our efforts have not yielded as they did in the past. **For example, ten years ago we were able to award \$4500 in scholarships; this year it may be less than \$3000.** At the same time, NMU tuition has increased. For the 2010-11 academic year, tuition and fees amounted to \$7500; for the next academic year, **a local junior or senior student will pay close to \$10,800.** We have tried to adjust to these changes by awarding just one scholarship each year, and have done so the past two years.

Our scholarships are unique in that we look for applicants whose financial need may include that she

is: divorced, in the process of divorce, separated or widowed; married and the spouse is unemployed or underemployed; disabled or the spouse is disabled; dependent on public assistance; a criminal offender and seeks education as part of her rehabilitation; a single parent; is a displaced homemaker; in a lower-level position and would like to obtain credentials to make a professional leap; over 40 years old. Frankly, applicants who meet any of those criteria have been declining in number as tuition rates rise.

Nevertheless, it is still our hope to make a significant dent in the tuition bill of some woman who just needs

a break. To do so, our local scholarship fund needs our help. As we break for the summer, **let's contribute what we can individually by sending a check to Meredith Kulisheck, 617 Hampton Street, Marquette MI 49855. (Please write 'scholarship' in the memo line.)** Then combined, our contributions will allow us, as a branch, to make a real difference for a deserving student.

On behalf of your scholarship committee,
many thanks!

Carolyn Myers
Scholarship Committee Chair