



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

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WELCOME from the President

From the President

Greetings once again from Maine--I'll be home soon, after attending my high school reunion--but alas not soon enough for our next outstanding program. See Karlyn and Les's details below. We are proud to be offering the community such timely, relevant information. Please bring your friends and neighbors!

If you have not yet contributed, please consider a donation to our Scholarship Campaign. As they say for our local PBS stations, no amount is too small! We are off to a great start, so thank you!

*Regards,
Meg Goodrich*

NEXT MEETING Thursday, October 12 *Gerrymandering and Its Effects on Michigan Voters*

This meeting is open to the public.

Please make an effort to bring guests. Kindly email me how many you are bringing: krapport@chartermi.net.

PRESENTERS: Hal Gurian and Susan Uballe
from *Voters Not Politicians*

When **Hal Gurian** lived in Maryland, he witnessed redistricting in which the Democratic Party gerrymandered voting districts, essentially disenfranchising Republicans. When he moved to Michigan, he immediately discovered the Republicans were doing the same thing to Democrats. This situation moved this Traverse City business man to join *Voters Not Politicians'* efforts to educate Michigan voters. Gurian is a graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in Economics. He is Past President of his Rotary Club in Maryland.

Susan Uballe is a Licensed Master of Social Work (Clinical Practice). She has extensive experience working with individuals, families and groups to help them achieve life changing goals. Her B.A. is from the University of Michigan and her Masters in Social Work is from University of Texas, Austin. Susan joined over a million people for the Women's March on Washington in January 2017. She has been actively working to create positive change in our government and our environment.

Michigan is one of 37 states which gives the power to draw election maps to the legislature. When one party is in control, the legislature draws the voting districts. This allows them to choose their voters and give their party an advantage for the next **decade** of elections.

Hal Gurian and Susan Uballe will discuss how voting maps are presently drawn, why the current system is broken, what problems partisan redistricting brings to Michigan voters and state government. The mission of *Voters Not Politicians* is to work to transfer political power back to the people so that each vote matters and each voter's voice is heard.

Voters Not Politicians proposes an Independent Citizens Redistricting Committee of registered Michigan Voters--4 Democrats, 4 Republicans and 4 voters not affiliated with either major party--draw voting districts using guidelines that ensure fairness to all. They will conduct all their business in open meetings with advance public notice provided. A minimum of 2 Republicans, 2 Democrats and 2 Independent members of the committee must approve the final maps.

How can this turnabout be achieved? How can you help? Come Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 7:00 PM to find out more about this important topic. *Voters Not Politicians*, like AAUW, is non-partisan. Michigan AAUW's Public Policy committee is delighted the Marquette Chapter of AAUW will hear this program.

*Karlyn Rapport
Program Committee Co-Chair*

UPDATE:

Scholarship Campaign

We are on a roll! At our September meeting we kicked-off a new component of our ongoing efforts to fund our scholarships for NMU. Those in attendance received our letter explaining the need and the impact of our scholarships. All other members and former members have been mailed the letter.

Now is the time to consider three actions to support the campaign: 1. Let us know if you did not receive a campaign letter; we will get you one. 2. Send in your contribution in the envelope provided. A gift is never too big or too small, and 3. Share the letter with others who you think would like to join our campaign. We can prepare a letter addressed to your individual or group personalized with your signature. Contact Marge Forslin mforslin2@charter.net for assistance.

We are on our way with high hopes of reaching our Scholarship Campaign goal of \$5,000. Your donation is an investment in the futures of young women and their academic goals. Thank you for being a part of this important effort.

*Carolyn Myers, AAUW Local Scholarship Committee
and Les Bek, Scholarship Campaign Committee*

PUBLIC POLICY NEWS

Looking for Hope

The U.S. Census Bureau released data on gender and racial pay gaps. Women working full time now make 80 cents compared to the dollar men make. At this rate we will achieve pay equity in 2119. New York will make it sooner in that women there have an 89% ratio compared to men. In Utah and Louisiana, it is 70%. In Michigan it is 78%.

State legislatures and courts across the country are making efforts to redraw electoral districts. There is redistricting litigation pending in eight states; three are going to the U.S. Supreme Court. Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are attempting to untangle partisan gerrymandering. Alabama, Texas, Virginia and North Carolina are dealing with racial gerrymandering. Bills tackling redistricting have been introduced in 75% of the states.

While we are wringing our hands over Betsy Devos' efforts to roll back Title IX regulations and guidance, and rescinding a 2011 Dear Colleague Letter on Title

IX and sexual violence, states like California passed a bill which would put the 2011 Dear Colleague letter into law. Texas passed a bill requiring institutions of higher learning to adopt a [sexual assault policy](#) and provide an electronic way for students and employees to report sexual harassment and sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Recent events make our program for scheduled for November, "Title IX under Fire," timely.

Take Action:

Stand Up for Dreamers

Contact our U.S. Senators to co-sponsor and pass the Dream Act of 2017 (S. 1615) **without amendment**. This bipartisan bill introduced by Senators Lindsey Graham and Dick Durbin offers DACA protection from deportation, allows continued access to education or work, and provides a road to citizenship. Senator Debbie Stabenow's local office can be reached at 228-8756, Senator Gary Peters' at 226-4554.

Mark your calendars:

Two Candidate Forums

The newly re-established League of Women Voters in Marquette is holding a candidate forum for **Marquette City Commission candidates** in the City Commission Chambers at 300 W. Baraga Ave on Wednesday, October 18 from 7:00-8:30 PM. Audience members will have the opportunity to submit written questions for the candidates. Contact Darlene T. Allen d-and-d@chartermi.net or (906) 225-9103.

A candidate forum for **Michigan House of Representatives' candidates in the 109th District**, Sara Cambensy and Rich Rossway, will be held at 7 PM, Tuesday, October 24, in NMU's Jamrich Hall, Room 1100. Moderators are Nicole Walton, Public Radio 90, and Steve Asplund, TV6.

Please promote these forums—attend and bring friends. And attend our October 12 meeting on Gerrymandering.

*Karlyn Rapport
Public Policy Representative*

