



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

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

Facebook: [AAUW Marquette Branch](#)



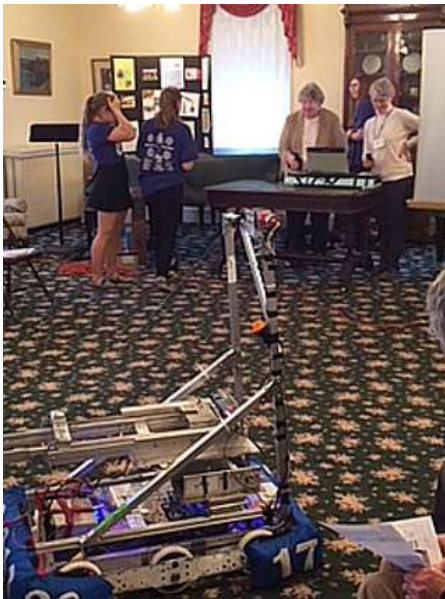
CALLING ALL GARDENERS

Judy Ashby, in conjunction with the Master Gardeners at the Federated Clubhouse, is looking for volunteers to help keep our grounds attractive during the season. Please email Judy at jashby@nmu.edu, and she will schedule you. (Be patient for a reply, as she is recovering from surgery).

Meg Goodrich

COLD LOGIC ROBOTICS PROGRAM

presented at AAUW meeting held May 10



The May 10 program brought us Celinda Brunswick, Sarah Bryers, and Greta Rickauer from Cold Logic, the Marquette area high school-level, FIRST Robotics Competition team. Team

Cold Logic is made up of 26 young men and women drawn from the Marquette Area Public Schools, Marquette home schools, the North Star Academy and Gwinn Community Schools. This team competes with 52,000+ other FIRST teams worldwide.

FIRST is the parent foundation. Each year, on the first Saturday in January, FIRST provides a challenge and rule book that each team must use to build a robot. The competition-ready robot must be

designed, built, coded and tested in only six short weeks, on a budget and within strict size restrictions.

Building a robot and traveling to competitions is expensive. Since there is no registration cost to be a member of Team Cold Logic, and it is the team's goal that all students and mentors be able to travel to each competition with little or no personal cost, fundraising is a skill that all members of the team must master. Students raise funds by writing and submitting grants, fostering relationships with donors and sponsors, and holding fundraising events. Each student is responsible for raising at least \$1000 each year as part of their participation requirement.

Team members create positive public relations, meet potential sponsors and team members, and thank their supporters by volunteering at community functions, making public appearances, and fostering S.T.E.M. interest within our community. In the process, they become confident presenters, articulate public speakers, and careful planners. Some of their current outreach projects include:

- **Robots @ the Libraries**, where teams give a robot demonstration at local libraries as they kick off their summer reading programs;
- **Robotics Fair** at Marquette Senior High School on Robotics Day (Sunday, June 10, 10am-2pm); and
- **Summer Workshops**- open to the public every Friday, June 15 - August 24. See details on website coldlogic3617.org.
- **All-Girls Robotics Competition**, Saturday, September 15, at which Cold Logic will host 40 visiting teams. This is an ambitious new undertaking, and the team can use all the help they can muster.

They will be playing this year's game with this year's robots. Drive teams and Pit Crews will consist of only female members; the boys will be there as volunteers, helping out teams other than their own.

Attend one of these demonstrations, learn more at coldlogic3617.org, or send a donation to Cold Logic, 1203 West Fair Ave., Marquette, MI 49855.

Carolyn Myers

S.T.E.M. EVENT held May 11



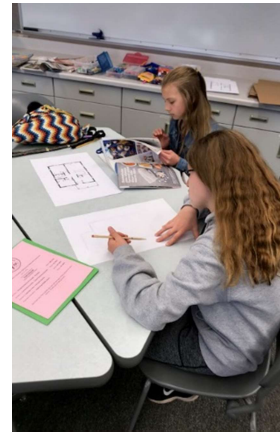
The S.T.E.M. Program (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) for 6th and 7th grade girls in Alger and Marquette counties took place on Friday, May 11. One hundred eighty girls attended the event with their teachers. AAUW is the sponsor and fundraiser for the program.

The students fill out a pre-evaluation when they come and a post-evaluation when the event is over. **Most of the girls evaluated the programs at the highest level.** This is great!

AAUW members volunteered for the event and distributed folders to all the students and teachers. The folders contained the evaluations and the schedule for the day-- which classes students were attending, class locations, and keynote speaker, etc. We also served lunches to the students and teachers. Volunteers included AAUW members Les Bek, Meredith Kulisheck, Carolyn Myers, Elizabeth Miller, Sue Payant, Kay Payant, Karlyn Rapport, and June Davis. A woman from the Girl Scouts and Sue Madden from Zonta also helped.

The next S.T.E.M. Event will be in May of 2020.

Kathy Davis, S.T.E.M. Liaison



Trying to Make Sense of Michigan's Medicaid Reform

In Michigan, 2.5 million people receive health care coverage through Medicaid. Forty percent of all births in Michigan are covered by Medicaid.

Of these 2.5 million people, 700,000 were added by the Affordable Care Act. The federal government covers 90% of the costs of recipients who enrolled as part of this Medicaid expansion.

Elderly, disabled, children, and adults living in poverty are typical recipients. Individuals with incomes of \$16,000 and a family of 4 making \$33,400 are eligible.

Most (71%) of the money spent on Medicaid care comes from the federal government. Four billion comes from state sources. Two billion of this comes from tobacco taxes and money from a national settlement with tobacco companies and taxes on health care providers. The rest of the state's two billion comes from the general fund.

The proposed work rules require Medicaid recipients to have a job, go to school, receive job training or work at an unpaid internship. More than 1/3, or 1 million, of the recipients are younger than 19 and would be exempt, leaving some 1.5 million adults potentially affected by the new rules.

The University of Michigan estimates half of these are working now, but still earning so little they are Medicaid-eligible. Eleven percent are too disabled to work. Pregnant women would be exempt and those caring for young children will be exempt...that number is estimated as 300,000. The aged, blind and disabled (490,000) would be exempt. In all 461,000 would be affected by the work requirements.

Originally the bill backers wanted to exempt counties with unemployment over 8.5 %, but this was dropped at the request of Governor Snyder. He thought tracking unemployment every month in 83 counties would be a nightmare.

House and Senate fiscal analysts believe there would be savings of \$25-45 million or 2.5 %. With this rule in place, 5-15 % of currently-eligible adults would be eliminated from Medicaid and be without coverage. Work requirements would cost money to implement. As much as \$70 million would be needed to purchase software and administrative support. Already understaffed state workers would have to monitor the program to ensure compliance. Hospitals would see uncompensated care costs increase.

The Michigan Senate approved this bill on April 19. It has been referred to the House Appropriations Committee. The bill would require an average of 29 hours of work a week to qualify for Medicaid. Employment, job training,

vocational training, internship, and participation in substance abuse treatment would qualify for Medicaid coverage. If would-be recipients did not meet this requirement within 30 days of a warning issued they would be barred from Medicaid for a year. I have not found any information as to who would pay for the job training, vocational training or internships.

Those opposed are concerned about people who will be losing health care. Michigan's Children, an independent organization whose mission is ensuring that public policy is in the best interests of Michigan's children and families, noted when low income parents are uninsured, their children are less likely to see a medical provider of any kind. Research on Medicaid expansion nationally found that adults in households covered by Medicaid borrowed less money for medical costs. This allowed parents to afford more healthful food or safe housing. The issue is complicated.

Should access to affordable health care be a right? Didn't we decide that with the Affordable Care Act? AAUW supports quality affordable and accessible health care including reproductive health care. Times are changing. Stay tuned.

Karlyn Rapport, Public Policy Representative



AAUW Amendments: Don't Forget to Vote!

Dear Member,

Have you reviewed our emails about the AAUW election? Your voice needs to be heard. On June 9 voting closes on proposed amendments to AAUW's bylaws. We have simplified the voting process by providing you with this personalized email with your individual voting information.

Go to the AAUW vote page and enter your member ID and your voter PIN when prompted and then review the ballot and cast your votes. The deadline to submit paper ballots has now passed, so we encourage you to vote online to ensure that your vote is counted.

Voting closes on Saturday, June 9, at 9 p.m. ET and results will be announced on June 10 on AAUW's website.

Want additional information before your cast your ballot? Please see our [latest video where AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown and I discuss all three of the bylaws amendments](#) where AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown and I discuss all three of the bylaws amendments, or read the [Voter Guide](#) for full details about the amendments.

Should you have any questions about the vote, you may contact us at connect@aauw.org or 800.326.2289, Monday–Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.

Your voice in AAUW's future matters. Make it count. Vote today!

*Best wishes,
Kimberly Churches,
Chief Executive Officer*

ASSAULTS on REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

The Department of Health and Human Services submitted a rule change on May 25, 2018 that would prevent Title X funded health care services from providing information regarding abortion to patients. This would implement a domestic gag rule. Planned Parenthood is directly targeted through physical separation requirements. Planned Parenthood in **Michigan** provides health care to 70% of the state's Title X recipients. The rule change would also impact funding for Title X, the program providing dedicated funds for reproductive health care for low income and underserved populations. Women in Michigan and elsewhere would not get the birth control, cancer screening, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, or general women's health exams they need. This rule will undergo a 60-day comment period before it is finalized. AAUW joined 110 organizations opposing the implementation of the gag rule.

Iowa passed a restrictive abortion law banning abortion when a fetal heart beat is evident. This occurs at 6 weeks gestation before women are even aware they are pregnant. This highly restrictive law has been challenged in the courts via a lawsuit filed by ACLU of Iowa and the Planned Parenthood Foundation of America. Despite the fact that Iowa's own Attorney General refused to defend the new law, a private law firm has agreed to do so. As the case progresses, it could reach the United States Supreme Court and so provide an opportunity for the current members of the Court to consider the continuing validity of Roe v. Wade.

Ohio introduced an abortion ban with no exceptions, punishing those who seek and provide abortions with the death penalty.

Arkansas' ban on medically induced abortion now stands because the Supreme Court will not hear this argument, thus letting a lower court ruling stand. This Supreme Court decision removes the stay on this unbelievable assault on reproductive freedom.

President Trump signed an executive order which affirms the right of employers to object to health care mandates such as contraceptive coverage on religious grounds. AAUW supports the right of every women to access safe, affordable, comprehensive health care.

What can we do? Contact Attorney General Bill Schuette at (517) 373 1110. Let him know he needs to stand up for women and families and oppose the gag rule. Talk to candidates and know their position on reproductive health care. Vote and support accordingly.

Karlyn Rapport, Public Policy Representative

Dues ARE due!

You should have received a reminder of your dues. The email from National AAUW gives the total amount you owe and two options for paying, either by credit card to them (and they will deposit your local dues in our bank account and send MI AAUW their dues), or you can send a check to me at 617 W Hampton St, Marquette 49855. Thanks for sending them soon – I'm supposed to collect them by the end of June.

Meredith Kulisheck, Treasurer

*Please save your Econo receipts
and bring to September Salad Supper*

