



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

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

Facebook: [AAUW Marquette Branch](#)

From Judy Puncochar and the
AAUW-Marquette Executive Committee

Greetings

We are grateful to our AAUW-Marquette members and all you have done for women and girls this year. Shared moments of listening, lending a helping hand, enjoying a smile, and celebrating successes have defined our welcoming, supportive membership. Behind our membership's warmth and camaraderie is a collective courage to keep fighting to advance equity and aspirations of women and girls. ***Thank you for your desire to make the world a better place and for your trust in our leadership.*** We look forward to locking arms and advancing the work of your AAUW-Marquette Branch in 2019.

KEEP IN TOUCH. We want to hear from *you* and advocate for *your ideas* to advance equity,

Judy Puncochar president
jpuncoch@nmu.edu

We'll see you
Thursday, December 6, 6 pm at our festive

Holiday Dinner

Renee Leow (rmleow@charter.net) and her expert team have organized a festive evening of catered heavy hors d'oeuvres and featured AAUW master bakers' holiday treats at the Federated Women's Clubhouse. We look forward to an exciting annual celebration together with music, companionship, and merriment.



Next Meeting – Thursday, February 14, 7 pm FIRST LADIES Social



Plan to attend and learn about some special First Ladies of the U.S. This has proven to be a most enjoyable and informative occasion.

Consider a gift to our NMU Scholarship Campaign



Make your check payable to:

AAUW Marquette Branch

and in the memo section note:

AAUW NMU Scholarship Fund.

Send check to: Meredith Kulisheck,
617 W Hampton St., Marquette MI 49855

Thank you to all who have given.

We are at 50% of our \$5,000 goal!

Les Bek, Scholarship Campaign Committee

**First AAUW mixer held for local
professionals and NMU students**

CAREER NIGHT: Empowering Women as They Launch

In November we held our first, but certainly not last mixer for local professionals and NMU students. The mixer style event was organized as various stations with a variety of questions to be discussed in groups

of professional women and students. In a rare opportunity, students were allowed to freely listen and ask questions while building connections with professional women from all kinds of backgrounds. One of whom was Christie Bleck, a Journal staff writer for the Marquette Mining Journal, who wrote a nice article for the front-page news on our event the following day.



See: <http://www.miningjournal.net/news/front-page-news/2018/11/aauw-hosts-local-career-night/?fbclid=IwAR1MmjUyWR4ISKq2yGVVlhsJ7Iga8IGL37gjNWb8OuvIjtALot8cXZw730U>

The night as a whole was extremely beneficial to both parties who seemed to have enjoyed participating! We hosted 40 women, 16 of which were NMU graduate and undergraduate students. Overall, the event gave us the chance to create more awareness to what AAUW is all about. Thank you to all of those who attended and invited others to join. Being this event was a big hit, there are plans to continue this in the future.

Membership Co-chair Taylor Susa

PUBLIC POLICY

Please consider putting aside holiday preparations for two important issues

1. Rolling back earned, paid sick leave

The lame duck session of the Michigan Legislature is planning to roll back the earned paid sick leave which is now PA338 of 2018 which requires employers with 10 or more employees to provide 1 hour of sick leave time for every 30 hours worked up to 72 hours per year.

Businesses with less than 10 employees are allowed to accrue 40 hours of sick leave per year. This is a public health issue. Without benefit of earned paid sick time employees who can't afford to stay home come to work sick and often are forced to send their children to school sick because they can't afford child care. Nearly 2 million Michiganders are without access to earned paid sick leave.

Because the legislature *can* amend a legislatively voter-initiated law, Governor Snyder could veto a legislative attempt to gut PA 338 of 2018. Tell the Governor and our legislators to keep the recently adopted earned paid sick leave law without weakening amendments. Reject SB 1175 or its equivalent.

Please call Governor Snyder at 517-373-3400; Michigan House Representative Scott Dianda at 517-373-0850; State Senator Tom Casperson at 517-373-7840, Michigan House Representative Sara Cambensy at 888-429-1377.

2. Title IX is in big trouble

Betsy DeVos released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking which drastically changes Title IX's protection to survivors of sexual assault and sexual harassment at public schools and universities. Currently, the schools' response must be both prompt and equitable for both parties. This means the standard of proof across the board for either party, accuser or accused, is a preponderance of evidence.

The proposed new rules narrow the definition of sexual harassment so it excludes the abuse students experience. The new rules also limit how schools respond to reports of sexual harassment. They make it harder for students to come forward and obtain the support needed.

These new rules are part of an administrative effort to dismantle Title IX protection. To add your name to a letter opposing these changes, go to aauw.org online. Under the heading "Take Action," click on "Take Action for Title IX." This action is a major AAUW national effort, but the time period in which public comment can be made is fading fast. Please do this now. It will only take a couple of minutes of your time.

Public Policy Representative Karlyn Rapport

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS



Kathy Davis

Kathy Davis is a retired high school biology teacher with nearly 20 years of AAUW-Marquette Branch service on the

Hospitality and Membership Committees. Currently, Kathy is co-chair of our Hospitality Committee. In addition, Kathy uses her high-energy science teacher persona to raise funds for biennial AAUW-Marquette STEM activities for middle school girls. She has raised over \$4,000 for science activities this year alone.

Kathy is an activist in environmental protection efforts. She belongs to the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, League of Conservation Voters, Michigan Audubon Society, and the Center

for Biodiversity, Sierra Club, and Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy. She is a dedicated Piping Plover conservationist.

As a non-partisan organization, AAUW encourages civic engagement in political activities of a member's choice. For 40 years, Kathy has been politically engaged as a precinct delegate for the Democratic Party. She belongs to an activist group called Emily's List to support campaign efforts of pro-choice Democratic women candidates for State and Federal office. She is a member of the National Organization for Women (NOW), American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and Planned Parenthood of Michigan.

In her spare time, Kathy bakes fabulous cookies for AAUW events and takes daily walks with her spouse, Bill, and their much-loved Golden Retriever, Louise.



Kathy with Louise as a puppy