



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

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

Facebook: [AAUW Marquette Branch](#)

## *Our branch is empowering...*

This month's Newsletter contains several wonderful articles about our May actions and events. Be sure to read Karlyn Rapport's critically important article on the Reproductive Rights Rally and associated Michigan legislative bills restricting women's reproductive rights. Let's give Ruth Ziel a warm welcome as our new Financial Vice President for 2019-2020. Thank you, Meredith, for five years of dedicated service to our branch finances. We will install our new board officers with a brief ceremony at our September Salad Supper on Thursday, September 12, 2019.

Our May program, "Marquette County Blueprint for



Safety," was presented by Heather Addison. Heather wove a riveting story of Marquette County's collaborative multi-system response to domestic violence crimes. Marquette County is the largest county in Michigan by land area and life in rural Marquette County has relatively limited access to health and safety responders. Their coordination using the Blueprint guidelines will enhance the safety and benefits to many Marquette residents.

The value of our branch lies with our talented members, so we'll wrap-up a highly productive year with a few of our members' voices.

**Jaime Vanenkevort:** "Congrats to Taylor Susa on finishing up her first year as the AAUW student representative! She continues to impress me with her strength, integrity, and outreach to other women. Go, Taylor!"

**Carol Steinhaus:** "Enjoyed helping with the book sale on Saturday---WOW!! I took 2 boxes of books to Mona Zybert who has a daughter who will take them to schools in Flint and/or to places like laundromats for kids to read."

**Judy Warner:** "I delivered 9 small boxes of children/teen books to the Bay Cliff Health Camp before their closing time (3:20 PM) on Saturday following the close of our book sale at Noon."

**Pat Pellet** on the AAUW puppets: "I met Jo from the History Museum yesterday. She took one carload of puppets back to her work. I feel good about the History Museum having even some of what we have because the puppet shows are certainly a part of the history of Marquette!"

**Jaime Vanenkevort:** "As a woman thinking about the Kavanaugh appointment, the ethics of our current president, and current legislative efforts in Alabama, Georgia, etc., regarding female reproductive rights, I am heartened and empowered to be a part of our local AAUW chapter. The fight for equity for women and girls starts at home."

Our branch is empowering, and we will launch a membership campaign in September. For every two people who sign up as AAUW members at a branch program meeting, we earn one free national membership. *No need to wait until September.* Talk about our branch now and contact Leslie Warren ([lwarren@nmu.edu](mailto:lwarren@nmu.edu)) and Taylor Susa ([tsusa@nmu.edu](mailto:tsusa@nmu.edu)) with names of interested members.

Enjoy every minute of summer! We look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Best,

*Judy Puncochar  
President AAUW-Marquette Branch*



## **We Are Making 2019-20 Scholarships Happen**

The income from the book sale was \$3262.50 with \$271.80 in expenses. So, we cleared \$2990.70 to use for scholarships. Our Scholarship Fund Drive earlier this year received contributions of \$3543.

Combined with the book sale proceeds we will be able to give NMU scholarships of \$6533 for the 2019-20 school year.

*Meredith Kulisheck, Treasurer*



### REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS RALLY

Thank you one and all for your work on and attendance at the Reproductive Rights Rally in Marquette May 21. Marge Forslin, Ruth Ziel and Karlyn Rapport were part of the 12-member organizing team called together by Martha Fitzgerald. The committee had 54 hours to make the rally a reality. The event was part of a nationwide effort to protest legislative assaults on women's reproductive freedom—in the past 4 years 288 abortion restrictive laws were passed.

Michigan's House of Representatives and Senate passed HB 4320, HB 4321, SB229 and SB230 which ban a standard of care for termination of pregnancy at 14-15 weeks known as D&E. The punishment for violating this law is 2 years in prison. Governor Gretchen Whitmer has promised to veto this law.

However, two organizations will pursue initiative petitions before the legislature which would circumvent Governor Whitmer's veto. The Michigan Constitution allows a group that gathers valid signatures from registered voters equal to 8% of the total vote for governor in the previous election to bring its proposal before the legislature for enactment. If the legislature does not act, the proposal goes on the November ballot.

The first initiative, the Michigan Heartbeat proposal, makes it a felony punishable by 2-4 years in prison to perform an abortion when a fetal heartbeat is detected (at 6 weeks of gestation). There is no exception for rape or incest. Although so called "Right to Life" opposes the heartbeat proposal, it will bring an initiative barring the dilation and evacuation procedure referred to earlier. This second initiative also does not allow exceptions for rape or incest. To counteract the two initiatives, a decline-to-sign campaign is anticipated.

Marquette's Rally for Reproductive Rights was part of the national Stop the Bans campaign. It demonstrated there is strong support for

reproductive rights. Marge Forslin counted over 300 people in attendance at our Marquette event. Thank you to Judy Puncochar and Marge Forslin for getting word of the rally out to AAUW members. Thanks to Susan Shaver for her Take Action tips. Thanks to Ruth Ziel and Marge Forslin for doing crowd control and passing out the Take Action information.

There is still much we need to do. Call Governor Whitmer (517-373-3400), tell her you support her veto of these bills, HB 4320, HB 4321, SB 229 and SB230 or just say you support her veto of the bills restricting access to abortion. Call Sara Cambensy (517-373-0498) and thank her for her vote in opposition to HB 4320 and HB 4321. Call Senator Ed McBroom's office (517-373-7840) and say you are disappointed in his vote supporting SB 229 and 230.

"The decision whether or not to bear a child is central to a woman's life.....It is a decision she must make for herself. When government controls that decision for her, she is treated as less than a fully adult human responsible for her own choices." *Ruth Bader Ginsburg.*

We are witnessing a national attack on women. We have to fight for reproductive freedom and Roe v Wade again. U.S. Congress has reintroduced the Women's Health Protection Act which if passed (and that is a big IF), it would stop harmful restrictions on access to abortion.

Meanwhile, Health and Human Services (HHS) plans to revise regulations providing protection against sex-based discrimination in health care thereby losing protection for LGBTQ people. HHS finalized rules allowing health care providers to refuse to provide services based on **that individual provider's** religious belief. The Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a proposed rule allowing discrimination against homeless transgender people. Clearly the rights of women and LGBTQ are being targeted.

If you are lucky enough to see a legislator on their break, ask what they personally are doing to protect our rights and reproductive freedom. What is Congress doing to achieve a balance of power between the three branches of government the founders of our democracy envisioned?

After you have made the calls listed above, read a good book, take a walk and take care of yourself. We are in for a long fight.

*Karlyn Rapport, Marquette Branch AAUW  
Public Policy Representative*



**Program Yourself to Join the  
AAUW Program Committee  
June 12 at Noon at Zephyr  
Wine Bar & Café**  
*and Karlyn will buy you lunch.*

At the heart of AAUW’s Marquette Branch are the programs we offer at our monthly meetings. We educate ourselves and the general public on AAUW’s priority issues. Last year our programs included voting matters, fighting sexual harassment, the *Marquette County Blueprint for Safety*. We helped empower young women launching their careers, we entertained ourselves with First Lady stories, we sorted books for the book sale.

Now the program committee is planning next year’s programs. Board members offered some good suggestions to us when we asked, but we need to flesh out ideas, recommend speakers or formats, divvy up tasks, and nail down the programs for our program booklet editor Karen Rudisill.

Each program committee member takes responsibility for one program. That means connecting with the speaker in order to write a short biography about them and a paragraph describing the program. The bio and program description are emailed to Jackie Stark, our branch publicity person by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the program presentation. Then on the evening of the program, the program committee member will introduce the speaker and hand them a small thank you gift after the presentation. If life intervenes and the program committee member is not in town for the program for which they agreed to be responsible, other AAUW members can cover for them.

If you might be willing to join the committee, we are asking that you attend this one lunch meeting, share your ideas, and then be part of any follow-up communications by email or, at most, one additional meeting to confirm the programs and eventually write up the blurb about the program and introduce the speaker for one program.

Next year’s dates and suggestions so far are:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| September 12, 2019 | Salad Supper  |
| October 10, 2019   | How are Marquette and Alger counties insuring children are able to read by 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade? |
| November 14, 2019  | Mixer with NMU students   |
| December 12, 2019  | Holiday Dinner  |
| February 20, 2020  | Honoring Susan B. Anthony   |

- March 12, 2020 *see first bullet point below*
  - April 20, 2020 Book sale sorting
  - May 14, 2020 As yet undefined program on STEM
- Other suggestions:

- In August 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified granting women the right to vote...perhaps we can programmatically bring attention to this. Consider using this as a theme for the March program.
- Go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and look at issues and public policy priorities for other ideas.

**Please join program committee members  
Les Bek, Taylor Susa and Karlyn Rapport  
June 12, 2019 at Noon at Zephyr’s.**

**Let Karlyn know ([krapport@chartermi.net](mailto:krapport@chartermi.net)) that you are coming so she can make reservations.**



**This summer...  
save your Econo Slips  
and bring them to  
a meeting this fall.**

**REMEMBER  
2019-2020 Dues Are Due!**

For most of us, dues for 2019-20 are \$105. If you have not paid your dues, you will receive an email from National AAUW reminding you of the amount you should pay. That email will tell you that you can send a check to me (**Meredith Kulisheck, 617 W Hampton St, Marquette, MI 49855**) or pay on-line. The email will tell you how to pay on-line, if that is your choice. Either way, please pay your dues before June 30.

*Meredith Kulisheck, Treasurer*



## Hospitality Committee for 2019-20

Please help me get this done.

### SEPTEMBER 12 - Salad Supper

Kathy Davis is the chair. Ann Arnold and Les Bek are on the committee. **We need one more person.**

### OCTOBER 12

Pat Pellett is the chair. Jackie Gallagher and Elizabeth Miller are on the committee.

### NOVEMBER 14

Kay Payant is the chair. Marge Forslin and Jackie Stark are on the committee.

### DECEMBER 12 - Holiday Dinner

We have no one signed up. **We need 4 people!**

### FEBRUARY 20

Meg Goodrich is the chair. Mary Ellen Eckler and Carol Cappuccio are on the committee.

### MARCH 12

Kathy Davis is the chair. Jane Ryan is on the committee. **We need one more person.**

### APRIL 20 - Book Sale Potluck

Three members signed up--Pat Micklow, June Davis, Judy Puncocar. **We need one member to be the chair.**

### MAY 14

June Davis is the chair. Judy Warner is on the committee. **We need one more person.**

Email or call if you can help one of these dates so our schedule can be printed in our Membership Booklet. Please, please let me know so we can get this finished up

*Kathy Davis, [kdavismqt@aol.com](mailto:kdavismqt@aol.com)  
Hospitality Chairperson*

## SOME 2018-19 BOARD MEMBERS



L to R: Ruth Ziel, program committee; Kathy Davis, hospitality co-chair; Kay Payant, recording secretary; Judy Puncocar, president; Les Bek, program co-chair and scholarship campaign chair; Jackie Stark, publicity; Meg Goodrich, hospitality co-chair; Marge Forslin, newsletter; and June Davis, corresponding secretary.

## THANK YOU, TIMES TWO!

*"No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks." – James Allen*

These two words are music to the ears and can not be heard enough. **Thank you.**

To each of you who contributed your financial support this membership year to our NMU Scholarship Campaign and our newly established Friendship Fund. **Thank you.**

Your generosity is helping young women have academic opportunities at NMU and support during challenging times.

Your generosity has established our Friendship Fund as the action arm of our Resolution of Culture of Support. Our intent is to be here for one another when we may need support. **Thank you.**

*Les Bek, Chair  
Scholarship Campaign & Friendship Fund*

## MEET AAUW BOARD MEMBER Marge Forslin



Marge has been doing the newsletter for us since 2015 and has archived them all on our website, so you



can always go back and refer to past issues. If you go to the website <https://marquette-mi.aauw.net/> and click on the word "NEWSLETTERS" in the menu, you can choose the issues you want to look at.

When she's not doing the newsletter for us, Marge is hiking, or hoping to be out hiking soon, on the North Country National Scenic Trail. She works on the trail crew maintaining the Marquette chapter's 120 miles of trail. She also leads Softies hikes. Staying in motels, eating at restaurants and day hiking, the Softies have hiked across the U.P. from Copper Peak at Bessamer to the Mackinaw Bridge in St Ignace where they'll conclude this fall. They hike just one weekend in the spring and one in the fall and crossed the peninsula in 12 years.

Marge is also a knitter and is the treasurer for the League of Women Voters of Marquette. She is also always longing to visit her three sons (one in California, one in Maine with two grandsons, and one in Lansing, Michigan). She and her husband John often help with long-distance events as ham-radio operators, providing a safety net of connections for participants where cell towers are few and far between, i.e., most places in the U.P.



## AAUW-Marquette Branch End-of-Year Report

The Marquette Branch of the AAUW is a leading voice to promote equity and education for women and girls in our community.

Stagnating economic conditions for women, soaring student debt, and a lurking fear that women’s reproductive rights will be rolled back are unrelenting calls to action. As members of our branch, we address fundamental educational, social, economic, and political issues on a daily basis. We advance our message through our members and our actions. A brief summary of a few of our 2018-2019 membership accomplishments are summarized below.

**AAUW Regional Event:** We hosted a Sat 13-Oct-2018 AAUW Regional event, featuring AAUW-Michigan President Deb Kennedy and guests from the Escanaba and Iron Mountain/Kingsford branches.

**AAUW-NMU:** We launched a new student chapter at Fall Fest 2018. Taylor Susa became our first AAUW-NMU liaison.

**Culture of Support Resolution.** We created, signed, and framed a Culture of Support Resolution.

**Equal Pay Day:** We hosted an Equal Pay Day event on Tue 2-Apr-2019 in Whitman Commons with a [Video](#) by Michigan Representative Sara Cambensy created for Equal Pay Day, remarks by Karlyn Rapport, a [Video](#) by Emma Watson on being an activist for gender equity, and an introduction to AAUW [Work Smart Online](#) (a free course established for Equal Pay).

**Bylaws:** We are updating our Bylaws to move our branch from 501(c)4 to 501(c)3 tax status with a designated Registered Agent (Ruth Ziel).

**Friendship Fund.** We started a line item Friendship Fund for support and empowerment of current and prospective members of the AAUW who might be in need of such things as dues assistance, professional networking support, and social connections.

**Fundraising:** We contributed to Yesterday’s Treasures Sale (\$1600 less expenses), our annual Book Sale (\$3267.50), and our Scholarship Campaign (\$2,676.00).

**Meet your Members:** We created a new section in our monthly newsletter to feature members of our AAUW-Marquette Branch

**Special Highlights:** **Cortney Salvucci Kingsley** was recognized with the 2019 Martha Griffiths Award. **Kathy Davis** received the Sigma Xi 2019 Science Teacher Award. **Mary Snitgen** was lauded as our Named Grant Award honoree for her commitment and service to our Branch and the AAUW national organization. Our 2018-2019 scholarship recipient **Suzette Elizabeth LaCasse** was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management with a Native American Studies minor on May 7, 2019.

**Goals for 2019-2020:** Current goals include submission of our Culture of Support Resolution to the AAUW-Michigan as a state-wide resolution, completion of our Bylaws update and obtainment of 501(c)3 tax status, the launch our membership drive in September, and upholding our leading voice to promote equity and education for women and girls through our continued excellence in programming, scholarships, friendship, and purpose.

Please submit 2019-20 goals you would like your board members to discuss to [jpuncoch@nmu.edu](mailto:jpuncoch@nmu.edu). **Your voice matters.**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Puncochar, President, AAUW-Marquette Branch*

### AAUW-Marquette Branch Board of Directors 2018–19

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Jackie Stark	Scholarship & Publicity
Judy Puncochar	President & College University Relations
June Davis	Corresponding Secretary
Karen Rudisill	Membership Booklet
Karlyn Rapport	Program & Public Policy
Katherine Larson	Publicity
Kathy Davis	Hospitality & STEM
Kay Payant	Recording Secretary
Les Bek	Program
Leslie Warren	College University Relations & Membership
Marge Forslin	Newsletter & Website Editor
Margie West	Federation Board
Meg Goodrich	Hospitality
Meredith Kulisheck	Finance
Taylor Susa	Membership