



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

Website: <http://marquette-mi.aauw.net> Facebook: [AAUW Marquette Branch](#)



## Welcome!

Thirty-one branch members, guests, and AAUW-NMU students launched an exciting new year of AAUW programming at our Salad Supper. Presenter Jaime VanEnkevort provided interactive questions about “Why AAUW?” Jaime inspired us to take action. Read more about our “Action Groups” on the next column.

Applause to everyone who contributed time and energy to cooking, serving, and cleaning up at our Salad Supper, including Hospitality Committee members Kathy Davis, Ann Arnold, Sue Payant, and Mary Snitgen. Food was delicious and dishes were plentiful. We are hiring clean-up help in advance for next year’s Salad Supper.

Thank you for your membership in our amazing AAUW-Marquette Branch. We are a caring group of hard-working, forward-looking women who are well on our way to another productive year.

*Judy Puncochar  
AAUW–Marquette Branch President*



## Next Meeting

Thursday, October 10, 7pm

## VOTING MATTERS

The Marquette Branch of the American Association of University Women is hosting a *free voter information night* at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 10 at the Marquette Federated Women’s Clubhouse, located at 104 W Ridge St in Marquette.

Open to the public “Voting Matters” will feature *Marquette Deputy City Clerk Kyle Whitney* who will give a presentation on local elections: how they’re conducted and how local citizens can get involved.

The presentation will also touch on changes to voting laws, including no-reason absentee voting and same-day voter registration. This free event is open to members and non-members of AAUW, and all are encouraged to learn more about elections and voting.

*Jackie Stark  
Program Committee*

## NEW!! Action Groups

Historically, AAUW was founded in 1881 by a group of 17 white educated women in Boston who envisioned “education and equity for all women and girls.” At our Salad Supper, we explored the meaning of “all” within current contexts of diversity, equity vs. equality, and inclusion and intersectionality.

Jaime VanEnkevort said, “I joined AAUW to advocate for women and girls and to be and feel a part of a movement taking action against oppression.” Les Bek suggested, “AAUW is an infrastructure with national power in outreach.” Resulting discussions touched on several topics:

- Accessing AAUW national influence to increase opportunities for women in rural communities;
- Learning about efforts of other organizations to reduce barriers to education and equity for all women and girls; and

- Identifying who might feel excluded from or unable to participate in education, current social and civil discourse, and our AAUW branch.

We discussed how to expand our collective work toward inclusion, diversity, and action against oppression and inequity for all women and girls. Our branch purpose drives the motivation of our members and their tenure.

**THREE ACTION GROUPS** arose from our discussions:

1. **Media** – Jackie Stark and others are interested in ways to reach diverse groups of people through media. This Action Group would explore types of media to help inform AAUW discourse within our rural communities.
2. **Friends of AAUW** – Marge Forslin, Les Bek, Jaime VanEnkevort and others want to look into ways to create a local category for community members who have not yet obtained a college degree.
3. **Mentorship Action Group** – Mary Snitgen, Judy Warner, Susan Shaver, and others expressed an interest in connecting AAUW members and community professionals through meaningful mentoring activities and interactions with NMU students pursuing their degrees.

Our branch embraces the AAUW vision of equity for all, values, nonpartisan actions, and fact-based work. Please read AAUW (2019) “Who We Are.” Our Action Groups align with the AAUW mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Contact [jpuncoch@nmu.edu](mailto:jpuncoch@nmu.edu) for information about participating in an Action Group. Thank you!

*Judy Puncochar  
AAUW–Marquette Branch President*

## UPDATE: NMU Scholarship Campaign

**“Education is not the filling of the pail,  
but the lighting of a fire. W. B. Yeats**

We kicked off our NMU Scholarship Campaign in September to coincide with the beginning of our membership program season, and for many, the back-to-school season. A perfect pairing.

Our AAUW mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Through the AAUW Marquette Branch NMU Scholarship your contribution is moving our mission forward right here at home.

Thank you to all who have made a contribution putting us at 20% of our \$5,000 goal. We are asking each member to extend this invitation to one friend who also supports our mission. Campaign letters or email versions can be obtained from Marge Forslin, [mforslin2@charter.net](mailto:mforslin2@charter.net). Make your donation payable to AAUW-Marquette Branch, memo NMU Scholarship; then bring it to a program or mail to Financial Vice President, Ruth Ziel 734 Lakewood Lane, Marquette, MI 49855.

Thank you to Marge Forslin, Leslie Warren, June Davis, Judy Puncochar, and Ruth Ziel for your time and talents in managing this important campaign. *Note: Our current tax-exempt status does not allow donors a tax exemption for their donation.*

*Les Bek  
NMU Scholarship Campaign Chair*



## AAUW-NMU Student Group

AAUW-NMU is official!

We are registered as an NMU Student Organization (#1072) for the academic year 2019-2020. Taylor Susa is the AAUW-NMU liaison to our branch. Taylor also serves on our board, where she co-chairs the membership committee with Leslie Warren. Judy Puncochar is the student group advisor.

AAUW-NMU is comprised of undergraduate and graduate students who seek to advance equity for women and girls. The student group facilitates and attends trainings on how to negotiate a fair salary and benefits and how to run campaigns for student government or community offices. The group also is interested in helping to facilitate science and math activities with middle school girls. Student members are provided with opportunities by the AAUW-Marquette Branch to engage in mentoring relationships with professional women in the surrounding community.

The student organization’s category on campus is “diversity.” Estimated average number of members for this academic year is 48. Last year, 47 interested members were on our listserv. AAUW-NMU student members receive a copy of our branch newsletter.

## Public Policy News

### Michigan –

It is hard to keep up to date, but thank heavens for Mary Pollock, Michigan AAUW's Government Relations Coordinator for this information.

Michigan Court of Claims Judge Cynthia Stephens ruled on a law signed by Governor Rick Snyder which if allowed to stand would have made it much harder for groups circulating petitions to put new initiatives on the ballot.

Jocelyn Benson asked Dana Nessel, Attorney General, to rule on this piece of legislation. Nessel determined parts of the law were unconstitutional. Legal challenges from the League of Women Voters, the Republican House and Senate and three Michigan voters followed.

Stephens ruled as unconstitutional the requirement no more than 15% of initiative petition signatures can come from each congressional district. Judge Stephens found this limits citizens' ability to express their views. Judge Stephens also ruled unconstitutional a requirement that petition circulators check a box indicating whether they are paid or volunteered to circulate each petition signature sheet.

These rulings may be appealed. Voters Not Politicians pointed out this legislation is part of an effort by the Republican legislature to silence voters by limiting their ability to petition their government to fix fundamental problems in our democracy.

It should be noted that the legislature did not adequately fund the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission which Michigan voters passed in Proposal 2 by a landslide. They moved it from the Secretary of State's Office to a GOP controlled Legislative council.

To avoid a government shut-down, the budget passed the Michigan House by 91-18 and the Michigan Senate by 21-17. Only Democrats voted no on this budget. The budget is now headed to Governor Whitmer. Democrats were able

to get an increase of 60 million for special education, that is a 2% increase. Whitmer's budget proposed a 4% increase

Money was allocated for increasing the number of literacy coaches from 93 to 186. Governor Whitmer wanted to triple this number. Funding for Great Start

Readiness, the state's free pre-school for 4-year olds from low income families has a 2% increase. Eligibility requirements have not expanded. Whitmer proposed a 34% increase.

This budget does not solve Michigan's education crisis. The budget had to be based on current revenue not the 2.5 billion increase Whitmer's 45 cent gas tax would have produced. There is no separate revenue stream to fix the roads in the recently passed budget. Governor Whitmer can do line item vetoes and shift funding but has to remain within the dollar amount of this budget.

At a time when Michigan schools are in crisis, our children deserve better.

*Karlyn Rapport,  
Public Policy Representative*

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CHILDREN DESERVE BETTER.



### Calling all AAUW Snowbirds

#### BOOK STORAGE HELP NEEDED

AAUW was delighted to receive donations of some books to sell at our annual April Book Sale.

In selling them we will be able to earn money to help fund our scholarships.

Would you be able to let us store some boxes of books at your house while you are away this winter?

We can drop them off and pick them up when you return.