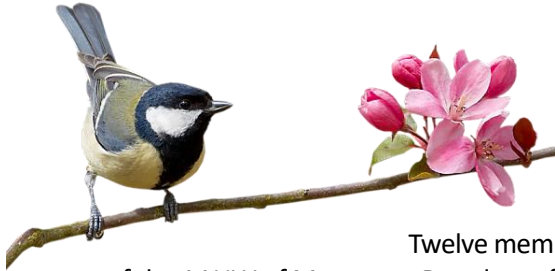




AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

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

Facebook: [AAUW Marquette Branch](#)



Twelve members of the AAUW of Marquette Board met for the May 2020 meeting via Zoom. After our third Zoom meeting, we have become seasoned experts at video conferencing. We polished Clubhouse policies and procedures in anticipation of an exciting slate of 2020-2021 programs. These programs support the AAUW mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy for EQUITY FOR ALL. The call for EQUITY FOR ALL is strong.

Our newsletter arrives amid a deadly COVID-19 pandemic and roiling US economic turmoil and massive protests for EQUITY NOW. Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer calls for empathy, humanity, and unity during a gravely challenging period in our nation's history. Maya Angelou's words help us understand the protests:



"...a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams  
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream  
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied  
so he opens his throat to sing..."

"The caged bird sings  
with a fearful trill  
of things unknown  
but longed for still  
and his tune is heard  
on the distant hill  
for the caged bird  
sings of freedom."

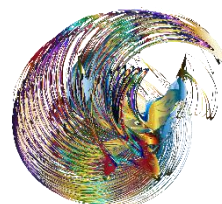
Our US democracy has had a merciless history of damage to minority-status peoples, ages, and sexes. AAUW of Marquette is taking effective, sustained action to build an AAUW that works for all women and girls. We mentor women and girls, provide scholarships for their college degrees, and focus on diversity and EQUITY NOW to achieve a vision of equal opportunity for all.

The AAUW Diversity Policy states, "There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class." Our current policy to require a post-secondary educational degree to become a member of AAUW is at odds with efforts of inclusion, equity, and diversity. AAUW cannot promote equity for all women and girls if our organization maintains exclusionary membership requirements. AAUW of Marquette started a dialogue to explore how to create inclusive change at our September 2019 meeting. Let us continue this dialogue in 2020-2021 and seek an AAUW that works for everyone.

Join in solidarity to advance equity for all women and girls. Rise up. Pick up your pen, write letters, and take action to achieve a nation that works for everyone. Find your voice. Sing of no barriers to full participation. Sing of freedom for everyone. Remain resolute, healthy, and active.

*Judy Puncochar, AAUW of Marquette President*

*I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*© by owner, Maya Angelou, provided at no charge for educational purposes.



Just don't throw them away!

*Please continue*

*to save your Econo slips and bring them to the next meeting we can all attend in person.*

Or if you prefer to be rid of those you have already collected, Meredith Kulisheck offered that you can send them to her at 617 Hampton St, Marquette, MI 49855.

# Membership:

*We all can make a difference.*

Thank **you** for being  
an AAUW of Marquette member.



## Each year we paint a different portrait of ourselves.

- Change comes.
- Like time it cannot be stopped.
- Change can be exciting and open new opportunities.

We hope you will find the 2020-2021 version of the AAUW Marquette Branch portrait bursting with enthusiasm, knowledge, vision, and vibrant colors.

We have three objectives for membership this upcoming year:

1. Retain and sustain current membership.
2. Revisit former members.
3. Intentional emphasis on inclusion and diversity in our membership outreach.

Each objective will have strategies for success. Some tried and true, some new, and some suggested by National AAUW, our Board of Directors, and members. Please prepare to join us as we develop our call to action. There is room for everyone at this membership table.

We are requesting that all members provide suggestions about how we can become more diverse, include women from different races and cultures, and expand our membership. Several board members have mentioned how much they miss the diversity of other states or larger cities where they lived previously.

Our Board of Directors will be holding a work session on a variety of issues in August. One focus will be membership diversity.

Please send us your suggestions. Thank you.  
[lbek@gsnwg1.org](mailto:lbek@gsnwg1.org) or [susaneshaver@yahoo.com](mailto:susaneshaver@yahoo.com)

*Les Bek & Susan Shaver, Membership Co-Chairs*

## Public Policy News

### “Right to Life” (RTL) Michigan Petition

The Michigan Secretary of State drew 500 sample names from the petitions for verification of voter status as requested. Planned Parenthood is checking to see if a challenge is warranted.

Both chambers of the Michigan legislature have already passed bills to criminalize dilation and extraction abortions. Governor Whitmer vetoed these bills. If the legislature approves this voter-initiated legislation as outlined in RTL’s petition it will become a statute without the Governor’s approval. It is unfortunate that this safe abortion procedure usually used in second trimester terminations will be outlawed. Pun intended. These days you have to take humor where you find it, even if it is dark.

The never-ending bombardment on Women’s reproductive freedom continues. The Trump Administration is urging the United Nation to remove reproductive health and abortion from its COVID-19 humanitarian response plan. The U.N.’s May report on their coronavirus plan which authorizes 6.7 billion to support vulnerable countries faced with this pandemic, recognized the coronavirus affects women and girls disproportionately and disrupts access to reproductive health services.

This requested removal by the U.S. drew criticism from human rights activists. It is part of the Trump administration’s reproductive rights assault during the pandemic, labeling abortion services as non-essential. This, like the gag rule, undermines women’s rights globally.

### The Department of Education rolled back Title IX protections

AAUW’s CEO Kim Churches issued a statement protesting the U.S. Department of Education’s outrageous new ruling which will make it harder for students who experienced sexual harassment or

## Reminder: Dues are due

I would like to remind everyone who has not renewed their membership to please do so by June 30, 2020. Our new year begins July 1, 2020.

You may renew online or mail a check to me Ruth Ziel, 734 Lakewood Lane, Marquette MI, 49855. I will be sending out reminders to your email addresses again mid June. Thank you.

*Ruth Ziel, treasurer*

violence to come forward to get the protection afforded by Title IX. The ruling reverses policies put in place for survivors to report sexual misconduct. Now the process is more traumatic and onerous. These rule changes are occurring despite more than a year of vigorous opposition from survivor advocacy organizations, civil rights groups, and educational institutions. Churches pointed out that the new ruling will require extensive resources, training, and implementation at a time when educational institutions are facing challenges presented by the COVID pandemic. Kim Churches concluded “It is just wrong”.

### Good news:

On a recent virtual lobby call, Julie Leavitt, Public Policy co-chair for AAUW South Haven Affiliate reported that her branch provided voter registration information to 130 graduating seniors. They sent a thoughtful letter, and a voter registration form in a 55-cent stamped sealed envelope. The school district put the labels on the letters and sent them out. Julie Leavitt suggested other affiliate AAUW groups could do this in June or July in advance of the August 4 primary. It is a non-partisan voter registration effort that AAUW encourages. She invited us to use their letter as a template. It seems worth checking out whether local administrations would work with us on this effort. If this interests you, contact me at [krapport@chartermi.net](mailto:krapport@chartermi.net).

*That's it folks. Stay healthy, stay safe.*

*Karlyn Rapport, Public Policy Representative*

## Hospitality Schedule 2020-2021

With the Stay at Home orders last month, we missed our usual in-person opportunity to sign up for next year's hospitality duties. Instead, I will be emailing



each member a schedule, making it easy for you to respond.

As always, not only do “many hands make light work,” but sharing the responsibility for hospitality duties for one month’s meeting/program is also a pleasant way to meet other members and participate in AAUW in a meaningful way. Thanks so much for your cooperation.

*Meg Goodrich, Co-chair Hospitality*

## National Website Updated

If you haven't looked for awhile, it might be worth a peek. Go to <https://www.aauw.org/>

