



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

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



We “met” on the porch September 10 as advertised

We enjoyed beautiful weather to kick off our fall 2020 series of AAUW programs. COVID-19 restrictions transformed our traditional salad supper into a fun outdoor gathering on the front lawns and porch of the Federated Women’s Clubhouse.



Several members masked up and showed up to claim their blue membership booklets and share socially distanced greetings. Les Bek brought camping chairs for outdoor seating. Leslie Warren mentored members in use of Zoom to access our fall 2020 programs. Principal Cookie Baker Kathy Davis shared her signature chocolate chip cookies.

With printing and folding help from Marge Forslin, we included the “Just Ask” NMU Scholarship Campaign letter within our membership booklet. Many AAUW colleagues commented on Karen Rudisill’s beautiful

work with the membership booklet information. The porch meeting helped us renew our continuing camaraderie and commitment to AAUW’s mission of advocacy, education, economic security, and leadership for women and girls.

We are delighted to welcome a new member to our organization, Ann Fisher, daughter of Miriam Hilton. Ann brings great warmth and focus to our organization.



Your AAUW Board honors Jackie Stark who is stepping down temporarily as our Publicity Agent. We look forward to welcoming Jackie’s return to the board. We currently have three openings on the board to be filled—**Recording Secretary, Publicity**, and the **Scholarship and Awards**. The Publicity Agent and Scholarship and Awards Committee chair could work via email and online. Now is a perfect time to become more involved in our organization. Please see your blue membership booklet for a list of board positions.

Please keep in touch. We want to hear your ideas for advancing equity for women and girls in 2020, which inevitably will create a more equitable society for everyone. Share your thoughts and commitment, as we strive together toward equity. Thank you.

*AAUW-Marquette Board and
Judy Puncochar, President*

UPCOMING Meeting Thursday, October 8, 7 pm

Women in Student Leadership

Please join us online at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 8, for our monthly meeting and a discussion with three women in student leadership at NMU.

Elizabeth Mansfield, Leadership Program Coordinator at NMU’s Center for Student Enrichment; Marina Mankee, former president of the NMU Latino Student Union; and Brianna Sartin, president of NMU’s Public Relations Student Society will share their experiences and plans for the future.

[Zoom join instructions next page.](#)

Connect via Zoom:

By computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89419956495?pwd=YIM4U2hCSWZGcnh0cEZvUEM0eGJtdz09>

By phone: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 894 1995 6495

Passcode: 19202020

Zoom session will begin at 6:45 pm. Program will begin at 7:00 pm. If you need assistance connecting, you can call or text.

*Vice President Programs,
Leslie Warren, 773-791-7803*

If you missed the Zoom Membership Meeting on September 17...

We are excited to be able to share a link to our September 17 AAUW program, "**Voter Friendly Campus Initiative**," featuring ASNMU President Emma Drever.

If you were unable to attend our last program or you would like to listen to Emma's voting initiative again, please

- click the link below,
- copy and paste the password in the password field, and
- prepare to be impressed (again).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/kS9DRy23ugdeXgv-LOr727Bc7fGkwPSVHtx92yoki31h2Ux0D4gmv48YJmxDa g5Y.qa2fkQ4lh--mQAEv>

Passcode: 2=%u!JQz

Leslie Warren, Vice President Programs

NMU Scholarship Campaign

Yes, we are asking again because the need continues--the need for financial assistance for young women with goals that include higher education at NMU. Goals that will take them from where they are to their future selves. At this stage of the journey finances are top on a list of barriers.

A combination of **doubt, worry, and uncertainty** are all tied up in knots for the student.



We ask ourselves, "Can I give?"

"Do we value our own education and the resulting opportunities in our lives?" Yes.

"My purse has limits."

"Will it make a difference?"

Here I am reminded of the Starfish Story.

A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she



would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. People watched her with amusement.

She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, "Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can't save *all* these starfish. You can't begin to make a difference!"

The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man, smiled and replied, "Well, I made a difference to that one!" – author unknown

Say **yes** today. You **will** make a difference.

Thank you to all who have contributed and have gotten us off to a great start.

Les Bek, NMU Scholarship Campaign Chair

PUBLIC POLICY

Voting Matters!

The August primary in Michigan is a cautionary tale; 6,405 ballots arrived late and were not counted. Now as ruled by Judge Cynthia Stephens, ballots postmarked the day before Election Day must be counted even if they arrive after the polls close. This ruling will most likely be appealed. If you mail your ballot **mail it by October 20** and put two first class stamps on the envelope. Be sure to sign the outside envelope. There was no signature on 1,438 ballots in August and these votes were not counted. Thirty-one people mailed the envelopes and forgot to include the ballot. **Every vote matters.**

This is such an important election. Be sure **your** vote is counted. The Secretary of State is urging voters

who vote absentee: to drop off your ballot at your city or township clerk's office or place it in the ballot drop box. You can track your absentee ballot by going to www.michigan.gov/vote.

Additional resources include:

- the AAUW of Michigan's [Voter Guide](http://www.aauwmi.org) at [aauwmi.org](http://www.aauwmi.org).
- The League of Women Voters online Voters Guide VOTE411.org can help you compare candidates.
- And you can attend AAUW's Iron Mountain Kingsford candidate forum from 7-9 CT on October 6, 2020 for U.S Congressional District 108 candidates and the U.S. Senate by Zoom. You have to request zoom links by Oct 4 by emailing AAUWimk@outlook.com to attend. See pages 5 in this newsletter.

The League of Women Voters of Marquette County will be holding a candidate forum for Marquette City Commission Candidates and one for candidates for Sheriff. They will be taped. Access to these tapes have not yet been announced.

The Michigan House and Senate approved absentee ballot pre-processing the day before the election in communities of 25,000 or more. This will allow ballots to be counted on Election Day more efficiently. This measure affects only this year's election. Calls to legislators helped this pass with bi-partisan support.

*Karlyn Rapport,
Public Policy Representative*

Marquette Mining Journal, Letter to the Editor

AAUW is a nonpartisan nonprofit that encourages people to vote, but it does not advocate for a political party or position. AAUW member Karlyn Rapport's September 26, 2020 Letter to the Editor points out some of the issues at stake in this election, and she ends with a plea for readers to vote.

<https://www.miningjournal.net/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2020/09/rbgs-dying-wish-cited/>

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Dying Wish

Ruth Bader Ginsburg dictated: "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed." In saying this Ruth Bader Ginsburg wanted the choice of her successor to reflect the will of we the people going forward. The public, 67% of us, agree that this close to an election

the Supreme Court nomination should be done by the next sitting president. Despite RBG's many years of extraordinary public service, her dying wish is to be denied by the U.S. Senate.

What price are we the people paying for this denial? RBG's legacy. What is hanging in the balance? Repeal of the Affordable Care Act. The Affordable Care Act now covers 23 million Americans who will lose health care coverage at this time of the COVID - 19 pandemic if ACA is repealed. .

On a woman's right to choose, Ruth Bader Ginsburg said" It is essential to a woman's equality with man that she be the decision maker, that her choice be controlling. If you impose restraints that impede her choice you are disadvantaging her because of her sex." There are 17 cases to come before the Supreme Court which will impact reproductive freedom, access to contraception and health care.

The Equal Rights Amendment was ratified by the 38th state, Virginia. Currently the federal archivist has been barred from filing the Virginia ratification. Ruth Bader Ginsburg felt ERA was the bedrock of constitutional law needed to assure equal rights for women. Challenges to ERA will surely be before the Supreme Court.

The appointment of RBG's replacement will affect the outcome of cases before the Supreme Court especially women's rights, health care and immigration. We have lost a brilliant woman who worked tirelessly for justice for we, the people.

What can be done? VOTE. If you vote in person November 3. Tell them Ruth sent you.

Karlyn Rapport

2020 Named Grant Honorees



**AAUW-Marquette
Educational
Foundation 2020
Honorees, JUNE
DAVIS (left) and
TAYLOR SUSA (right)**

AAUW-Marquette contributes \$500.00 annually to the AAUW National Educational Foundation in the names of our outstanding members.

Since 1888, AAUW has been a leading funder of women's graduate education in the United States and around the

globe. The first AAUW fellowship in the amount of \$350 went to Ida Street in 1888 for her pioneering work in the field of early American Indian history.

To date, AAUW has given more than \$115 million to over 13,000 women and nonprofit organizations around the world. One fellowship recipient is the niece of Dr. Mitchell Klett, a dedicated annual donor to our AAUW-Marquette "Just Ask" NMU Scholarship Campaign. Dr. Klett's niece (Emi Behan) received \$6403.00 in 2019 to advance her studies in data analysis at the University of Georgia. In the 2020-2021 academic year alone, AAUW awarded 3.5 million dollars in grants and fellowships.

This year's AAUW-Marquette Educational Foundation donation carries the names of two outstanding members, June Davis and Taylor Susa.

June Davis served as the AAUW-Marquette Corresponding Secretary for years. She chaired numerous holiday dinners, worked tirelessly on Hospitality Committees, and consistently assisted with the AAUW's Book Sale.

Taylor Susa was co-chair of the Membership Committee, founding member of the AAUW-NMU student group, and AAUW-NMU liaison to the AAUW-Marquette board. She currently is pursuing a dual PhD at Indiana University-Bloomington in the Neuroscience and Vision Science programs.

AAUW-Marquette is grateful for June and Tyler's combined years of service and dedication. In their honor, we send our 2020-2021 Named Grant donation of \$500.00 to the AAUW National Educational Foundation.

Congratulations! the AAUW-Marquette Board

Just don't throw them away!

Econo receipts NEVER EXPIRE

Please continue to save your Econo receipts and bring them to the next meeting you can attend in person. They bring in many hundreds of dollars for us. Especially in this time of the pandemic, we, like everyone and every business, are finding funds down, while needs increase. You could also mail them or drop them off to Meredith Kulisheck, 617 W Hampton St, Marquette, if you prefer.



Membership and the Friendship Fund

We are happy to welcome our members to the 2020-21 year! We are off and running with engaging programming via Zoom, conversations, and reflections with the Book Group and more. We are reaching out to former members and others. **Word of mouth is the best advertising money can't buy.** Please consider recommending AAUW Marquette membership to someone who might just be waiting for an invitation. It is our goal to be intentional in our efforts to diversify and to be inclusive.

Our established Friendship Fund could be a tipping point for a potential member. This fund serves as a source of confidential financial support for membership dues. Contact any Board Member for more information.

Dues information is located on page 23 of the Blue Booklet. Visit our AAUW National web page at aauw.org/membership/ Or contact Ruth Ziel, rsziel@gmail.com; 906-249-4152.

Les Bek, Membership Co-Chair

MEET YOUR AAUW BOARD MEMBERS

Pat Pellett, Corresponding Secretary

Pat moved here 25 years ago after living in many cities and in many states and truly feels that she's found the perfect fit!



"I love the outdoors and being by the Lake. I taught math at the junior college, high school, and junior high level. Soon after moving to Marquette, I got involved with AAUW and the puppets and now am more into the Book Sale, collecting and storing our donations. I

love walking with my dog and AAUW friends!



The American Association of University Women,
Iron Mountain/Kingsford Branch
Proudly Presents:

CANDIDATES' VIRTUAL ZOOM FORUM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1st
Candidates for Dickinson County Commissioner
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6th
Candidates for Michigan District 108,
Michigan 1st. U.S. Congressional District,
and the U.S. Senate

7:00-9:00 P.M.,CT

National, state, and county candidates have been invited to participate in a virtual conversation about the issues facing us as citizens. **You are invited to send questions for the candidates, indicating which office you are questioning, to AAUWimk@outlook.com.** Questions for either or both forums must be submitted by Sept. 27

Be an informed voter. Before you vote on November 3rd, please sign up for one or both of the Zoom forums to hear what the candidates have to say by emailing an **r.s.v.p.** to AAUWimk@outlook.com by **Sept. 29** for the County Commissioners' forum and by **October 4** for the State and Federal Candidates' Forum to receive the Zoom link(s).

