



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

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

Happy Holidays!

AAUW fall 2020 programs have been conducted via the Internet. Our November program received a record-breaking number



of smiling unmasked faces in the safety of Zoom. Twenty-four members, two guests, and AAUW-Michigan President Jan Van Gasse joined us for an impressive presentation on Upper Peninsula rural health issues. NMU Center for Rural Health Director [Elise Bur](#) gave an absorbing synopsis of rural health outreach, issues, and initiatives. The meeting was recorded by Leslie Warren (click [here](#)).

Meg Goodrich created an AAUW program call list to encourage higher attendance at our Zoom programs. The calls resulted in eight new Zoom attendees and some email and phone number updates to our blue membership booklet. If you have new information for our blue membership booklets, please contact [Karen Rudisill](#).

Six AAUW-Marquette members worked 11- and 13-hour shifts as sequestered election workers during the unprecedented 2020 Presidential Election voter turnout. Let's give a standing ovation to Caroline Myers, Jackie Stark, Leslie Warren, Marge Forslin, Meg Goodrich, and Ruth Ziel for the hours of sitting on unpadded chairs and eating boxed lunches (or less) to keep our election safe. You placed yourselves at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic to safeguard our democracy. As a token of our appreciation, each AAUW election worker received an AAUW facemask.

The AAUW-Marquette Board is grateful for our members' staunch advocacy for women and girls during an unremitting, intensifying pandemic, which has had a disproportionately negative impact on the financial security of women and girls. Our AAUW members have donated generously to support our

scholarships and awards. The board thanks you for your generous contributions to our 2020 "Just Ask" Scholarship Campaign.

We will not partake in our usual AAUW December Holiday Dinner, so we send our best wishes for a creative, happy, healthy holiday season. We look forward to seeing you at our next Zoom meeting on January 14, 2021. A Breaking News email with January program details will arrive in your inbox soon. Stay well.

*Judy Puncochar,
AAUW-Marquette President*



UPCOMING: Winter Celebration

The Program and Hostess committees met jointly in late summer and decided to postpone our December Holiday Celebration to January. Since then, we no longer have use of the Clubhouse. Stay tuned; the joint committee will send out special Breaking News once plans for a revised Celebration are finalized. Hey, we are determined to have fun yet!!!

Meg Goodrich, Renee Leow, Leslie Warren

PUBLIC POLICY

Wishing for a Lame, Lame Duck

Well, Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Senator Majority leader Mike Shirkey agree!!! Both hope for a short, quiet lame duck session. Michigan House Minority Leader, Christine Greig pointed to introduced legislation addressing eviction and water shut off moratoriums, unemployment benefits, and expansion of Healthy Michigan in the hope this legislative session can help people of Michigan during this pandemic. Mary Pollock predicted paid

sick leave and raising the minimum wage will probably not be enacted in this lame duck session. Christine Greig is term limited. Her successor as Minority House leader will be Donna Lasinski (D-Scio Township)

Minority Senate Leader Jim Ananich (D Flint) hoped lawmakers would not be required to sit for long periods of time, because it is difficult for legislators and staff to be socially distanced increasing the risk of spreading COVID.

Republicans will have the majority (58-52) in the Michigan House of Representatives. Gerrymandered districts continue to impact results. Biden did not have long enough coat tails to offset this.

Senator Ruth Johnson (R-Holly) may revisit PA 177 of 2020 (previously SB757). This bill allowed clerks overseeing a population of 25,000 or more to open absentee ballots outer envelopes to ready them for processing the day prior to the election, let precinct election inspectors work in shifts, required notice to electors for mismatched or missing signatures on absentee voter ballot applications and provided requirements for absent voter drop boxes. This bill has a sunset of December 31. She wanted to talk to clerks and find out how these changes were perceived. What could be done to make it better? The sunset provision allows her to bring the bill up again. She is hearing that it was a big help to communities.

In general, the women's vote for Biden mirrored the 2016 election. An Edison poll revealed 9:10 Black women said they voted for Biden, 8:10 black men. Seven of 10 Latina women voted for Biden, 6:10 Latina men. A New York Times poll of in person voters found 55% of white women voted for Trump.

I know you are tired of hearing this and passing it on, but hang in there these next few months. There is light at the end of the tunnel with vaccines on the horizon. The first phase may be rolled out the end of December. By May, the general public will have access to vaccines. Our health care system is now overwhelmed. COVID test results are delayed and so is contact tracing. Health departments are asking if you have been exposed to COVID or test positive, inform your close contacts that they have been exposed. Self-quarantine and monitor yourself for symptoms.

Stay safe, socially distant, wear a mask and wash your hands. If you can think of a way to convince

the COVID weary and unbelieving that this is the crucial recipe we need to follow, let me know. In the meantime, I am grateful for AAUW friends.

*Karlyn Rapport,
Public Policy Representative*

MEET YOUR AAUW BOARD MEMBERS

Carol Steinhaus



Carol recently retired from NMU as a requirement to settling a lawsuit against NMU regarding gender inequities in treatment and in pay. She is now transitioning into "retired" life and is volunteering some of her time and energy in groups and causes she cares about.

Shown in the photo above with the Silver Sampler activities group from the Senior Center, Carol was part of the original group that started six years ago. They focus on outdoor activities, doing one or two events a month led by Janet Koistenon. (Their activities are publicized in the Senior Center newsletter.)

Carol grew up in Kansas and was an elementary music teacher in an ungraded, Title I, heavily minority school in Salina, KS. A move with her husband to Minneapolis during a year when music was considered "non-essential," got her started typing in the Central Service department at the University of Minnesota Hospitals. She earned a Master's of Public Health degree while there and was promoted to Assistant Director.

A move for the family got her started teaching university classes, both in LaCrosse, WI and in Winona, MN. Following a divorce, she took her three children, ranging in age from 3 to 8, to Nebraska and earned a Ph D. Since then, Carol has taught in Fort Wayne, IN and Lewiston, ID where she was also a department chair, and came to Marquette in 2001.

Carol believes in investing her time and life into helping students become better people, better citizens, and better employees and supervisors. She has won several teaching awards over the years and considers teaching management courses to be a

calling. Her students often cited her management “stories”, which enabled her to elaborate management theories with actual stories from her work experience.

She has also invested her time sharing the importance of international study, encouraging and helping students study in various parts of the world. Carol was president of an international business school consortium for 10 years and was recently honored with a lifetime honorary president’s award.

Until recently, Carol rode a Harley and is very involved as a foster parent of the Midwest chapter of a national chihuahua rescue group. One of her main hobbies is reading mysteries, and she serves on the board of the Peter White Public Library.

Carol has a son and granddaughter in the area, and two daughters and three grandchildren in Minneapolis. She had hoped to travel after retiring and hopes to be able to do so before long, starting with more Road Scholar trips. Carol is also active in various aspects of Northern Center for Lifelong Learning, NCLL. She is enjoying expanding her friendships beyond the confines of NMU and hopes to be a contributing member of AAUW for years to come!

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.](#)

AAUW BOOK GROUP



Calling all book lovers!

The AAUW Book Group has been meeting monthly (1st Thursday @ 12:30pm) via Zoom during the pandemic.

Check out the Blue Book for our 2020-2021 schedule of great reads! We’ll be discussing *Circe* by Madeline Miller at our December 10th meeting (note the date change for December), with Helen Carlin leading the discussion.

Please consider joining us from the comfort of your own cozy reading chair for a lively exchange of ideas and opinions. Contact Karen Rudisill at 906-361-0327 or karen.rudisill@gmail.com for more information or for a Zoom link to the meeting. It’s a great group, and we’d love to see some new faces! Please join us!!

*Karen Rudisill,
Book Group Committee Chair*



Marquette County Stories of the Pandemic: Share Your Story

Future researchers and genealogists need your help understanding how COVID-19 affects our community. **NMU’s Central Upper Peninsula Archives, the Beaumier UP Heritage Center, Marquette Regional History Center, and Peter White Public Library** have teamed up to preserve documents, photos, videos, and 3D artifacts that tell our story during the pandemic. We are living history right now, and our current perspectives are important. This project will preserve artifacts so that they are available for future generations. Anyone living or working in Marquette County is asked to contribute. According to the project website, it “will accept physical or digital materials that help to tell the story of how individuals, organizations, government entities and others acted and reacted before, during and after the coronavirus pandemic.”

To contribute documents, including photos and videos, to the collection:

Go to <https://lis.nmu.edu/pandemic> and click “Share Your Story.” The first question will ask you what type of item (story, photo, video, etc.) you are submitting. Next, the form will ask for basic information about you and the context of your document. It will ask you to upload your file. The system can accept many types of digital files, including Word documents, pdf, photo, and video files. You will be able to choose whether or not to share your contribution with the public and whether to share it with your name or anonymously.

Your submission can be as short or long, as informal or formal, as funny or serious as you want. The project will accept essays, short stories, poems,

songs, photos, even video of interpretive dance – be creative! More suggestions are in the FAQ at the bottom of <https://lis.nmu.edu/pandemic>.

If you aren't sure what to share, consider these questions (with thanks to Beth Gruber from the Marquette Regional History Center, who suggested many of these questions):

- How are you celebrating Thanksgiving this year?
- How did you participate in this year's election?
- How has the pandemic changed the way you interact with friends and family?
- How has COVID-19 affected your participation in AAUW or other organizations?
- What new skills have you learned to cope with the pandemic (e.g., sewing or technology)

- What were your direct experiences with the virus? Were you tested for the virus? Did you or a family member get sick?
- What do you miss most about your pre-pandemic life?
- What are you learning about yourself as a result of the coronavirus-related shifts in your life?

If you want help submitting something...

Contact Leslie Warren (Lwarren@nmu.edu or 773-791-7803), who will help if you aren't comfortable using the online form. Leslie can submit your item for you or walk you through the submission process.

Physical documents and artifacts are also accepted.

To donate physical items, please contact NMU Archivist Marcus Robyns (mrobyns@nmu.edu or 906-227-1046).

Leslie Warren, Vice President, Programs