



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

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



SPRING?

The first day of spring is Sunday, March 20, 2022!

Hooray for warmer weather and three big cheers for AAUW Program Vice President Leslie Warren's well-attended virtual AAUW programs over the last two years. We mindfully mark the second anniversary of the worldwide COVID pandemic on March 11, 2020. Please continue to wear masks in public even as the Center for Disease Control eases mask mandates. Stay well.

Our next AAUW program on March 10, 2022, introduces a regional digitization project UPLINK initiated by the NMU Archives. Annika Peterson will discuss special features already available for our use and further plans to preserve our regional history. Enjoy an opportunity to share AAUW-Marquette history.

Your AAUW Board hopes you enjoy reading the fall meeting minutes. We determined our F22-W23 AAUW-Marquette Scholarship funding amount. We will announce the Martha Griffiths Award 2022 winner in our next newsletter.

We encourage AAUW-Marquette members to put on an N95 mask, get out, and speak up. A mask is like underwear—put on clean every day and don't touch unless necessary.

***Enjoy increasing daylight, warmth, and laughter!
Plant some seeds for thought and productivity!***

Judy Puncochar, AAUW-MQT President

NEXT MEETING: via Zoom
Thursday, March 10, 7 pm

Upper Peninsula Digital Network (UPLINK)

Annika Peterson, Project Manager

**A groundbreaking coalition
to preserve the history of the UP**

Please join us to learn about the Upper Peninsula Digital Network (UPLINK), a groundbreaking coalition to preserve the history of the UP. This project, based at **NMU's Central Upper Peninsula Archives**, is funded by a \$100,000 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The goal of UPLINK is to help heritage organizations around the UP be able to afford to digitize their records and get them online.

Annika Peterson, UPLINK Digital Project Manager, will introduce us to the project. She will tell us about the collaborative governance structure, some of the special items that are already available for our use, and the future plans for preserving our regional history.

You can explore UPLINK at <https://uplink.nmu.edu>.

Some of the digitized items already in the collection:

- Papers of Geraldine DeFant, Marquette County labor leader and politician
- Transcript of former AAUW member **Miriam Hilton's** interview of Anita Meyland
- NMU yearbooks
- Copper Range Historical Society photograph collection
- Ledgers that record transactions at C.H. O'Rourke's Livery, Sale, and Boarding Stable in Ontonagon from 1908 to 1911
- Judicial records created by Thomas H. Terrill, a Justice of the Peace in Adams Township between 1876 and 1881

Program Vice President, Leslie Warren

Thursday, March 10, 2022
7:00-8:30 pm

Join by computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83990504161?pwd=TUtTK2FibERVLy9VWWVpQencvRTVqQT09>

Meeting ID: 839 9050 4161

Passcode: aauw

Connect by phone:

+1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 839 9050 4161

Passcode: 380332



Equal Pay Day 2022

AAUW-National has not yet updated their Equal Pay Days for 2022 on the AAUW

[Equal Pay Day calendar](#). Karlyn Rapport wrote to connect@aauw.org and asked for Equal Pay Day 2022. AAUW replied within hours. Equal Pay Day is **March 15, 2022**.

Equal Pay Day denotes how far into the next year women must work to be paid what men were paid during the previous year. The National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) started Equal Pay Day in 1996. The goal was to raise awareness about the gender wage gap for the average woman. Since then, other Equal Pay Days have been added to the Equal Pay Day calendar. AAUW does not have other related Equal Pay Day dates to share at this time. In the United States, mothers and most women of color face a wider gap than the average woman and work longer to catch up to men's earnings.

Equal Pay Day 2022 advanced toward the New Year rather than retreating in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. All women's Equal Pay Day was March 24 last year.

Public Policy News

EQUAL PAY DAY 2022 – MARCH 15

Wear red ON MARCH 15

to symbolize how women and their families are "in the red" because women working full time on average earn 82% of what men are paid.

If you are a woman of color, the gap is even wider.

What will fix this travesty?

ERA could help. We are still waiting for Merrick Garland to pull the faulty Trump guidance and insert the opinion shared by 200 constitutional scholars that Congress can change the deadline for ERA. ERA has met all the qualifications for recognition as part of the Constitution. The Archivist can publish this amendment and should be ordered to do so. The Paycheck Fairness Act HR7/S205 would help close the gender gap by:

- Closing loopholes allowing employers to justify unfair payment to workers
- Prevent employers from retaliating against workers for disclosing or discussing their wages.
- Create remedies for workers suffering discrimination.
- Prohibit use of salary history to set wages
- Provide training, technical assistance, data collection and research

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Paycheck Fairness Act on April 15, 2021, by a vote of 217-210. Our Representative Jack Bergman voted Nay. On June 8, 2021 the Senate voted 49-50 on cloture which would have brought the bill to the floor for debate and a vote. Senator Stabenow and Senator Peters supported passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act. However, a 60-vote margin was required. This Bill never got the hearing and vote it deserves.

What do we do now?

Call your senators and ask them to bring this bill forward again and pass it.

STUDENT LOANS/STUDENT DEBT

The gender wage gap makes it harder for women to repay their student loans. COVID upended the economy worsening the situation. Students are faced with mounting student debt and fewer ways to pay it off. The downstream impact is 34.2% of women report their undergraduate student loan debt forced them to delay buying a home, marriage and having children.

The Corona Virus Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136) was passed and will provide help. Fourteen billion was given to colleges and universities; 12.5 billion of these funds was given to schools based on Pell grant enrollment. At least 50% of funding received for emergency financial relief must go directly to students. All payments on federal student loans were suspended until September 30, 2020. During this period no interest was charged.

Student debt burden is heavier on women of color and students attending private schools. Women who drop out are met with a financial nightmare.

AAUW Policy recommends the following fixes to reduce Student debt:

- Forgiveness of at least \$10,000
- Increase Pell Grants for low- income students. This would relieve the amount of debt they take on to get a degree.
- Streamline income driven repayments plans
- Protect students from abusive and fraudulent practices by schools, lenders and loan servers
- Eliminate the pay gap
- Extend emergency aid to students with the highest need like the 62,000 DACA eligible individuals who are essential workers.
- Support efforts to move toward tuition and debt free options.
- Incentivize employer matches and other means supporting students loan debt repayment.

We know what is needed.
The lack of progress is frustrating.

**Most of all we need
more Senators who are feminists.**

Karlyn Rapport Public Policy Representative.

Club House Highlights



- 1) **Yesterday's Treasure: Saturday, May 7, 2022.** Mark your calendar and tell your friends. Contact Jayna via text at 906-235-1113 for donation drop-offs. The usual December first Saturday sale is being planned, as well.
- 2) **100-Year Anniversary** of our Clubhouse in **2023.** Join the fun with our own Les Bek, in **planning celebrations and fundraising.** Contact CH president Sue Madden at upteeth@rocketmail.com to serve on the ad hoc committee.
- 3) **Dues News!** As rental interest increases, and hopes abound for fundraising, the board is **not planning to increase** club house dues at this time.

*Meg Goodrich, AAUW Representative
Clubhouse Board of Directors*

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Sexual Harassment Bill Approved

Allows seeking recourse in the courts

On Thursday, February 10, 2022, [Congress approved legislation](#) guaranteeing that people who experience sexual harassment at work can seek recourse in the courts. The bill bars employment contracts from forcing people to settle sexual assault or harassment cases through arbitration rather than in court. Arbitration often benefits employers and keeps misconduct allegations from becoming public. The bill is retroactive, nullifying previous settlement language in contracts nationwide and opening the door for people bound by forced arbitration clauses to take legal action.

Martha Griffiths Award

Honoring an Influential Michigan Woman Legislator

The AAUW-Marquette's 2022 Martha Griffiths Award has **eight high-achieving undergraduate nominees** who will earn an associate or bachelor's degree in 2022 (winter, summer, or fall semester). The award consists of a certificate, an award check for \$500, and publicity in local newspapers. Nominees may receive the Martha Griffiths Award only once.

Martha Griffiths was known for her determination and exceptional work with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Rights Amendment. She was one of Michigan's most influential women legislators in the last half of the 20th century.

The award winner must demonstrate outstanding leadership, a commitment to women's rights, community involvement, and a deep interest in issues to advance gender equity through civic, political, and/or cultural initiatives. Stay tuned. AAUW-Marquette board members will select the 2022 Martha Griffiths Award winner at their March meeting and announce the winner in our next newsletter.



Tadych's Marketplace Receipts

Formerly Econo

THANK YOU for continuing to collect receipts. The new owners are continuing the wonderful tradition of allowing organizations such as AAUW to earn money by collecting and turning in their Econo receipts. So please **KEEP SAVING RECEIPTS** and bring them to any in-person meeting you can attend, or you can mail or drop them off to me.

*Meredith Kulisheck, 906-226-2372
617 W Hampton St, Marquette*

Member Accomplishments

Email *your* AAUW-Marquette Member accomplishments to newsletter editor, Marge Forslin.

Judy Puncochar had a paper accepted for presentation at a July 2022 conference in the country of Georgia (south of Russia). Before Russia attacked the Ukraine, she briefly entertained the idea of attending in person. Needless to say, her attendance necessarily will be virtual now



AAUW-Marquette's February program

Women's Safety

AAUW-Marquette's February program featured Darcie Forslund, Sexual Assault

Program Coordinator at the Women's Center.

Darcie described the Center's full-time and volunteer staffing, a 24-hour Harbor House Hotline, and informational services on how to start investigative processes. The Women's Center is open to all genders, fosters pets (even horses), and presents programs to schools and health professionals about healthy relationships.

The Women's Center handles both sexual assault cases and domestic violence cases. Darcy stressed the importance of self-care of advocates who help to support women and families in the face of trauma.

Center funding is primarily through grants and private fundraising. All donations are welcomed, including food and clothing items. A donation of any size automatically qualifies you to receive a "really cool" newsletter from the Women's Center. Click [here](#) to donate.

Because of the gender pay gap women have less money for a rainy day.

