



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

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

Facebook: [AAUW Marquette Branch](#)



**How many shoes** does it take to fill past-president Judy Puncochar's shoes?? **Ten!**

After an unsuccessful search by the nominating committee, the Board met in special session on Monday, May 16 to brainstorm how we would proceed in 2022-2023.

The creative result is that five board members will rotate being the convener at board meetings; branch programs and speakers will be introduced by appropriate members of the branch. As a name still must be used to receive mailings from both State and National offices, current recording secretary Carol Steinhaus agreed to be the recipient and to pass on the mailings to the proper individual.

Those agreeing to serve: **Ruth Ziel, Meg Goodrich, Pat Pellet, Karlyn Rapport, and Carol Steinhaus.** Karen Rudisell will serve as back-up secretary for the minutes. We all look forward to another year of fellowship, learning, and advocating.

*Meg Goodrich*

## A Summer Challenge

*By Leslie Warren*

At our most recent Board meeting, we spent a lot of time talking about the importance of finding strength to fight for our beliefs even when we are tempted to cocoon ourselves in comfort. That cocoon would feel so good! But as Karlyn Rapport reminded us, now is not the time to back off. The world needs us to show up.

We agreed that our programs next year will include the soft and the hard. Any program that is on a comfortable topic, for example, will also include some time for advocacy. Any program that forces us to face difficult issues will also include some time for levity.

We also agreed that the struggles faced by women and our communities today can't wait until September. Even though we aren't meeting as a group, we need to advocate for our priorities this summer.

To that end, I created a challenge list for myself. I'll use AAUW national's website to help me meet goals related to advocacy for gender equity. I encourage you to use this list or create your own to make sure that you take time for both the fight and the recovery.

1. Call an elected representative (This is a big goal for me – I'm much more comfortable with email.)
2. Walk in the woods
3. Email an elected representative
4. Sit quietly and admire Lake Superior
5. Read a book for our AAUW book group
6. Use AAUW's Two-Minute Activist form to send a message  
(<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist>)

7. Participate in a community celebration
8. Participate in a community rally or advocacy event
9. Learn something about another race or culture
10. Do something that stretches my comfort zone
11. Write a letter to the editor  
(<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/lte-vs-oped>)
12. Read something light and frivolous
13. Tell a friend about the awesome women who are in AAUW-Marquette

I'll keep track and let you know how it goes. If you decide to try the challenge with me or some variation, let me know. It would be interesting to compare notes.

*Leslie Warren*



## Scholarship Committee

The application deadline was June 1, 2022. As of June 2, we had received 30 applications.

The committee will meet on June 10.



## YESTERDAY'S TREASURES SALE REPORT

Clubhouse Update: The Yesterday's Treasure sale, held for the first time in the Spring, was very successful. The net income was \$1,635.25, with a possibility of more money coming in. Our branch made a strong presence--10 members helped set up, sell, and clean up afterwards. Thank you, all.

*Meg Goodrich, AAUW Representative  
Clubhouse Board of Directors*

## Tadych's MarketPlace Receipts

*Formerly Econo*

THANK YOU for continuing to collect receipts. We can still turn in receipts that say **Econo**, although new ones say **Tadych MarketPlace**. The new owners are continuing the wonderful tradition of allowing groups such as AAUW to earn money by collecting and turning in their "Econo" receipts.

So please keep old receipts and continue to KEEP SAVING NEW RECEIPTS and bring them all to any in-person meeting you can attend, or you can mail or drop them off to me, Meredith Kulischeck.

## Financial News for June

There was very little financial activity this past month. We had one dues renewal payment and no expenses. All fixed expenses have been paid.

The new AAUW National website is much different than the old site. When you go to the site you will be prompted to create a new login using your email and a new password. I did send out an email to members for membership renewal. AAUW National will send out a renewal notice with instructions for self-renewal. OR-- As always you may send a check made out AAUW and mailed to me: Ruth Ziel. Look up my address in your blue book. **I can renew your membership.**

Regular member dues are \$113 (\$67 national, \$12 state, \$9 local and \$25 clubhouse dues). Paid Life member's dues are \$46 (\$12 state, \$9 local and \$25 clubhouse dues).

Honorary Life Members (those who have paid dues for 50 years) pay only clubhouse dues of \$25.

## If Not Now, When?

The tragic school shooting in Uvalde, Texas has derailed us in grief and outrage. Numbness in the face of so many challenges our nation faces is a common consequence. **We cannot afford to sit on the sidelines between now and November. If we do, we will be faced with the current, stalled state of affairs for another 2-4 years.** Leslie Warren wisely suggests doing one thing a day to effect change like a phone call to a senator, engaging the two-minute activist at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org), making a donation to an organization or candidate. Then take care of yourself, call a friend, walk in the woods. ***Taking Leslie's challenge helped me regain perspective and hope.***

There have been 216 mass shootings thus far this year. Twenty occurred in schools. Since the Sandy Hook massacre, there have been 948 school shootings. Gun violence is now the leading cause of pediatric mortality. How many deaths will occur before the Senate passes meaningful gun control legislation? We must demand the U.S. Senate and the Michigan legislature pass common sense gun legislation which can reduce the incidence of gun violence. Our nation's children deserve better.

The following U.S. Senators have made statements in the past suggesting they might support universal background checks:

- Senator John Cornyn R TX;
- Susan Collins, R Maine;
- Pat Toomey R PA.

These Senators might support red flag laws:

- Lindsay Graham R SC;
- Roy Blunt, R MO;
- Mitt Romney R Utah;
- Rob Portman R Ohio;
- Thom Tillis R NC.

Google them, call their Washington offices, or email them.

Contact *Senator Chuck Schumer*, and our *Senators Peters and Stabenow* and demand they put meaningful legislation on the floor for a vote.

There are bills in our **Michigan legislature** which could greatly reduce deaths rates resulting from gun violence. They are supported by most voters. Yet

these bills are stuck in committee. *SB 857* Prohibits purchase of firearms if the individual has an extreme risk protection order, *SB 856* enacts extreme risk protection orders. The Extreme Risk legislation allows a judge to issue an extreme risk protection order after the court considers evidence in support of the need for this. Once the order is issued, law enforcement would take temporary possession of the individual's firearms and bar them from purchasing new firearms while the order is in effect.

*SB 678-679* and *HB 5371-5372* would prohibit persons convicted of domestic violence misdemeanor from possession of a gun or ammunition until 8 years after they complete jail or probation and have paid all fines.

*SB 454-456* and *HB 4869-4871* would require universal background checks for anyone purchasing a firearm.

At the Federal level, Senator Diane Feinstein introduced *Assault Weapons Ban of 2021*.

*S 736* would make it a crime to knowingly import, sell, manufacture, transfer or possess a semiautomatic assault weapon or large capacity ammunition feeding device. The bill allows state and local government to compensate individuals who surrender SAW or LCAFD under a buyback grant program.

*S 1395* prohibits purchase of firearms by individuals under 21 years of age.

The *Background Check Completions Act* closes a loophole allowing firearm transfer when the background check is initiated but not completed.

**In making your calls**, voice your views, ask for common sense gun legislation:

- universal background checks,
- raising the age to buy a gun to 21,
- an assault weapon ban,
- safe gun storage.

## If not now, when?

You are competing with money the NRA and gun manufacturers are spending on these Senators.

- Appeal to their better natures.
- Lives are at stake.
- Then do something that brings you joy.

**Karlyn Rapport**  
**Public Policy Representative**