



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

Website: <http://marquette-mi.aauw.net> Facebook: AAUW Marquette Branch

Convener's Corner



Greetings to all members of AAUW Marquette Branch!!

As a retired college professor, I have found that I still have feelings about "the school year" as opposed to summer. Our chapter has programs during "the school year" and not during the summer, so here we are---underway again!!

A sincere thank you to all of you who participated in our recent book sale in various ways---donating books, gathering, and hauling books, sorting and setting them out, manning (womanning?) the tables and checkout area during the sale, and then dealing with books that weren't sold. The effort involved is simply massive, involves many days, and those of us who were able to attend the potluck and help sort enjoyed catching up with each other after not seeing each other much during the summer months. Congratulations and sincere thanks to all involved!! The money raised during this long effort will help female students with expenses, and I am sure our financial help will be much appreciated.

Our board is functioning in a unique manner this year. Our past President, Judy Puncochar, retired from NMU and moved to Nebraska, which made her ineligible to continue as our President even if we could have talked her into doing so!! The other board members are all busy in various other groups, and no one was willing or felt able to take on the presidency for the entire year. We chose instead to have various board members take the responsibility for creating the agenda, running the monthly meeting, etc., and I do believe this will work well. I convened the September meeting and will also convene the October meeting, then others will take their turns. Feel free to contact me for now if you have any questions or concerns. Our current

members have done their various jobs for some time and all signs point toward this being a successful year under this arrangement.

I attended the Michigan state AAUW Presidents' meeting by zoom on September 28 and really enjoyed it. It was interesting to hear what other chapters are doing, such as joining the Chamber of Commerce, holding an annual garage sale, receiving 501c3 status, and various chapters working together with shared presentations. I'm sure our board members will consider some of these ideas. I also discovered that we need to work on updating our bylaws. The state organization would like to know if any member is willing to be nominated for state office--we would love to have our chapter represented at the state level!! We invite you to consider increasing your involvement in this way.

Meanwhile, please put our October 13 meeting on your calendar, and remember that elections are coming soon--VOTE!! Check Karlyn's Public Policy News for ballot issues that are of interest to women. Thank you for being in AAUW, and we look forward to seeing you at a meeting soon!

Carol Steinhaus, Recording Secretary and September/ October Convener

Next Meeting:

LGBTQ+ identity and history

Please join us at **7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 13, 2022**, to celebrate our return to the **Federated Women's Clubhouse** and to learn about LGBTQ+ identity and history.

Our guest will be **Stefani Vargas** (pronouns she/her, ella), who is the coordinator of NMU's [Student Equity and Engagement Center](#) (SEEC). The SEEC provides a safe place for students to truly be

themselves. It offers students information and resources on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues; academic, career, and diversity workshops; and free coffee and snacks.

Stefani holds degrees in photography (A.A.), sociology (B.S.), and higher education administration (M.A.), all from Northern Michigan University. She co-founded The LGBTQ Futures Project, which sought to understand how LGBTQ people in rural and remote locales experience community and technology. Additional research interests include rural marginalized students, fat liberation, and LGBT identity and history.

The October 13 meeting will be in person in the Federated Women's Clubhouse (104 W Ridge St). There is no plan to stream this program on Zoom. We'll send you an email if this changes.

***We encourage you to invite your friends.
Guests are welcome to join us.***



AAUW's NMU SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN

NMU students are well into the fall semester. The pressure is on – juggling of course work, family needs, and those unpredictable bumps in the road that can bring everything to a halt.

Our NMU scholarship can be a game changer. Consider making a contribution today. For the students, mid-terms are right around the corner. Our scholarship campaign is on an equal pace. Your support turns our future recipient's bad days into hopeful opportunities. *Mail to: Ruth Ziel, 734 Lakewood Lane, Marquette, MI 49855*
Memo: Scholarship

***Les Bek,
NMU Scholarship Campaign Co-Chair***

Public Policy News

Report from the Battlefield

ERA ratification

In the never-ending war on women, the DC Court of Appeals is hearing Illinois v Ferriero, a lawsuit Nevada and Illinois Attorney Generals are bringing against the National Archivist for failing to publish the Equal Rights amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Virginia's newly elected Attorney General Jason Miyares dropped out of the suit because he himself is opposed to ERA. Really!

All of the requirements to become an Amendment have been met. The final step to make a constitutional amendment official is for the U.S. Archivist to verify ratification, then draft a formal proclamation which certifies the amendment is valid and now is part of the constitution.

Two hundred constitutional scholars insist ratification is valid. The office of Legal Counsel issued an opinion that Congress could take action on ratification of ERA. The House passed two resolutions in February 2020 and in March 2021 lifting the timeline. The Senate failed to pass this. The so-called deadline was never within the power of Congress to impose. The states did not approve an ERA ratification time frame. So, this deadline is invalid, unenforceable. Once a ratification is made it cannot be revoked. The Biden administration and Merrick Garland failed to correct the erroneous Trump administration's legal opinion. The Justice Department has been said to look to the judicial and legislative branches for an opinion as to what the executive branch should do. How about each branch of government doing their direct duty and upholding the Constitution. The Biden Administration has the duty to publish the Equal Rights Amendment. No other branch has that authority. Biden can solve the problem by issuing a direct order to publish the amendment. This is a cruel game being played.

We have one other path--to get a resolution passed by both the House and the Senate compelling the

archivist to make ERA the law of the land. We have to have Democrats hold the house, win 52 seats in the Senate remove the filibuster, then pass the compelling legislation.

Eighty five percent of the member nations of the U.N have gender provisions in their constitutions protecting equal rights. The U.S. Constitution does not mention the word women. [We have waited 100 years for equality.](#) In the midst of the present war on women we have to VOTE and insist

the time is NOW to enact ERA. We are tired of

expressions of concern and delays and artificial barriers

*Karlynn Rapport,
Public Policy Representative*



As we all know, there is a midterm election coming up November 8th roughly 6 weeks away. There is a lot on the ballot, a lot at stake. My focus is Proposal 2, a voting rights initiative known as PromotetheVote22. A number of AAUW-MQT members gathered signatures for this initiative. We were part of a force that gathered 669,972 signatures to get this on the ballot in Michigan. We needed roughly 425,000 valid signatures. The SOS office certified 665,000 of those signatures and we did it in about 60 days. This ballot initiative is endorsed by AAUW of Michigan as well as the League of Women Voters and many other organizations.

Now for the hard part: Informing people of this constitutional proposal and encouraging people to vote YES. This measure, if it passes, will enshrine voting as a fundamental right of ALL registered voters in this state. So regardless of who you are, what you look like, where you live, able-bodied or disabled, who you want to vote for, you will have equitable access to the ballot either in person or by mail with confidence that your ballot will be fairly counted.

Contrary to many of the ads against this proposal, our voter ID laws which have been in place since

2007, will still be in place and placed in the state constitution. Registered voters will need a picture ID to vote in person, but if they don't have one, they will need to sign an affidavit attesting to their identity. All voters still need to have a signature match to vote by mail. Please note, this ballot initiative covers nothing about voting rights of felons or ex-cons. These are covered by an entirely different set of rules.

There is an informative overview of all 3 statewide ballot initiatives: Proposals 1, 2, and 3 at VOTE411.org for put out by the League of Women Voters of Marquette County.

We are asking AAUW members to take 10 flyers each and pass them out to family, friends, neighbors, etc. encouraging them to vote YES. If you think it would be easier, you can email a flyer to family and friends who vote in this state encouraging them to vote YES on Prop 2. Many members have already taken paper flyers and/or have committed to emailing a flyer. I have a copy of the email flyer I can send to you. Please help.

Ruth Ziel

My contact information is in our blue membership booklets if you wish to contact me with any questions. I will be contacting you to ask for help. Thank you.



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 generous tradition of allowing groups such as AAUW to earn money by collecting and turning in their 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 at 617 W Hampton St, Marquette 49855.

Meredith Kulisheck

THE 2022 Book Sale



THE 2023 Book Sale

Save the Date(s!)

April 20-22, 2023

April 25-27, 2024

May 1-3, 2025

Well, even though the fall AAUW Front Street Book Fair held with the Friends of Peter White Public Library is over and the remaining books have been distributed throughout the community, I do believe early planning is a good thing. So, after a bit of initial thought, I ask you to save the above dates for future book sale(s) and please note

the book sale will move back to a spring event



All in all, the sale last week went smoothly and grossed a bit more than **\$2800, about 10% more than I had actually anticipated.** The potluck was delicious and I thank you all for your contributions, tireless energy and for your valuable time during the sale-you made the time fly by!

This year, the majority of the remaining book inventory went to the parishioners of the First Presbyterian Church, Bay Cliff Health Camp, The Warming Center, to our friend, Jayna, at the Women's Federated Club House, Women's Center, Marquette County jail, Jacobetti Home for Veteran's, community lending libraries, Presque Isle Library, Salvation Army & Goodwill charity shoppes as well other unsold books were recycled in those handy new blue recycle bins many of us now possess.

In addition, the cleanup went smoothly thanks to the extremely efficient volunteers that finished the job by 10:26 am on Monday morning!

Many tweaks will be made to the upcoming spring event and planning has already begun thanks to AAUW board and member involvement. So, for now, I will leave by saying the next AAUW Book Sale is only seven months away and I will start to collect donations and be looking for tireless volunteers to help with donation pick-up & publicity **beginning March 1, 2023!**