



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

As you may recall, no one on our board felt she could take over an entire year of being the branch president, giving that job the focus it deserved.

Instead, five of us agreed to take turns. I agreed to be the convener for September and October. I am now turning the job over to Meg Goodrich for the months of November and January. (There is no December meeting planned.)

As Recording Secretary, I had agreed to serve for the year as the main contact point with the state and national AAUW organizations. In that role, I was asked to serve on the state Nominations Committee and now represent our branch on that committee. A slate of nominations for state positions will be presented to the membership soon.

I also represented our branch in a zoom meeting of Branch Presidents. I learned that we, along with many other branches, are overdue in updating our bylaws. Our Marquette Board spent the majority of its time at the October meeting working through some bylaw issues. Hopefully, we will be able to finish those up in November or December. Amazing how things change over time and the paperwork doesn't keep up with what's happening!

There is quite a bit of work occurring behind the scenes, and I appreciate our talented and focused Board members who work so well together on all kinds of tasks. Each member takes ownership of her duties and gets things done. I serve on three different boards in the community, and truly, this is the only one where rotating the chairmanship could possibly succeed. We are getting the job done, and we all owe the board a big "Thank you!"

*Carol Steinhaus, Recording Secretary  
and September/ October Convener*



## NEXT MEETING *In-person, Nov 10, 7pm*

### **Book Banning and Intellectual Freedom**

Our country is seeing a significant increase in challenges to access to books. Many of these attacks target books that include social justice themes, LGBTQ+ issues, or BIPOC characters. Librarians and teachers who protect the right to read have been threatened, harassed, and accused of "grooming" children. According to a [recent report from PEN America](#), "at least 50 groups involved in pushing for book bans across the country operating at the national, state or local levels." From July 2021 to June 2022, there have been more than 2,500 instances of books being banned, affecting more than 1,600 unique book titles.

Join us at the **Women's Federated Clubhouse on Thursday, November 10, at 7:00 pm** for a discussion of book banning and intellectual freedom. Our panelists have significant experience in libraries and teaching young adult literature. They will address ways in which libraries and schools prepare to fight challenges and the value of the very literature being banned.

- **Andrea Ingmire**, Director of Peter White Public Library
- **Jessica Holman**, Director of Negaunee Public Library and School Librarian at North Star Montessori Academy
- **Dr. Kia Jane Richmond**, NMU Professor of English

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.***

*Leslie Warren,  
Program Vice President*



## AAUW's NMU SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN

The current political campaign season has been challenging. The

cliché that so much hangs in the balance could not be more true. It is with relief that we can find balance as the seasons change.

As we enter the season of giving thanks, we are taking the opportunity to place emphasis on both actions.

Giving is what we ask you to consider when making a financial gift to our NMU Scholarship Campaign. When you think about the impact of your support, know that it truly is a gift that keeps on giving. Access to higher education today and the potential for multiple successes in the future are timeless treasures.

We are thankful for those who have given. Thank you to those who are planning to give. Each of you makes our scholarship season a blessing for others.

→ Like all campaigns, the NMU Scholarship Campaign has an official end date – **December 31, 2022**. With two months to go, we are halfway to our goal of \$3,500. *Mail to: Ruth Ziel, 734 Lakewood Lane, Marquette, MI 49855 Memo: Scholarship.*

*Les Bek,  
NMU Scholarship Campaign Co-Chair*

## Public Policy News

### *Preaching to the Choir*

Halloween used to be the scariest night of the year, but in 2022, November 8<sup>th</sup>, election night and the ensuing days until all the votes are counted is scarier. **Our democracy, our basic rights are hanging in the balance.**

Will voters put aside the smears, the fear mongering, the lies and the barriers erected to make it harder to cast a vote aside and VOTE? Will their votes be based on facts, irrefutable evidence, truth? Will we emerge from this election as a country governed by

the rule of law? Will the rights women and girls have had for the last 50 years be returned to them? Will we select legislators who put their oath of office and service to their country and the regions they serve above all?

**Your Vote matters.** Vote on or before November 8<sup>th</sup>. Convince three other people that this election is crucial. We must vote and make our voices heard. In Michigan we can make a difference. Vote Yes on all three ballot proposals. Our future as a democratic nation depends upon your vote. Focus on the challenges facing us: freedom of choice, the need for infrastructure which supports clean water, health care, affordable housing, opportunities to work earning a living wage, quality education.

And when the votes are counted let us abide by the will of the people.

*Karlyn Rapport,  
Public Policy Representative*

## About Prop 3



Combining voter suppression and abortion restrictions are right wing strategies that have been used throughout history to maintain male white supremacy. In 1873, the Comstock law prohibited contraception and birth control information distribution through the U.S. Mail. States then enacted laws restricting contraception. This was in response to immigrants pouring into our nation. White politicians feared this group would outnumber “native born” whites and threaten political power. Voting rights restriction like the poll tax, literacy tests, threats of lynching, kept Black Americans from voting.

After the election of Barak Obama, the dual strategy limiting access to abortion and birth control and restricting voter access has been resurrected by white supremacists. Now voters dropping off absentee ballots at drop boxes feel threatened.

Our country stands at a precipice. Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Texas now have total abortion bans, no exception for rape or incest. Georgia and South Carolina have bans beyond

6 weeks gestation. Florida bans at 15 weeks. Proposal 3, Reproductive Freedom for All, is supported by AAUW. It gives Michiganders a choice Nov 8. The only way to protect women's reproductive health care is to vote Yes on Proposal 3. Please do what you can to talk to young women. We must make them see the power of their one vote to protect this most personal and essential freedom to control their own bodies, their own futures. There is a ton of misinformation out there regarding Proposal 3. The truth is **under Proposal 3, abortions will continue to be highly regulated in Michigan.** Only licensed doctors can perform abortions. Late term abortions are extremely rare. They will still be regulated by law. Parental involvement is already legislated and remains the same. This proposal has nothing to do with gender transition.

Physicians worry women will die because they are too sick to carry a pregnancy to term. Patients whose fetuses are so malformed they have no chance of survival have to leave their home state for termination. Michigan Planned Parenthood is now seeing out-of-state patients seeking care. These restrictive laws do not change the number of abortions, but they do change the number of maternal deaths.

**Ruth Ziel is presenting information on the ballot proposals for the League of Women Voters Town Hall on Thursday, November 3 at 7:00 PM at Marquette Township Hall, 1000 Commerce Drive, Marquette.** You can also refer people to [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) for more information on the ballot proposals. Let's hope the almost 800,00 who signed the petition to put this on the ballot show up to vote Nov 8. Do what you can to get out the vote.

*Karlyn Rapport, Public Policy Representative*

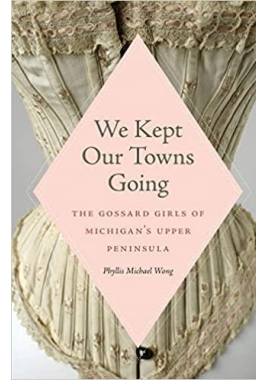


**Tadych's MarketPlace Receipts**  
*Formerly Econo*

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*

**Do you like to be challenged by new books and lively discussions?**

Then the AAUW Book Group is for you! Please consider joining us for our December 8th discussion



of *We Kept Our Towns Going: The Gossard Girls of Michigan's Upper Peninsula* by Phyllis Wong. On tap for discussion on January 5th is *The Trials of Phillis Wheatley: America's First Black Poet and Encounters with the Founding Fathers* by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

All meetings start at 12:30pm. Location varies monthly, and we also have a Zoom option for all discussions. Please contact Karen Rudisill for details if interested. We'd love to see a few new faces! –

*Karen Rudisill, Book Club Chair*  
[karen.rudisill@gmail.com](mailto:karen.rudisill@gmail.com)



The **YESTERDAY'S TREASURES SALE**, the major Clubhouse fundraiser, is being moved to the Spring once again. Last May's sale was the most successful to date. The Clubhouse Board noted the many conflicts and inconveniences of the winter sale in making this change. Think "Clubhouse" as you sort through your closets over the coming long dark days of winter.

*Meg Goodrich, Clubhouse Rep*