



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

Where are we? Where are we headed? Those are the questions that came to mind for our May 11 meeting. Thank you for your creative thinking. The strategic planning session led by Leslie Warren pointed to **suggestions for future projects and programs:**

- Present status of Title IX
- What is being done to create affordable childcare options?
- What can we do to increase voter turnout?
- How can we collaborate with like nonpartisan groups?
- How can we better recruit and mentor new members?
- We rededicated ourselves to STEM opportunities for girls.

At the board meeting other ideas emerged:

- A program on legacy planning
- possibly asking the governor's representative to meet with us to discuss AAUW and the governor's public policy priorities

Help make these great ideas reality. Join Ellen Koski and the program committee.

I have completed my two months as convener. I am so happy to turn the reins over to our next president Carol Steinhaus. When board members were asked if they wish to continue their roles for next year, their dedication was remarkable. We are like geese flying in a V. There is no air lift for the goose in the lead position. To avoid fatigue and exhaustion, the front position rotates between all members of the flock. When one gets tired the others move into a lead

position and keep each other flying. We keep each other airborne. Here's to a successful year ahead.

Karlyn Rapport
April/May Convener



On the student loan front

Governor Whitmer signed an executive order telling the Department of Treasury to look into the benefits of the state being the student loan organization. It might permit student loan applicants to obtain lower rates. This is a proactive measure on the Governor's part. The U.S. Supreme Court may strike down Biden's student loan forgiveness program. Other agencies like the Department of Insurance and Financial Services and the Office of Rural Development are looking at ways to lower borrowing costs and student loan debt.

Parental Consent for Abortion laws...

...may see some changes. The current law requires one parent to consent to a minor obtaining an abortion. Judicial bypass from probate court is a burdensome option. Children in foster care find it harder to get consent and access as do survivors of incest and abuse. Some minors fear being kicked out of the house if they are pregnant. The mandate passed in Proposal 3 supports more compassionate change. The American Medical Association, the College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics policy since 1989 states adolescents under the age of 18 should have the right to legal, confidential, medical and surgical

abortion care and counseling. Most teens voluntarily involve a parent or trusted adult regarding terminating a pregnancy. Planned Parenthood and ACLU support changes in parental consent. PPAM recommends removing the requirement for consent from a parent or legal guardian and removing the 24-hour waiting period for an abortion. These recommendations are trying to ensure vulnerable populations can access reproductive care with minimal barriers. Let see where the Michigan legislature is headed.

Conversion therapy

Conversion therapy is based on the outdated belief that being LGBTQ+ is something in need of fixing. Twenty-one states have banned conversion therapy. Senator Mallory Mc Morrow (D Royal Oak) sponsored SB348 and SB349. HB4616 and HB 4617 are sponsored by Felicia Brabec (D Ann Arbor) and Jason Hoskins (D Southfield). These bills add a section to the mental health code banning any practice or treatment by licensed mental health providers that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. Providers who violate the prohibition would face licensing sanctions or disciplinary action. "Kids subjected to conversion therapy attempt suicide more than double the rate of LGBTQ+ peers," Mc Morrow said. "This junk science amounts to nothing more than child abuse." The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry said conversion therapy lacks scientific credibility. A 2022 National survey by the Trevor Project on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health found 17% of LGBTQ youth reported being threatened with or subjected to conversion therapy. These bills are presently in committee but there is a good chance of their passage.

ERA Oops, I misspoke regarding ERA at the Board meeting. Sorry, I am guilty of wishful thinking. When I went back to the email, I found I had misunderstood. House Continuing Resolution 3 (HCR 3) passed the Michigan House. The Senate Government Operations Committee is where this resolution is now. Mary Pollock, AAUW's Government Relations Coordinator will communicate with the Chair of this committee

Winnie Brinks (D Grand Rapids) to say that AAUW would like to see it pass and determine how we might help it along the way. It calls on the Archivist of U.S. to certify and publish ERA as the 28th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and calls on Congress to declare ERA ratified. Do you think this push by the Michigan Legislature will get Congress to act on ERA? When I look at the craziness in the rest of the country the Michigan Legislature makes me proud.

*Karlyn Rapport
Public Policy Representative*



Tadych's MarketPlace Receipts

Please Remember: Receipts must now be turned in within 2 years of the purchase date.

Make a reminder for yourself...

...to bring eligible receipts to the next in-person meeting you can attend, or you can mail or drop them off to me at 617 W Hampton St, Marquette 49855.

Thanks.
Meredith Kulisheck

Hostessing Returns

As we plan ahead for our 2023-2024 Program Year, we need to assign **2 members** to each date, now that we are once again meeting in person!! And hasn't that been great! Duties are not difficult--bring a few simple treats, and beverages for a punch. We are NO longer making coffee in the evening!! It goes to waste; takes time; means extra clean-up. Please consider this service to your branch, by emailing me your preferred date. meg.goodrich2@gmail.com. *Thank you for saving me bugging you later in the summer!*

All meetings, except April, meet at the Clubhouse at 7 pm, on Thursdays.

September	14	February	8
October	12	March	7
November	9	Monday, April 22	6 pm
January	11	May	9

Meg Goodrich, Hostess Chair



Thank you to all our members
who helped at the
Yesterday's Treasures Sale.
Net profit was \$1,169.
Meg Goodrich
Clubhouse Representative

AAUW MQT Financial Report April through May 20, 2023

The balance in our checking account April 1, 2023 was \$16,759.34. As of May 20, 2023 our balance was \$20,723.40. After accounting for restricted income and fixed expenses for a total of \$6,137.67, we have at our disposal \$14,585.73 as of May 20, 2023.

Combined income for April and May is as follows. Booksale was \$4098, NMU scholarship donation of \$76, National and state dues of \$948, local and clubhouse dues of \$467, general fund donation of \$93 and interest of \$6.44 for a total income of \$5,688.44.

Expenses for this same time period were, book sale \$380.60, National and state dues payment of \$864, Director and Officer liability insurance payment of \$348, food for the May general membership meeting of \$106.78 and caretaker fee of \$25 for May meeting for a total of \$2,588.38.

There is minimal activity in our STEM account. As of April 1, 2023 the balance was \$10,734.79. Our only income was interest of \$4.12 and no expenses. Our balance as of May 20, 2023 was \$10,738.91

Our NMU Scholarship fund has a balance of \$4760.

As always please feel to contact me with any questions.

Ruth Ziel, treasurer

MEMBERSHIP

The seasons may change but one thing stays the same. That is our Welcome Mat and it is always out for new members and to welcome former members back. Our last meeting included sharing our vision of who a new member might look like. Many characteristics and attributes were tossed about. The loudest I heard was someone who shares the AAUW mission and who is looking for a local connection.

Connections are made by reaching out. Consider yourself invited to be a connector. Maybe your conversation with a friend turns on your light bulb. You now see that friend in a different light. Make the invitation to join. Contact Ruth Ziel or myself and we will roll out the Welcome Mat and answer any questions to connect the dots.

Ideas . . . think about some ideas we have . . . Ride Share . . . would you offer a member or new member a ride to a meeting/program? Think about how much you can learn about each other in that short trip.

Member Mentor . . . how about pairing yourself with a new member for her first year? Your mentorship is really an extension of friendship. Someone to sit with, introduce and engage with during social chat time, or volunteer together in some capacity.



Welcome
to our
new
member

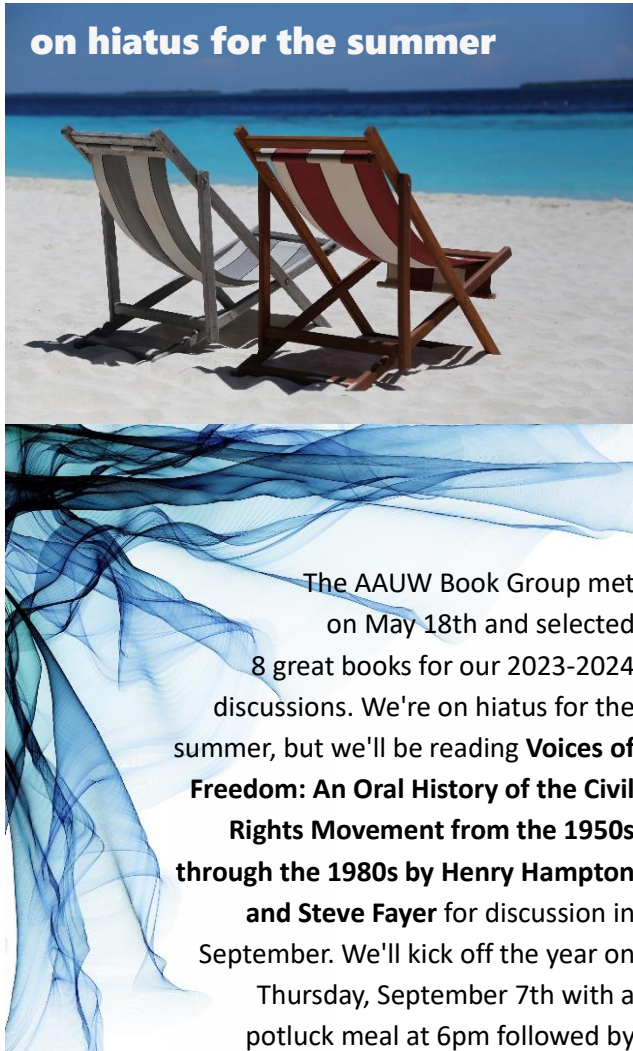
Ellen Shahbazi.
Ellen has many

stories to share from her associations with other branches in other states. Send her a note or email and start your conversation.

Ellen Shahbazi
1722 Windstone Dr
Marquette, MI 49855
velcroshahbazi@gmail.com

We are looking forward to your new member suggestions in our Inbox.

Membership Co-chairs
Les Bek – ljbek@chartermi.net
Ruth Ziel – rziel@gmail.com



on hiatus for the summer

The AAUW Book Group met on May 18th and selected 8 great books for our 2023-2024 discussions. We're on hiatus for the summer, but we'll be reading **Voices of Freedom: An Oral History of the Civil Rights Movement from the 1950s through the 1980s** by Henry Hampton and Steve Fayer for discussion in September. We'll kick off the year on Thursday, September 7th with a potluck meal at 6pm followed by the book discussion at 7pm.

Please contact Karen Rudisill for details about the group and/or a list of the books selected.

Karen Rudisill, Book Club Chair
karen.rudisill@gmail.com

Marquette chosen as a pilot site for



**Democracy
Academy
Project**

At our last board meeting our board supported partnering with Voters Not Politicians for the pilot program Democracy Academy Project. This came about in part as an outgrowth of our May membership meeting in which members indicated partnering with other organizations was an interest.

Voters Not Politicians (VNP) is a non-partisan organization championing voting rights in our state. VNP was responsible for the successful ballot initiative to end gerrymandering in this state in 2018 as well as expanded voting rights through a successful ballot initiative known as **Promotethevote22** in 2022.

Marquette was chosen this year as a pilot site by VNP for the Democracy Academy Project. The purpose of the project is to address low voter turnout for local elections by understanding why this may be so and develop strategies to improve voter turnout. It will encompass 2 sessions.

Our role as a partner will be to help find a facility to hold the sessions, encourage participation among interested AAUW members and the community at large and arrange for food for the sessions. I have been assured there is no financial obligation for our branch. Publicity, room rental, food costs, printing costs etc. will all be handled by VNP. It is a way for AAUW MQT to be more visible in our community. It is looking like the Academy will take place toward the end of summer before the November election. As I receive more information regarding a time frame, I will email the membership. We do have NMU students who have expressed interest in the project as well. Hopefully some of you are interested and willing to lend a hand.

Ruth Ziel
