



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

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



*Welcome
to AAUW
camaraderie
and events
for 2023-
2024!!*

by Carol Steinhaus

I hope that everyone had a refreshing summer. Members of our local branch of AAUW are welcoming and active. Many of our group have been active members for many years. I have only been a member for the past few years, and I appreciate other members' collective memories of why things are done the way they are, what precedents have been established, etc. It is a blessing to be part of such an active and dedicated group of women. There are certainly many issues challenging us today---world politics, American political conflicts, economic issues, health problems, social/racial disparities, and differences of opinion about the role of women and about reproductive health issues. Our program planning committee has prepared a slate of educational programs which will help us be informed and involved about many of these issues. I hope we're all looking forward to sharing some fellowship and learning together!! We welcome everyone's participation---that's what makes our branch of the AAUW tree a healthy branch!

*Carol Steinhaus,
Marquette Branch President*

Hello AAUW Members

by Ellen Koski

As we embark on a new year of enriching experiences and engaging discussions, as your new Program Chair, I am excited to share a sneak peek at some of the **programs** that make up our 2023-2024 AAUW calendar. Mark your calendars for the **second Thursdays at 7 PM** and get ready to be inspired!

September 14, 2023: Partnership for Impact

To kick off our year, this joint meeting promises a rich exchange of ideas and perspectives. Network with members of Delta Kappa Gamma and explore new avenues for community impact. Together, we can amplify our collective voices for change.

October 12, 2023: Unhoused in Marquette

Gain a deeper understanding of the local homelessness crisis from two experts at the forefront. Michelle Lajoie and Ashley Sellnow from the Alger-Marquette Community Action will shed light on the challenges faced by the unhoused in our community and the vital work being done to address these issues.

November 9, 2023: Girls' and Women's Rights Abroad, A Panel Discussion

Embark on a global journey as we explore the rights of girls and women around the world. The panel, moderated by leaders of NMU's Office of International Programs, will feature students visiting NMU as Global Undergraduate Exchange Program participants to provide unique insights into the struggles and triumphs of women abroad.

January 11, 2024: The State of Childcare in Marquette County

Affordable and accessible childcare is a pressing issue in our community and nation. Join us for an enlightening discussion with Greta Hill, Executive

Director at Little Friends Children's Center, a non-profit childcare center in Negaunee, and Christopher Germain, Executive Director of Lake Superior Community Partnership. Gain valuable insights into the state of childcare in Marquette County and how we can work together to improve it.

February 8, 2024: *HarmonyVerse - Member Showcase of Poetry and Music*

Join us as we celebrate artistic talents within our AAUW community with "HarmonyVerse," a member showcase of poetry and music featuring Beverly Matherne and Renxin Yang. This evening promises to be a celebration of creativity.

March 14, 2024: *Estate Planning and Planned Giving*

Prepare for the future with guidance on estate planning and planned giving. Gain insights into securing your legacy and supporting the causes you hold dear. Don't miss this opportunity to ensure your affairs are in order.

April 22, 2024: *Getting Ready for Book Sale*

Join us for a potluck salad supper at 5:30PM as we prepare for our highly anticipated book sale. Bring a dish to share and lend a hand in sorting books. It's a fantastic opportunity to connect with other members and make a difference for our chapter and community. Location: First Presbyterian Church, 120 N. Front Street

May 9, 2024: *End of Year Social Gathering*

We'll wrap up the year by gathering to celebrate our accomplishments, friendships, and shared commitment to AAUW's mission. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting event.

Unless otherwise indicated, we'll plan to hold all meetings at the Federated Women's Clubhouse, 104 W. Ridge Street, Marquette; however, Zoom is an option if the weather is bad.

Wherever we are, we look forward to connecting with YOU!

***In gratitude,
Ellen Koski
2023-2024 AAUW Program Chair***



Tadych's MarketPlace
(Econo) Receipts

Please Remember: Receipts must be turned in within 2 years of the purchase date. You can bring eligible

receipts to any in-person meeting you attend, or mail or drop them off to me at 617 W Hampton St, Marquette 49855.

In the past, these brought in hundreds of dollars for us. However, since the pandemic, we, like many individuals and businesses, are finding our funds down, even as needs are increasing.

Meredith Kulisheck

Public Policy News

What's next?

by Karlyn Rapport

The Michigan Legislature returns to Lansing September 5. Governor Whitmer has outlined her legislative agenda for the next few months. Her goals align with AAUW of Michigan's public policy priorities. **An AAUW public policy priority goal is: Full access to self-determination of one's reproductive and gender related health decisions.** Governor Whitmer will work on repeal of the 24-hour waiting period. The governor is also pushing for repeal of so-called TRAP laws (Targeted Regulation for Abortion Providers). These are legislated regulations like ceiling height and width of hallways which are medically unnecessary but were barriers which providers could not meet and shut down facilities. Medicaid insurance will be pressured to cover abortions for lower income women. Now coverage is allowed only in cases of rape, incest or when the mother's life is endangered. The funds for this Medicaid coverage must come from the state coffers. Whitmer promised to work to repeal laws prohibiting private insurers from automatically covering abortions, because these require the insured individual to pay for a separate rider to obtain this coverage.

Also on Governor Whitmer's and AAUW's wish list is paid family and medical leave for all employees and pay equity. Although the Governor has not yet offered any details as to how these will be funded. Stay tuned. **When these bills are introduced, I will alert you.**

*Public Policy Representative
Karlyn Rapport*



AAUW Book Group

by Karen Rudisill

The AAUW Book Group will kick off their 2023-2024 reading season on September 7th with an evening potluck followed by discussion of *Voices of Freedom*. In October, author John Smolens will join us as we discuss his book, *Day of Days*. Both are sure to be great conversations! Contact Karen Rudisill (karen.rudisill@gmail.com) for details.

An AAUW Marquette-Branch Tradition



NMU Scholarship Fund Campaign

by Les Bek

Back to school each September is loaded with positive traditions. Anticipation, excitement, new things, opportunity, a sense of place, fond memories and even fun. From kindergarden to higher education, these traditional elements can be found. Not for everyone. There is always a flip side. Anxiety, doubt, uncertainty, fear, lack of access, and out of place.

I am not usually one to site definitions, although this "similar to" from Oxford Languages seems to fit this message: *Tradition . . . a long-established custom or belief that has been passed on from one generation to another.*

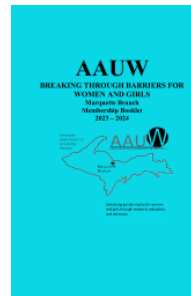
It fits. For over forty years, through our NMU Scholarships, we have passed on our belief to the next generation that financial challenges should not be barriers to young women who seek higher education.

How fitting is it also that our focus is to assist young women with higher education goals who are **non-traditional** students, who demonstrate financial need, face significant barriers, exhibit entrepreneurship, and spirited perseverance.

We invite you to join us in contributing to our NMU Scholarship Fund Campaign. Our Campaign is active until December 31, yet contributions are welcomed throughout the membership year.

The campaign officially kicks off a letter in the Blue Books at the September membership meeting. And there is no need to wait! **Bring your checkbook** to the meeting and save the postage (and time) of mailing your check to Ruth. **You can just hand it to her on the spot.**

Please make your scholarship donation check payable to AAUW-Marquette. Memo: AAUW Scholarship. If necessary, you can mail it to Ruth Ziel, 734 Lakewood Lane, Marquette, MI 49855



Blue Book 2023-24

by Marge Forslin

Be sure to come pick up your new 2023-24 Membership Booklet at the September 14 membership meeting.

Our membership booklets include ways to get involved with AAUW-Marquette, dates and programs for our monthly membership meetings, and even information on how to use Zoom. As always, the directory of members is included, as is the schedule of books and meeting locations for the book group.

You'll find information about our scholarship recipients and the April 2024 Used Book Sale, our big fundraiser for the scholarships we award, and even some details about the Federated Clubhouse where we usually meet.

*Marge Forslin
Newsletter and Membership Booklet Editor*



September 12th
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Peter White Public
Library
217 N Front St, Marquette, MI 49855

Refreshments Provided

By Ruth Ziel

Greetings Everyone. Summer has certainly flown by. I hope everyone is doing well. Our first partnership event is well underway. We partnered with Voters Not Politicians for a pilot program in Marquette County called the Democracy Academy. This is a program that looks at why voters do not turn out to vote in local elections and possible strategies to improve the turnout. Roughly 20% of registered voters in Marquette County vote in local elections especially when they are not paired with state and national elections. What this means is officials elected by a minority make policy for the majority. The only way to turn this around is to find a way to increase voter turnout for local elections.

Come join us. This program will be held September 12, 2023 at the Peter White Public Library in the Shiras room from 5:30-8:00 PM.

If interested please contact me, Ruth Ziel 906-249-4152 or rsziel@gmail.com so that I can register you ensuring we have enough materials and refreshments. I will need your name, phone number, and email. Last day of registration is September 8, 2023. The program is free. Voters Not Politicians is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose focus is to promote equal access to the polls making sure every vote counts.

Ruth Ziel,
Liaison between AAUW-MQT and VNP