



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

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



from the President

by Carol Steinhaus

I hope that everyone is enjoying our wonderful, colorful Fall season as I write this. We all

know what color is coming----WHITE!!! I am trying to absorb the glorious golds, reds, and yellows into my memory to pull out on the beautiful but boring white days in our future.

Ellen Koski is new to the Program Committee chair position, Laurie Lotter is new to the Secretary position, and I am new to the President position. Other board members have been most gracious as we newbies encounter things that we aren't sure how to handle. While there is certainly some value to "we've always done it this way," discovering things that aren't written down, have been handled X way in the past, etc., is somewhat of a benefit when new people don't know the routine!!

One of those routines I didn't know was how the beginning of meetings are handled. I haven't been a member all that long, and about half of that was during covid. As a department head in a hospital, I have believed "the way to start a meeting on time is to start a meeting on time." Otherwise, you're rewarding latecomers and punishing people who come on time while you wait for the stragglers. I apologize; I didn't understand the routine!

For the last couple of meetings, I've realized people are arriving at 7:00, not ready to begin the meeting at 7:00. Last month in particular, I tried to get the meeting started somewhat on time because I want to be cognizant of our speakers and the time they

are donating to us. I've since learned that traditionally, people have socialized until about 7:10, when the meeting starts. So, I'd like to request that we try to use that format. Please come early, at least no later than 7 if you'd like to socialize, get a treat, and get settled. We'll begin at 7:10, and Ellen and I will share this time plan with our speakers. Socializing is important, but we need to be gracious to our speakers also. So, please plan to come a bit earlier and we'll start at 7:10.

We received many positive comments about last month's speakers, international students from NMU. For the past two months, we have invited members of other organizations in town to join us for meetings, based on the topic. Networking in this way has several benefits, I believe. We become more visible to people who belong to other organizations in town. We may discover ways to work with those other organizations. We may gain new members. We meet community members we might not otherwise meet. At our last board meeting, we made two relevant decisions: 1) We will ask NMU to provide us with international student speakers for each November meeting. November is a month which honors international study and issues. 2) Based on the topic, our Program Committee may invite community members from relevant organizations and/or individuals whom we know have interests in the topic of the month. Again, the more we can raise our visibility and network with other local organizations, the stronger we will be.

I will have to miss November's meeting, but I know the topic (homelessness) is a vital one with many complications and many individuals and groups trying to assist. Please feel free to bring any friends you know who may be interested in this important topic.

*Carol Steinhaus
Marquette Branch President*



by Ellen Koski

Earlier this summer, as your AAUW executive team was reviewing the highlights and significant items of interest brought forth in our strategic planning discussion, it was clear this branch is dedicated to addressing critical community issues.

We hope you will join us on November 9 for an in-depth discussion of homelessness in Marquette County. Our speakers,

- **Ashley Sellnow, Emergency Housing Director for Alger-Marquette Community Action,** and
- **Brent Clark, Director of Janzen House in Marquette,**

will share insights into the challenges faced by our unhoused community members and information we can use to advocate for support.

The presentation will begin at 7:10 pm. Feel free to come a few minutes early for time to socialize and grab a snack.

This event is free and open to the entire community. We invite everyone to actively engage in this important conversation. Together, we can better understand the challenges faced by our neighbors and explore ongoing efforts to address this critical issue. We look forward to your participation and our collective efforts to make a positive impact.

Ellen Koski
2023-2024 AAUW Program Chair



Public Policy News

Worrisome News

by Karlyn Rapport

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear U.S. v. Rahimi on Tuesday, November 7 and will decide if a federal law prohibiting possession of firearms by people subject to domestic violence protection orders is constitutional.

Can an abuser who has a personal protections order against them keep their guns? The current law in effect for 30 years protects survivors. This was routinely determined constitutional until 2022. Then a Supreme Court case, New York Rifle and Pistol Association Inc v Bruen placed previous settled law in jeopardy and changed the way courts evaluate the Second amendment. The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals covering Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana heard the Rahimi case and overturned existing federal law in those states. This ruling means the difference between life and death for many victims of abuse, their family members, law enforcement and all of us. Frequently gun violence perpetrators of mass shootings have a history of previous domestic violence.

The present court is considered originalist looking at the law based on our Founding Father intent in the late 1700s. How can modern day laws be compared to laws around the 1700s? The constitution does not even use the word Women. Women did not have the vote, there were no assault weapons. This perspective does not consider public safety, gun access by dangerous people and more gun deaths as a result of this ruling. I am worried.

The U. S. Supreme Court will rule on this case this session. We will hear their ruling around June or July. There are a zillion amicus briefs filed hoping to turn the court in the right direction continuing our nation's history of disarming people who pose a dangerous threat to themselves or others.

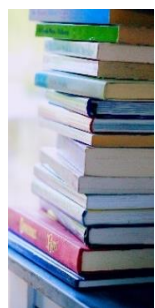
The Michigan Senate passed the Reproductive Health Act. Now the pressure is on the House Democratic Caucus to get this legislation to Governor Gretchen

Whitmer. Opposition in the House by Representative Karen Whitsett brought action on this package to a halt. In the package is SB593. Four bills SB 474 SB 476. SB477 passed These bills repeal the 24-hour waiting period to obtain an abortion, and repeal the requirement that non pharmaceutical abortions take place in a freestanding surgical clinic, they also remove the ban on higher education institutions operating pregnant and parenting services from offering abortion. Included in this package is a repeal of the requirement for people who want to have their health insurance cover abortions having to purchase this through an optional rider and that was their only option to obtain this coverage. The key provision that is the sticking point for Representative Whitsett is the repeal of the ban on Medicaid funded abortions. This would end a 35-year prohibition. Whitsett is Vice chair of the Health Policy Committee. These bills enact what the voters of Michigan approved in Proposal 3. Let's hope the will of the voters of Michigan can prevail.

A piece of good news

The Michigan Senate also passed Senate Bill 280. Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment was implemented in 2020 but had a sunset provision due to expire at the end of 2023. This bill now makes Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment part of mandated Hearing and Vision screening which has been a mandate for decades. Locally about 15 % of the children screened have tooth decay. This can be a factor in a child's learning.

*Public Policy Representative
Karlyn Rapport*



AAUW BOOK GROUP

by Karen Rudisill

The AAUW Book Group will be meeting on December 7th to discuss **Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Gamus. The meeting begins at 12:30 pm, and there will also be

a Zoom option. Please contact Karen Rudisill (karen.rudisill@gmail.com) for details or to be included on email updates the meeting. Consider joining us!! **We love to see new faces!**



PLEASE REMEMBER: Receipts must be turned in within 2 years

of the purchase date. 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

Our NMU Scholarship Campaign



by Les Bek

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. Students are awaiting their mid-term test results. Our scholarship campaign is on an equal pace. Your support turns our future recipient's bad days into hopeful opportunities.

**Mail donation checks to: Ruth Ziel,
734 Lakewood Lane, Marquette, MI 49855**

Memo: Scholarship



NEWS FLASH

Reproductive Health Act passed Nov 1.

It will repeal the TRAP laws that had to do with hall width, ceiling height that closed clinics. It repealed the restriction on private insurance for abortion, it allows public universities to provide information on all reproductive health care options to students. The other news is Medicaid will not cover abortion care. The mandated 24-hour delay in care remains. These restrictions directly impact rural Michiganders, low income people, and black and brown communities.