

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected Officers 2024 – 2025

President	Carol Steinhaus
Financial V P	Emera Wilson
Membership V P	Les Bek
Program V P	Ellen Koski
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Pellett
Recording Secretary	Laurie Lotter

Representatives 2024 – 2025

Book Group	Karen Rudisill
Book Sale	Renee Leow
Facebook Administrator	Leslie Warren
Federated Women’s Clubhouse Board	Meg Goodrich
Historian	OPEN
Hospitality	Meg Goodrich
Membership Book	Marge Forslin
Newsletter	OPEN
Publicity	Andrea Ingmire
Public Policy	Karlyn Rapport
Scholarships & Awards	Andrea Ingmire Meg Goodrich Kay Payant Ruth Ziel
STEM	Les Bek
University Relations	Leslie Warren
Website	Laurie Lotter

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
 Website: <http://marquette-mi.aauw.net>
 Facebook: [AAUW Marquette Branch](#)

President’s Report

I believe that it is a Chinese curse that says, “May you live in interesting times.” We are certainly living in a turbulent and frightening time. In my opinion, our country’s financial strength, sense of unity and pride, and respect from those in other countries---all are deteriorating almost daily. To hear that our national anthem was booed at a sporting event with Canadians, is heartbreaking. How much permanent damage to our rights, our reputation, and our cost of living is being done? I believe we are in this world to help each other. That is not what our leaders are doing. Regardless of your political beliefs, watching this level of turmoil is unnerving, to say the least.

We women in national AAUW must be vocal and vigilant to stand up for what others before us fought for. It appears clear that if we stand idly and silently by much of the progress our predecessors made will be rolled back. Regardless of your political party, this is a turbulent time, and we seem to be headed for more financial and political upset. Please stay informed, discuss issues with others, and if it is your belief system, please pray for our legislators and our country.

Meanwhile, looking at our own chapter, we have some issues which must be addressed. We are an aging group, and we need to recruit younger members to keep our branch vital. There is value in having both seasoned people and “new people” (This always cracks me up---what were they before? “Old” people? Something other than people?) in any

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President's Report (continued)

organization. Members who have been involved for years know the history about why something is done a certain way, while newer members bring new insight, new questions, and new energy. I see situations like this as good for an organization. "We've always done it that way" is the motto of dying organizations.

Our branch is having the same problems as every other group I hear about in town. Our older members, with their store of knowledge, are getting older, dealing with health problems, traveling a lot including moving away for months at a time, etc. So, let's invite other women to join our branch, let's be active politically and thoughtfully, and let's stay alert to what is happening and do what we can to protect our rights and our beliefs.

Best,
Carol Steinhaus
AAUW Marquette Branch President

Next Meeting

February 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Women's Federated Club House
104 W Ridge St, Marquette

Love is in the air at our February AAUW meeting! Join us Thursday, February 13th at 7:00 PM at the Women's Federated Clubhouse for an enchanting evening of poetry with two remarkable local poets: U.P. Poet

Laureate Beverly Matherne and accomplished poet Allison Peters. Following the wonderful success of last year's poetry gathering, we're delighted to bring back this special literary event with a Valentine's theme.

Our talented AAUW members will share their poetic perspectives on love in its many forms, promising an evening filled with warmth, wit, and artistic expression. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the power of poetry through the voices of these gifted writers. Feel free to bring a friend – poetry is always better shared! *Featured poets will have books available for purchase.* – Ellen Koski, Program Vice President



A Marquette and Uganda Connection



At the January program, we learned about the research project for jackfruit sustainability from our AAUW Fellowship Scholar, Justine Nakintu, PhD, Biology, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda. She is pictured here with Dr. Susy Ziegler, Department Head at Northern Michigan University's Earth, Environment and Geographical Studies. For more detailed information about the program, visit our [website](#). – Laurie Lotter

Treasurer Notes

At our last board meeting, we welcomed our new Financial Vice President, Emera Bridger Wilson, who officially took over duties this month from Ruth Ziel. Emera became a member of our branch in 2024 and is currently an Assistant Professor at the NMU Lydia M Olson Library in Collection Management. Outside of work, she loves watching baseball, experimenting in the kitchen, backpacking, and gardening.



Ruth made several improvements to the financial recordkeeping during her tenure and her presence will certainly be missed at our meetings. **THANK YOU, RUTH!**

Book Club

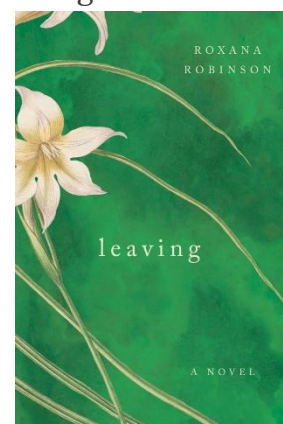
The AAUW Book Group will be meeting on Thursday, February 6th at 12:30 pm to discuss *Five Days That Shocked the World: Eyewitness Accounts from Europe at the End of World War I* by Nicholas Best. Karlyn Rapport will be hosting this event.

The book for discussion in March (Thursday, March 6th at 12:30 pm, at the home of Meg Goodrich and led by Karlyn Rapport) will be *Leaving: A Novel* by Roxana Robinson.

A New Yorker Best Book of the Year • One of the Los Angeles Times 15 Best Books of the Year • A Chicago Public Library Must-Read of 2024 • A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2024

What risks would you be willing to take to fall in love again?

Please contact Karen Rudisill (karen.rudisill@gmail.com) if you'd like to join us!



Equal Pay Day Event

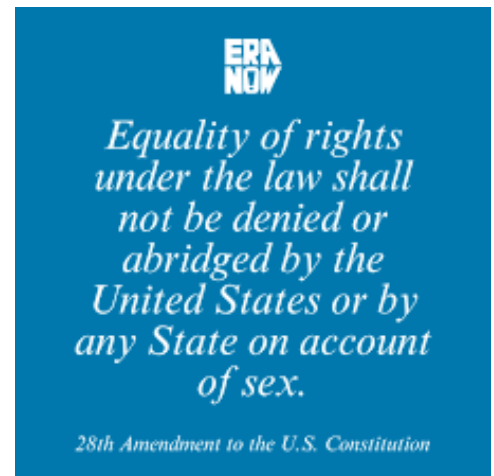


Save the date of March 25 on your calendar because plans are being made for a public outreach on that day, which is Equal Pay Day. This date is the point of the year that women must work to finally reach the salary levels of men for the previous year. That is an extra 84 days of work, just to be paid like a man. A flyer has been created with a list of the Equal Pay Days for all the marginalized and discriminated groups. To make our point and be noticed, we will

attach a small Pay Day candy bar on each flyer to hand out the passersby and educate the community about the issue. If you would like to be a part of this event and/or donate bags of Fun-Sized Pay Day candy bars, contact Laurie Lotter by e-mail at laurielotter@ymail.com (yes, YMAIL) or by texting 269-223-0150.

A Valentine's Day Public Policy Message

Have you heard? The debate is over. The Equal Rights Amendment is the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. On January 17 President Biden avoided telling the Archivist to publish the ERA and declared “I affirm what I believe and what three fourths of the states have ratified: the 28th Amendment is the law of the land, guaranteeing all Americans equal rights and protections under the law regardless of their sex”. According to Laurence Tribe and other legal scholars, President Biden’s pronouncement fulfills the function of the Archivist to inform the nation that the amendment is in force!!!! Now we can use ERA as the bedrock law to assure gender equality. On the other hand, there is confusion. Biden could have ordered the Archivist to publish ERA, that would have triggered a legal battle with Republicans. The time limit issue is not mentioned in the Constitution and this document does not give Congress the authority to limit the states’ ability to ratify once the amendment is proposed. There is no way for states to rescind their ratification in the Constitution. Does Biden’s statement supersede the Archivist refusal to publish the ERA as part of the Constitution? Do we have a leg to stand on? In this search for good news, take it for what it is worth. If we keep saying it is the law of the land, so be it.



It is hard to watch the destruction of the rule of law, the demolition of guard rails that protect our country and its citizens. The nominees for the cabinet have been alarming. AAUW opposes the nomination of Linda McMahon for Secretary of the Department of Education because she has no significant background in education, school administration or civil rights. She supports policies that undermine civil rights and public education for all, would use vouchers and public funds for private schools, would roll back Title IX protections and cut financial aid programs. Linda McMahon is a

rubber stamp for Donald Trump and will do what she can to dismantle the Department of Education. **Please take the time to contact the [Two Minute Activist at aauw.org](https://www.aauw.org) and send a letter to our Senators to oppose her nomination.** Urge them to reach across the aisle to encourage other senators to join them in opposing the nomination of Linda Mc Mahon. Or call them directly: U.S. Senator Elyssa Slotkin 202/224-4822. U.S. Senator Gary Peters 202/224-6221. – Karlyn Rapport, Public Policy

And even more...



The Department of Education announced it has taken action to eliminate Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. They have removed guidance documents, reports, training materials which mention DEI, they put employees charged with leading DEI initiatives on paid administrative leave. They are working to “end discrimination based on race and use of harmful race stereotypes “within the agency and throughout the American education system.

The Trump administration is supporting Title IX guidelines of **2020**. They have eliminated the recent guidelines drawn during the Biden administration which were kinder to survivors of rape and sexual harassment and replaced them with the 2020 guidelines.

The statement that the IRS will not discriminate has been removed from the IRS website. This administration has taken a tactic of promoting so many Project 2025 initiatives at once we don't know where to turn next. – Karlyn Rapport, Public Policy

Do one thing each day. to protect our constitution, the rule of law, AAUW 's priorities, gender equity, economic security for women and your sanity.

Women's Federated Clubhouse Ad Hoc Committee

As you may know, the Women's Federated Clubhouse is a historic, 140-year-old building with a rich history of women's activities in Marquette. The Clubhouse has formed an ad-hoc committee (comprised of members from the Clubhouse groups) to brainstorm ideas for improving and sustaining the location for the future. Bringing attention to the Clubhouse as a venue is a top priority. The group is considering activities featuring the Clubhouse to help raise community awareness of the facility (Hot Chocolate for the UP 200, host a Music on Third group during the summer, pop-up art show, folk music, small presentations/talks, etc.). Estimates for updates, renovations, and structural improvements are being sought. Partnerships with other groups may provide support for future sustainability and conversations with several organizations are ongoing. Please don't hesitate to contact me with ideas for ways to raise community awareness! –Karen Rudisill
