

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected Officers 2024 – 2025

President	Carol Steinhaus
Financial V P	Pending
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	<i>OPEN</i>
Hospitality	Meg Goodrich
Membership Book	Marge Forslin
Newsletter	<i>OPEN</i>
Publicity	Andrea Ingmire
Public Policy	Karlyn Rapport
Scholarships & Awards	Andrea Ingmire Meg Goodrich Kay Payant Ruth Ziel
STEM	Les Bek
University Relations NMU	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

My warmest greetings to everyone in our new year of 2025. I am writing these thoughts on New Year’s Day afternoon, hearing about the tragedy in New Orleans, thinking about everyone involved---deaths, lifechanging injuries, hundreds if not thousands of people needing to work on a holiday on overtime, how innocent people were killed while simply trying to have a good time, losses to business, etc.

And once again I think of my father, who told me that the key to management is to think through, before you do anything, what will be affected. If you do that, you’re a far better problem-solver than you would be otherwise. In this case, I thought about the number of people who probably had tickets for today’s Sugar Bowl, and airline tickets home for tomorrow, and now the game won’t be played until tomorrow. Restaurants, vendors, traffic in and around the city, etc. will be affected, In the scheme of what has happened, this is small and insignificant. But events of today are requiring thousands of people to work together to solve problems. I imagine that now, big cities will use more impenetrable street barriers than the simple wood ones that were put up here in Marquette, last night. I taught event management for years and never taught anything about active shooting and terrorism. Today, I think I’d have to.

And how does this relate to AAUW? Research has proven that women managers tend to think of their organizations as spider webs, with everyone connected from the manager outward, like in a web. Men tend to think in a hierarchy organization chart, from the top down. Women’s brains are

different and our socialization is different. At this point, our history is different. I am reading this month's Book Club "Teacher Wars" and have found it to be both enlightening and disturbing. It documents the history of views of women teaching, called "the feminization of teaching," and why women were not valued nor paid like men in the field were. Key women, some of whom I'd never heard of, made tremendous efforts that caused changes from which our society benefited.

Everywhere I go here in Marquette, people talk about how it's difficult to get people to run for board positions, to spend much time volunteering, etc. Many of us who have done so in the past are getting older and beginning to experience more and more health problems. Others are out of town for periods of the year. I understand these issues, dealing with both issues myself.

Meanwhile, we, here in Marquette in AAUW, have the opportunity and some would say, the obligation, to be more active than we are. If we don't make people aware of issues affecting women, who will? Karlyn provides the board with public policy updates, which are shared in the minutes and the newsletter. But shouldn't we go wider than that? Should we be writing letters to the paper, making people aware of upcoming legislative votes, etc? Shouldn't we be doing a better job of sharing news about AAUW and inviting new members? What would happen if each one of us brought a guest to at least one meeting, spreading awareness of AAUW and what we do? Instead of "Each one teach one", use "Each one reach one". Do you agree that we need more widespread participation across our membership so that too few women aren't having to do too much? The more people who are actively involved, the stronger our organization will be.

I was absolutely stunned today when I realized that incoming President Trump will be inaugurated on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, accompanied by flags flown at half-mast in honor of President Carter. How appropriate and inappropriate this collision of dates and symbols is. If we don't stand up for women's issues, logic and recent events tell me the situation is going to be worse. I hope that we, as individuals and as a group of women, will be more active in raising awareness and increasing involvement in issues that are important to women. If we don't, who will? If we don't care, who will? If we don't act, who will?

In my opinion, our society is in a downward slide regarding social issues. I can sit and complain and participate in "woe is me," or I can try to improve things. Many political changes have happened and are happening that affect women, including such issues as abortions again being illegal. Idealism and putting the good of the country ahead of self both seem to be lacking in politics anymore. Let's create some energy beyond our meeting times and create more awareness and energy about women's issues. I'm willing to be more involved; are you?

Best,
Carol Steinhaus
AAUW Marquette Branch President

Next Meeting

January 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Women's Federated Club House
104 W Ridge St, Marquette

Join us on Thursday, January 9th at 7:00pm at the Women's Federated Clubhouse in Marquette for an enlightening program by Dr. Justine Nakintu, a distinguished researcher from Uganda's Mbarara University of Science and Technology and current AAUW International Fellow. Dr. Nakintu's groundbreaking research focuses on transforming jackfruit cultivation in Uganda from trial-and-error farming to science-based agriculture. Through innovative GIS analysis and laboratory studies at Northern Michigan University, she's mapping optimal growing conditions to help Ugandan farmers maximize their yields of this nutrient-rich crop.



But Dr. Nakintu's work goes beyond farming—she's tackling one of jackfruit's biggest challenges: its short shelf life. With the fruit spoiling within just five days of ripening, she's developing value-added products to extend its usability, potentially creating new economic opportunities for Ugandan farmers.

Dr. Nakintu brings extensive expertise in ethnobotany, plant genetics, and agrobiodiversity conservation. Her research has been published in prestigious journals and supported by international organizations, making her presentation a unique opportunity to learn about sustainable agriculture in East Africa. Find more about Dr. Nakintu's research at <https://nmu.edu/eegs/justine-nakintu>. Don't miss this chance to hear Dr. Nakintu share her fascinating research and experiences from Uganda to the Upper Peninsula. Her work exemplifies AAUW's mission of advancing equity through education and research.

Guess What!

We have a new website! With a more contemporary look, our hope is to increase our visibility to a younger generation while we keep communication lines open within the membership. Take a look at <https://marquette-mi.aauw.net/> and let us know your thoughts. Any suggestions of news items or other ways to use the site will be welcome.

November Program Re-Cap

At our November 15 program, we welcomed 4 NMU International students — 3 from Germany and 1 from Jamaica.

- Donna Hanning – Sports Science
- Merle Richter – Graduate Student in Sports Psychology
- Vanessa Stiegauf – Sports Science
- Chrystal Walker – Finance

Each of the students chose NMU because of the sporting opportunities in secondary education that are not available in their countries. Their biggest culture shock upon moving to the Upper Peninsula was the food!

We learned that Germany has a statement in their constitution about equal rights for women, although the percentage of women in leadership roles is much lower than the men's percentage (even with a female Chancellor) and there is still a significant salary gap. In Jamaica, women are not a valued part of the society and are often degraded in the media. More women than men go into higher education but are not promoted in the workplace. "Women have a right to get an education but are not recognized as intelligent."

We are pleased to be able to encourage these women on their journeys and thank them for helping us to understand the status of women in other cultures.

Treasurer Notes

Emera Bridger Wilson, our newest member, has offered to take on the treasurer's role for our Branch. The transition date will be January 2025. This is necessitated due to a recent decision by the Ziels to move downstate to be closer to family, including a grandchild. There are no imminent plans to leave, but they are hoping to be moved by next fall. "It has been a pleasure being a part of AAUW and meeting so many wonderful women. While we are looking forward to the future, leaving Marquette will be bittersweet. Please extend a warm welcome and thank you to Emera Wilson."

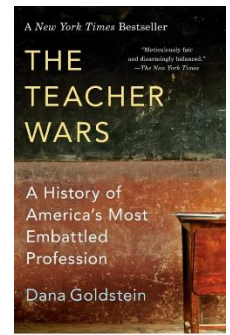
An updated and approved Treasurer report will be available with the next newsletter and given my Emera. The last two reports will be approved for public information at the next board meeting on January 30.

We are still in need of a person to help with the newsletter and we are also looking for a historian to maintain our legacy! Contact Carol Steinhaus if you are interested.

Book Club

The next meeting will be January 9 for discussion of *The Teacher Wars*. Karen Rudisill will be our host at the Clubhouse and Carol Cappuccio will lead the discussion.

Contact Karen Rudisill if you are interested in joining us in person or on Zoom!



Public Policy News



Dear AAUW members:

We are running out of time. AAUW is part of a large coalition urging President Biden to make the publishing of the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution a top priority. President Biden has the authority and the responsibility to ensure that ERA is published before he leaves the White House. President Biden can cement his legacy as a champion of equality. He can demand ERA becomes a reality. This amendment would help protect against injustices of gender-based violence, the banning of birth control and unequal pay. Please keep the pressure on. Call the White House every day if necessary. Get friends to call 202 456 -1111. The White House has been closed over the holidays and the contact line will reopen on Tuesday Dec 31. I assume it will be closed Jan 1.

In other news AAUW advocated our calling Jack Bergman 202 225 4735 to ask his support for the DEFIANCE Act (Disrupt Explicit Forged Images and Non-Consensual Edits) Act. At least 25 Congresswomen, his colleagues, were subjects of these deep fake images to embarrass and humiliate them. Women across the country have also been victimized. There is presently no federal law addressing this digital sexual violence. (No pun intended really). The Senate passed the bill. It is in the House and will die there having to be reintroduced in the new Congress unless the House enacts this now. It will be interesting to see if Representative Bergman can support the passage of this Act. The intent is to add this to the Violence Against Women's Act allowing civil action against individuals who produce, distribute or receive these forgeries.

Happy New Year Everyone. At our meeting let's share ways we are preparing ourselves for the advocacy challenges which lie ahead. We can't go back. But for now, take care of yourselves.

Karlyn Rapport Public Policy Representative
