

April 2025

News and Views

AAUW - Marquette

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	<i>OPEN</i>
Hospitality	Meg Goodrich
Membership Book	Marge Forslin
Newsletter	Laurie Lotter
Publicity	<i>OPEN</i>
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

I am so proud of being a member of this group!! We are getting things done, within our branch and within our community. I am always pleased to see Marquette AAUW members participating in community events that relate to citizenship, like the recent demonstration. We need our voices to be heard!

We have two members leaving us (Les Bek temporarily while retiring from her job and dealing with a surgical issue, Ruth Ziel leaving Marquette to be closer to a new grandson) who are owed our thanks for their many efforts and years of quiet, focused, reasoned efforts. It's so nice to know that we have members who will put time and effort into causes they believe in. We will miss you, and know we appreciate you and all you have done for us. Les, we wish you well in your surgery. Ruth, enjoy that grandson---there is absolutely nothing like being a grandparent and we're so happy for you.

And on the rest of us go. There are two big events coming up---the book sale (May 1-3) and the annual meeting (May 8). Renee has shared information about times and duties we need to help with to have a successful sale----“many hands make light work.” We also need as many members as possible to attend our annual meeting and vote for members who have agreed to step up and fill various offices. I hope to see you at both events!! Let's end our 2024-2025 year on a high note!!

Best,
Carol Steinhaus
AAUW Marquette Branch President

Next Meeting Book Sale Potluck and Sorting Event

Monday, April 28 at 5:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
120 Front Street

Bring a dish (and the recipe) to share if your FIRST name starts with:

- A – F Please bring a salad
- G – M Please bring a main dish
- N – S Please bring a side dish
- T – Z Please bring a dessert



Arrival time is 5:30 pm to orient yourself with the arrangement and for sorting instructions. The potluck meal will follow. There is more detailed information further in this newsletter.

DEI at NMU – Our March Program



At our program on March 13, our guest speaker was Dr. Shawnrece Campbell, Assistant Vice President, Diversity & Inclusion, NMU. She officially joined NMU faculty in January this year, coming from Texas A&M University where she served as the Competency-Based Project Director & Coordinator, working directly with Latinx adult learners to provide student support and coaching to accelerate degree completion. She has also been a branch president of AAUW in Florida.

In her presentation, Dr. Campbell listed out the Values of the DEI program: Justice in practices, Diversity in perspectives, Equality in opportunities, and Inclusivity in spaces. The department is very busy with several upcoming events that will impact our community.

When asked about the current anti-DEI climate of the federal government, Dr. Campbell assured us that the work of the department is “mission focused”, so titles and circumstances will have little or no impact on what initiatives are taken.

Laurie Lotter
Newsletter Editor

What's coming up?

Board Meeting – Monday, April 28 4:30 pm

The meeting is before the potluck at the First Presbyterian Church. This is our only in-person meeting for the year and there is much to discuss.

Annual Branch Member Meeting – Thursday, May 8, 7:00 pm

This meeting is an important one for the Branch as we will be voting in new Executive Board Officers, discussing By-Law changes and receiving new Board Representatives for several positions. Since this is the last meeting for the fiscal year, it is our last chance to gather together until September, so your presence is especially important!

AAUW Marquette Branch Centennial – 1926 – 2026

The year of 2026 will be the Centennial Anniversary of the Marquette Branch! Keep your eyes and ears open for events during the year to celebrate this momentous milestone.

Treasurer Notes

On April 1, 2025, AAUW National dues for FY26 increased from \$72 to \$74. This amount is fully tax-deductible, according to AAUW National. Along with the increase in our Clubhouse dues, the total cost for renewing your membership will be:

Annual Membership Dues

National AAUW	\$ 74
State of Michigan AAUW	\$ 15
Marquette Branch	\$ 9
Clubhouse Dues	\$ 30
Total	\$128

Lifetime Membership <50

National AAUW	\$ 0
State of Michigan AAUW	\$ 15
Marquette Branch	\$ 9
Clubhouse Dues	\$ 30
Total	\$ 54

Student Membership Dues

students are always invited to meetings at no charge and if dues are paid, can participate in all webinars

NMU Student	\$ 0
Non-member college/University	\$ 18.81

Lifetime Membership >50 years

National AAUW	\$ 0
State of Michigan AAUW	\$ 0
Marquette Branch	\$ 0
Clubhouse Dues	\$30
Total	\$30

Book Club

Meg Goodrich led the AAUW Book Group in a discussion of the novel *An Officer and a Spy* by Robert Harris at Margie West's home on Thursday, April 3rd. This was our final book discussion before our summer hiatus. We will meet again on Thursday, May 15th to select 8 books for 2025-2026. Please contact Karen Rudisill (karen.rudisill@gmail.com) for more information about the group or if you'd like to join us. We love new faces!



Karen Rudisill
Book Group Chair

Public Policy News



Cheers for Marquette! The Hands-Off rally drew a crowd of **3,005**. It was inspiring to see that many people, their signs expressing worry about the future of democracy, social security, education, reproductive health care. Ruth Ziel eloquently addressed the crowd regarding threats to voting rights, the SAVE act and its Michigan equivalent HJR B.

We are living in a dystopian nightmare. The daily threats to Head Start, Social Security, Medicaid, voting rights are overwhelming. That is the strategy. **Do what you can.** AAUW is focused on trying to derail the Save Act and Michigan's HJR B.

Under HJR B eligible voters will not be able to register to vote using their driver's license or state-provided identification alone. Individuals would have to provide a passport, naturalization papers and a birth certificate that matches their current legal name. Married women, seniors, college students, tribal citizens, low-income earners, black voters, and active-duty military people, voters who have recently married or divorced are likely to be disenfranchised by HJR B.

Please call Karl Bohnack at 517 373 0498 and urge him to rethink his position on this bill. Call Senator Ed McBroom and urge him to have the courage to stand up for democracy again.

HJR B is in direct opposition to the will of Michiganders who voted to expand ballot access with the passage of Proposal 22-2. HJRB is blatant voter suppression. If our Michigan legislators want meaningful voter reform, Vote No on the HJR B and support the Michigan Voting Rights Act. At the Federal level vote NO on the SAVE Act.

Support the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (HR 14). This bill would address voter suppression and ensure every voter regardless of race has equal access to the ballot box. This bill is supported by 140 organizations AAUW among them.

Democracy is under attack. Our most powerful tool to help us fight back is our vote. That is why extremists are trying to strip it away. Tell our legislators to stand for democracy. Congress's inaction threatens the rule of law. Make calls to our legislators and rattle their chains.

Then for fun watch the march of the blue spotted salamanders at Presque Isle. Bring a flashlight and don't touch!

Karlyn Rapport
Public Policy Chair

Happy Birthday, Karlyn!



You are invited to a 90th birthday celebration for one of our Lifetime Members, Karlyn Rapport, who is the Public Policy Chair for Marquette. Join us at the Women's Federated Clubhouse at 12:00 – 2:00 pm on **Wednesday, April 23**. Cards are welcome but no gifts, please.

If you would like to help prepare the venue for this event or provide food, please contact [Meg Goodrich](#) (906/396-6424).

New "Flower Power" Fundraiser to Benefit AAUW of Michigan

AAUW of Michigan has partnered with **Flower Power** on a new fundraiser that has the potential for AAUWMI to receive 50% of the profits if we sell at least \$500 of products, which we are sure we can do with your help. Bulbs and plants are guaranteed to grow, and **Flower Power** notes which of their products are deer-resistant.

The Spring website is open for online orders now through **May 15**. Orders begin to ship in early April in the order received. Brighten up your own flower gardens with new plants, and order some as gifts for friends and family too!

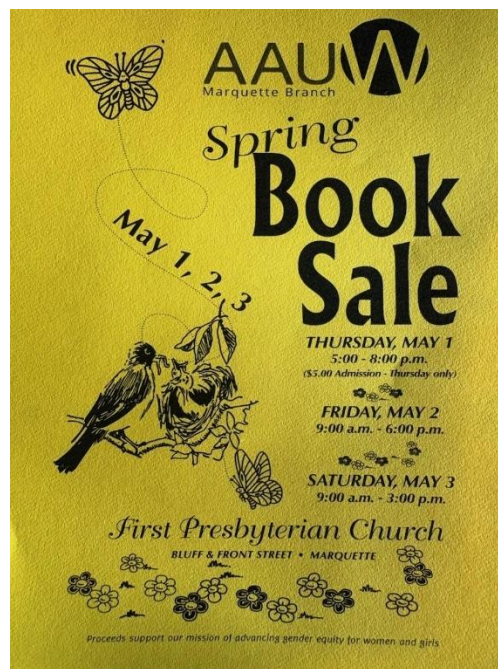


2025 AAUW Book Sale Fun Stuff

The AAUW 2025 Spring Book Sale is only a few short weeks away but *your assistance is always vital to making the sale a terrific success.*

Posters have been posted and the collection barrels are in place at the following locations ready to be filled with donations from our generous community:

- Ember's Credit Union: Marquette, South Marquette, Negaunee, Gwinn, Trenary, and Munising branches
- First Presbyterian Church, Marquette
- Marquette Community Federal Credit Union, West Washington, Marquette
- Incredible Bank, N Third St, Marquette
- Marquette Medical Center, Office-Medical Center Office (near canopy)



The easiest way to participate in the book sale is to ask your family and friends to stuff the collection barrels with gently read books, DVDs, CDs, games or puzzles before **Friday, April 25th** or to simply bring any donations to the sorting potluck on Monday the 28th. In addition, I do hope to see many of your names added to the volunteer signup sheet that will be available at the potluck on the table at the bottom of the stairs. Again, this year, there will be a presorting event (be on the lookout for a last-minute email) as well as a weather permitting Drive-Up/Drop-off event scheduled at the church as soon as there are a few good weather days. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like a digital copy of the poster for you to use in your social media accounts (Facebook, X, Instagram or hey, why not on TikTok if you dare 😊) to help promote the sale.

As always, do not hesitate to send me an email at rmleow@charter.net, give me a quick call at 906.250.5503 should you have any questions, to add you name to the volunteer list, adopt a collection barrel or simply should you need assistance with a donation pick-up.

Be well and see you at or before the potluck on Monday, April 28th.

Renee Leow
Book Sale Chair

*****Be sure to read the Book Sale Calendar of Events at the end of this newsletter*****

Equal Pay Day



On March 25th, we handed out over 120 Pay Day candy bars with flyers of Equal Pay Dates and six scholarship information pages. We had seven requests for more information about the scholarship and Smart Start programs as well as twelve requests for more information about membership. **Our table was well received at both Jamrich Hall and Ore Dock Brewing Company.** We also participated in the **NMU Gender Fair** on Friday, March 28, where we handed out another 50 candy bars and received 10 names to contact about our other programs.

At all these events, the main comment received from people (men and women) was, **“This is still an issue?”** And when we told them that at this rate, it will be an issue until 2083, the typical response was shock. Our branch is doing its part to spread the word about this injustice to all women and inspire the next generation to continue the advocacy.

On Saturday, **April 12**, we will be one stop on the [Marquette Coffee Crawl](#), benefiting the Women’s Center and we will, once again, raise awareness of the pay discrepancy. Our booth will be set up at Iron Bay Restaurant and Drinkery from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. Volunteers are still needed at press time, so if you would like to be a part of this exciting event by **volunteering for an hour**, contact [Laurie Lotter](#) **(269/223-0150)**

Laurie Lotter
Recording Secretary

Welcome NMU!



For the past few years, Northern Michigan University has not been part of the AAUW network. That changed this month when the University agreed to pay dues to become a College/University member! The major impact this has on our branch is that **any NMU student can sign up for FREE National AAUW membership and can also participate in all the Smart Start and Work Smart webinars.** We will be looking for a new University Relations person to be part of the Board of Directors for next year.

AAUW 2025 Spring Book Sale Calendar of Events

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 120 N Front Street, Marquette

What: **Day 1: Book Sale Potluck and Sorting Event**
Date: Monday, April 28th
Time: 5:30 pm for the sorting instruction and potluck to follow
Place: First Presbyterian Church

What: **Day 2: Sorting-Stop in to lend a hand**
Date: Tuesday, April 29th
Time: 10 am – 3 pm
Place: First Presbyterian Church

What: **Day 3: Sorting-Stop in to lend a hand**
Date: Wednesday, April 30th
Time: 10 am – 3 pm
Place: First Presbyterian Church

What: **Make It Pretty (last minute adjustments)**
Date: Thursday, May 1st
Time: 10 am – 2 pm
Place: First Presbyterian Church

What: **Book Sale – Pre Sale event** (\$5 admission fee for public)
Date: Thursday, May 1st
Time: 5:00 – 8:00 pm
Place: Presbyterian Church

What: **Book Sale** – *look for the daily specials*
Date: Friday, May 2nd
Time: 9 am – 6 pm
Place: First Presbyterian Church

What: **Book Sale Super Saturday**
Date: Saturday, May 3rd
Time: 9 am – 12 pm Half off everything
12:15 – 3 pm \$5 Bag Sale
Place: First Presbyterian Church

COME GET IT SUNDAY! Please stop in the church basement after the sale on Sunday, May 4th from 12 noon – 2 pm to grab a box of books to distribute to a good cause, your neighbors, family and friends!

What: **Book Sale Clean-up**
Date: Monday, May 5th
Time: 9 am – or until done (11:00 Ish)
Place: First Presbyterian Church

