

AAUW Board Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2025

Attending: Emera Bridger Wilson, Krista Clumpner, Rebecca Daly, Meg Goodrich, Ellen Koski, Laurie Lotter, Pat Pellett, Carol Steinhaus

Absent: Allison Peters, Karlyn Rapport, Karen Rudisill

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM on Zoom and a quorum was present.

Agenda and Minutes

Motion to accept the agenda was made by Meg, seconded by Laurie and approved unanimously.

Minutes from the May Board Meeting were presented. Motion to accept was made by Meg, seconded by Pat and approved unanimously.

President's Report

Carol is tracking down Bobbi Clift to see about membership. Bobbi expressed an interest in joining and is a past award recipient.

Financial Report

After completing the first membership cycle during her term, Emera has a better understanding of the process and what changes she needs to make for next year. One is to start earlier, probably starting at the April general membership meeting. Another is to have a better way of tracking dues by streamlining reports and saving them to Google Docs. She has discovered that even though online renewal and payment is convenient for the member, payment via check is easier for her to process. All but 3 members renewed their membership. We have one new member and 3 new student members. The State website has information about how to get student membership for free. The branch will pay the Clubhouse fee for students.

Financial reports were submitted for June, July and August. A corrected June report will be forwarded to board members. The report for August has the scholarship payments and Emera will contact the recipients about the September 11th meeting. She is still working on getting a pay code from National for sending in the Education Fund award.

We received a payment in August from Tadych's for receipt collection. Emera has more receipts she has been holding to decide if we are going to continue this fundraiser. Because of the effort required and no one has volunteered for the task, the board agreed that the small payment we receive is currently not enough to justify continuing. Emera will continue to hold onto receipts, and we will discuss continuing this fundraiser in the future.

Continued

STEM funds have been separated into 2 accounts until Ruth recently combined the two separate accounts to one account we use currently. A question was asked if these should be separated again and the decision was made by the board to continue with one account until more funds for STEM are received.

Motion to approve the financial reports with changes was made by Laurie seconded by Meg and approved unanimously.

The proposed budget was discussed. There was a question of whether or not to pay a stipend to the speakers for our meetings. The decision was made not to pay them, but offer them other branding items from AAUW, researched by Ellen, and thus changing the category to Branch Recognition and the total to \$200. Another addition to the budget was a category for Outreach Activities (i.e. Equal Pay Day and the upcoming webinars) to cover publishing and promotional products.

Motion to approve the budget with changes was made by Rebecca, seconded by Pat and approved unanimously.

Discussion Items

Blue Book – Changes that still need to be made are adding the Centennial Celebration for the May 14, 2026 meeting with the time to be determined. To have the book ready by the first meeting, it has to be sent to Pride Printing soon. Laurie will look into the cost of having the printer assemble the book, and if it puts us over budget, she will seek volunteers to complete this task, possibly meeting at the Clubhouse.

Book Group – The first meeting of the year takes place on September 4 at the Clubhouse for a potluck to discuss *The Book Thief*. The date for the second meeting has been changed to October 9 and the blue book will be corrected.

Correspondence – Pat sent a note to Allison following her recent surgery and has requested to be contacted with any other note requests via email until she returns later in September.

Clubhouse – There are a number of events coming up at the Clubhouse. The new website is available and has a calendar to check availability. Emera will contact the new caretaker to pay and notify her about the set-up we need for the September meeting.

Hospitality – The hostesses for September will decide how to serve the potluck, provide desserts and beverages (water, decaf coffee, and tea). The current sign-up form for salads will be edited to delete the beverage option. All invited people will not be asked to bring a salad.

Membership – We have 36 members. Invitations for the September Meet & Greet Potluck are being sent to new female faculty members at NMU. One has responded with RSVP via email. Laurie will continue to monitor for more responses. Meg suggested sending invitations to all faculty so spouses will be invited as well, which is how she became a member.

Rebecca has contacted National to screen the webinars for Money Smart and Smart Start. This will happen in November, assisted by Emera, and be advertised on campus with resources from National. The community will be invited, and Rebecca will work with Allison for extra publicity via local media.

Program – Programs for the year will focus on AAUW Policy Priorities and all speakers have been confirmed. Special attention was made to include information from across the county, not just Marquette. Ellen has the Publicity Kit received by Les Bek to that will be given to Allison along with detailed information about the programs to include in press releases. Allison will also be asked for any suggestions she has for other media to consider for publicity. Ellen would like to have an article about the scholarship recipients to put online and in local media outlets. Emera will write the article.

Invitations are being sent via email and Facebook with the branch email for RSVP (one has already replied). Laurie will work with Carol to send a reminder email about the meeting to the membership from the President and include the invitation to print for their friends. The salad sign-up sheet has been successful with several responses.

Public Policy – No report was available.

Website – The Members Only section has been added to the website and includes the newsletters and board meeting minutes from last year. Blue book information will not be added until the general membership can be notified and vote on the inclusion of names and address. Centennial information will be added to the home page and Laurie will seek out long-time members to get quotes from them about why they joined, what they have seen through the years and how their memberships have benefited them.

Old Business

Microphone – Carol is still working on this and, after contacting Peter Goodrich, expects to have something available for the meeting.

New Business

Centennial – The ad hoc committee has met and has decided on a theme of *Looking Back and Moving Forward*, using a backdrop of the 1920's. There will be only one special celebration, which will take place on May 14, 2026. The time will be determined after the committee decides the format (open house or general meeting). Catering at the event will be researched by the committee, and Emera stated that there are funds available to accomplish the celebration. Also, Allison is excellent at finding other sources of funding and she will be asked to seek sponsorships for the event.

Newsletter

The deadline for the newsletter will be Sunday, August 31 at midnight. It will be sent to members via email and posted to the website on Thursday, September 4.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Lotter
Recording Secretary