



The TWIG

AAUW Midland Branch Newsletter

April
2024

Used Book Sale by Trudy Dutot

Mark your calendars now! The Used Book Sale will take place April 26, 27, and 28, 2024 at the Midland Mall.

We welcome spouses and friends to help. At the beginning of April, we begin to collect books and start sorting. Your help is important.



Please volunteer in one or more of these roles as often as you can:

- Pick up donated books from grocery stores.
- Put price stickers on books and put them in category boxes.
- Stack books on sale tables Thursday evening, April 25th.
- Take a 2-hour shift at the sale, selling or keeping tables neat.
- Help box books for recycling and clean up at the end of the sale.

To volunteer, please contact Pauline Pittsley at 989-430-2067 or Pauline@drymud.com

Thank you for your help! It is greatly appreciated!

President's Message by Carol Arnosky

Midland Branch: Congratulations to **US** on reaching 3 stars in the Five Star Recognition Program!

We received a nice email from AAUW National that read in part: "We are thrilled to inform you that the AAUW Midland (MI) Branch has achieved three stars in the FY23 AAUW Five Star Recognition Program. This achievement is a testament to your dedication and commitment to advancing our mission, and we applaud your leadership and members for your outstanding contributions in the following categories: Advancement, Communications and External Relations, and Programs."



This means that our branch will receive recognition in Membership Matters, e-mail recognition from AAUW National, and Branch listing on the national website, to highlight our accomplishment. Thank you to everyone who has worked, in many different ways, to achieve this recognition.

Lastly, I hope you are looking forward to our April Book Sale! We get to see and be inspired by many wonderful books, make money to fund our scholarships, and best of all, get to 'hang with' our AAUW friends. Join us - either for the first time or the 1,000 time. We would love to see you!

Annual Meeting Election Results

by Barb Galloway, Nominations Committee

A sincere thank you to our recently, and unanimously, elected officers who will be serving on our Board of Directors (2024-26): President-Elect, Carol Arnosky (2024-25) whose selection of tee shirts inspired us all, Finance Vice-President, Liz Kapla (2024-26), Recording Secretary, Jane Wirth (2024-26), Nominations Officer, Pauline Pittsley (2024-25), and Delegate-at-Large, Mary Harding (2024-25). Our branch is fortunate to have such outstanding women to assume these positions.



Pictured left to right: Carol Arnosky, Pauline Pittsley, Mary Harding, Jane Wirth and Liz Kapla

Exercise Your Privilege to Vote!

by Jane Wirth, Public Policy Chair

Would you believe Mary Pollock, AAUWMI Government Relations Coordinator, is tracking 681 bills in the Michigan legislature? And those are just the bills that reflect AAUW's priorities!

Mary leads a "virtual lobby corps" of interested Michigan AAUW members who meet with her via Zoom on the 3rd Thursday monthly. You, too, could join the discussion; email Pollock at pollockm@comcast.net to be added to the notification mailing list. Sessions generally include a special guest and the AAUWMI Public Policy Chair in addition to Pollock's updates.

In this election year, noting the goals of our various elected legislators is vitally important. We are represented at the national level by Senator Debbie Stabenow, Senator Gary Peters, and Representative Dan Kildee. At the state level State Senator Kristen McDonald Rivet and State Representative Bill Schuette represent Midland County. Stabenow and Kildee are retiring at the end of the current term and McDonald Rivet is seeking to replace Kildee so there will be three seats to fill without incumbents. There already is a host of candidates vying for these

open seats. Assess how these candidates reflect AAUW priorities and yours!

At the national level, you should consider taking action as a Two-Minute Activist on these topics at aauw.org:

- The Equal Rights Amendment
- The Healthy Families Act
- Fighting Attacks on Reproductive Rights
- Support the Gender Equity in Education Act
- Any of the other priorities under the "take action" heading.

Exercise your vote for AAUW Michigan officers and the membership issue in April.



No April General Meeting by Chris Ferrando

There will be no April General Meeting. The Program Committee urges members to participate in the April Used Book Sale. Our Used Book Sales fund local college scholarships.

Members may not be aware that the branch has added a Technical/Trade Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to women to attend a trade or technical school or Michigan college in pursuit of a degree or certificate in skilled or technical trades. The Program Committee hopes that you will volunteer some of your time to the UBS (Used Book Sale). No experience is needed! Who knows, your next female plumber just might be an AAUW Technical/Trade School Scholarship winner. So, when you receive that call to volunteer your time to the UBS, just say yes.

Should We Open Up AAUW?

AAUW members will soon vote on whether or not to eliminate AAUW's degree requirement for membership. This change is supported by AAUW's National Board, Governance Committee, and Inclusion and Equity Committee. Proponents believe that AAUW should not be defined by our degrees or by our fight for gender equality. For additional information, please visit openupaaauw.org.

Voting opens on April 3, 2024 and ends at 12 noon on May 15, 2024. An email (along with email reminders) will be sent to you from "Simply Voting" (an independent, third-party voting system). It will include a link that allows you to vote. You may need to check your spam folder if you do not receive an e-mail. If you need help casting your vote online, ask your branch leadership. Paper ballots with instructions will be sent to those without e-mail addresses on file at AAUW National.

We want your voice to be heard! Please mark your calendar or make a plan to cast your vote!

Mark Your Calendar

April 26-28, 2024– Book Sale at the Midland Mall

May 11, 2024 – State Convention at the Detroit Marriott, Livonia

April 3-May 15, 2024 – Vote on opening AAUW membership

President: Carol Arnosky • 1st VP Program: Chris Ferrando
2nd VP Membership: Judi Cox • The Twig Editor: Annette Clapp

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