



# 2024 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**103th Annual Meeting**  
April 26, 2025

**103 Years of Empowering Women  
and Girls in the state of Michigan**



# Annual Report 2025

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**AAUW of Michigan 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**April 26, 2025**  
**Meeting Agenda**

<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>	<b>Amy Shamroe</b>
	Opening Comments	Amy Shamroe
	Roll Call of Branches	Katie Wiese
	Introductions	Amy Shamroe
	<b>Convening Motions</b>	
	Adoption of Credentials Report	Jan Van Gasse
	Adoption of Meeting Rules	Katie Wiese
	Adoption of the Agenda	Amy Shamroe
	<b>Minutes of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting</b>	Jan Van Gasse
	<b>Reports of Elected Officers</b>	
	Report of President	Amy Shamroe
	Report of Finance Vice President	Sheila Blair
	Reports of Program Vice Presidents	Linda Kevorkian/Sharon McKenna
	Report of Membership Vice President	Eva Habib
	Report of Secretary	Katie Wiese
	Report of Funds Director	Mary Jane Kearns
	<b>Reports of Committees</b>	
	Report of Bylaws Committee	Jan Van Gasse
	Report of Nominating Committee	Katie Wiese
	<b>Election</b>	
	<b>Reports of Directors</b>	
	Report of the Diversity and Inclusion Director	Leslie Carpenter
	Report of the Public Policy Director/Public Policy Priorities	Ruth Brown

	<b>Administrative Staff Reports</b>	
	State Services Manager	Leah Monger
	<b>Coalition Report</b>	
	<b>Unfinished Business</b>	
	<b>New Business</b>	
	<b>Installation of Officers</b>	Amy Shamroe
	<b>Announcements</b>	Amy Shamroe
	<b>Adjournment</b>	Amy Shamroe



Dearest AAUWMI Members:

This year, we celebrate 103 years of AAUW of Michigan advocacy!

Writing this nearly a year since I became your President, I cannot help but reflect on what it means to be a part of this organization. The dedication of you as members to our mission is so powerful. We stand on the shoulders of so many members who came before us and you all honor them with your service--whether you are new at a new branch or one of the hundreds of women who have served in leadership for years now. All of us have a deep connection that goes beyond book clubs and informational programs.

This is a pivotal time in our history. One of the issues that attracted me to AAUW when I joined in my 20s was our work on closing the gender pay gap. For the first time in 20 years, we saw the gender pay gap increase in the past year. We all know when there is an economic crunch like we see right now, women are the most adversely affected. From our decreased buying power due to that pay gap to increased burdens on daily life like household management and caregiving, it is women who bear the brunt at times like these.

When speaking to branches since July, I am often asked what we can do. The best answer I can give is--what we have always done.

We are an advocacy organization. We have strong policy leadership at the State and National level. We are a well-respected nonprofit with over 100 years in Michigan and almost 150 years nationally. We focus on education and information--currencies that are under attack right now.

This will take members standing up to take on leadership roles at branches and statewide and branches making room for everyone. We will need to bring in new people who can be inspired by those who came before us and want to help those of us doing the work now. It might take dusting off some old practices like Public Policy interest groups or hosting local candidate forums or Equal Pay Day celebrations all over the state, as well as new ideas that might just come from you. As the saying goes, "Think globally, act locally." We can make an impact in each of our communities, standing together with AAUW members nationwide.

Though we are meeting virtually this year, I am still very glad we will have a chance to come together as an organization to remember who we are. We will begin the day with the insightful Shannon Wolfe from National--an important reminder of how large our presence really is as members of AAUW. We will install board members who will help us through the next two years, serving with others to lead at the state level. Finally, we will hear from board members with key messages to inform and inspire us in the coming weeks.

Every single one of you is an inspiration. All of us together are awe-inspiring. I thank each and every one of you for all you do.

With gratitude,

Amy Shamroe  
AAUWMI President

## **103rd ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEES**

### **Bylaws Committee**

Jan Van Gasse, AAUWMI Bylaws Director, Iron Mountain-Kingsford branch – Chair  
Ruth Brown, AAUWMI Public Policy Director, Jackson branch  
Mary Mostaghim, Ann Arbor branch  
Phyllis Relyea, Rochester branch  
Marsha Wainio, Iron Mountain-Kingsford branch

### **Nominating Committee**

Katie Wiese, AAUWMI Secretary, Birmingham branch – Chair  
Leanne Baumeler, Traverse City Area branch  
Kay Calley-Martin, Battle Creek branch  
Sally Doty, Birmingham branch  
Amy Shamroe, AAUWMI President, Traverse City Area branch

### **Editors of Minutes**

Leah Monger, Big Rapids branch  
Jan Van Gasse, AAUWMI Bylaws Director, Iron Mountain-Kingsford branch

### **Timekeepers**

Ruth Brown, AAUWMI Public Policy Director, Jackson branch  
Sally Doty, Birmingham branch



## **AAUWMI Meeting Rules**

**April 29, 2025, 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Eastern Time**

### **Rule 1: Meeting Platform**

1. The meeting is held on the Zoom web conferencing platform.
  - 1.1. Each member is responsible for his or her own audio and internet connections; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.

### **Rule 2: Voting Body**

1. The Voting Body shall consist of AAUWMI members in good standing.

### **Rule 3: Credentials Report**

1. A Credential Report will be made to ensure that a quorum of 2% of the AAUWMI membership is present.

### **Rule 4: Privileges of the Floor**

1. The meeting is open to all members of AAUWMI and visitors.
2. Only members of the Voting Body may make or second motions.
3. All AAUWMI members may participate in the discussion of AAUWMI business.
4. Any member wishing to speak shall:
  - 4.1. Enter into the chat whether she wishes to speak in favor or against the motion and shall use the raise hand function.
  - 4.2. Enter Interrupting motions (e.g., point of order; request for information; parliamentary inquiry) into the meeting chat.
5. No member may speak a second time when there are members wishing to speak who have not spoken to the question. This rule does not apply to the chair of a committee making a report, or to the speaker presenting a subject. These persons shall have three minutes for closing debate without consent of the members present.
6. No one may speak longer than three minutes at a time without unanimous consent of the convention. A signal shall be given at one minute and at thirty seconds before the time limit of each speaker has been reached. The ruling of the timekeeper shall be strictly adhered to. When time is up the speaker's microphone will be muted.
7. During Debate an effort will be made to alternate between supporting and opposing arguments.
8. Debate will be limited to thirty (30) minutes on those items requiring a vote.

### **Rule 5: Motions:**

1. Motions may be submitted through the Zoom chat function.
2. Seconds to Motions will be submitted through the Zoom chat function.

**Rule 6: Voting:**

1. All votes will be taken electronically through the polling function of the Zoom web conferencing platform.
2. The same polling function will be used where voice votes and ballot votes are called for in the AAUWMI Bylaws.



## AAUW OF MICHIGAN 102<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES May 11, 2024

**Call to Order:** AAUW of Michigan President Sheila Blair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 11, 2024.

**Opening Comments:** President Blair thanked the 2022-2024 AAUW of Michigan Board and Plymouth-Canton as the host branch, especially Co-Program VPs Barb Duran and Linda Kevorkian for planning the convention.

President Blair introduced Ruth Briggs (Wyandotte-Downriver) and N’Kenge Gonzalez (AAUWMI Board) as the timekeepers, Barb Duran (Wyandotte-Downriver) and Linda Kevorkian (Birmingham) as pages, and Karen Zyczynski (Northville-Novis) and Sharon Postnieks (Rochester) as tellers. Kay Calley-Martin (Battle Creek and Marshall) was introduced as the secretary and Carole Wells (Dearborn) and Jan Van Gasse (Iron Mountain/Kingsford) as editors of the minutes. Sharon Belobraidich (Plymouth-Canton) was introduced as the Credentials Chair.

**Roll Call:** AAUW of Michigan Secretary Kay Calley-Martin called the roll of branches. 20 branches were represented.

**Introductions:** President Blair introduced the past state presidents in attendance: Carole Wells (2000-2002), Ruth Brown (2004-2006), Mickey Edell (2006-2008), Sally Doty (2010-2012), and Janet Watkins (2012-2014). She also recognized those past presidents that wrote letters and could not attend: Harriet Sawyer (1983-1985), Kathy Shaw (2008-2010), and Jan Van Gasse (2020-2022).

### **Convening Motions**

**Adoption of Credentials Report:** Sharon Belobraidich presented the Credentials Report: 91 AAUWMI members eligible to vote; 1 non-eligible member; 4 guests, including speakers for a total of 96 in attendance. 20 branches were in attendance. **The report was adopted and a quorum declared.**

**Adoption of Meeting Rules:** Secretary Calley-Martin **moved to adopt the Annual Meeting Rules** as printed on page 12 of the Program booklet. **The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.**

**Adoption of the Agenda:** The meeting agenda as printed on page 11 in the Program booklet was adopted by unanimous consent.

**Minutes of the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting:** The Minutes of the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, found on pages 13-14 of the Program booklet, were approved by the State Board of Directors.

**The Minutes of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting** were referred to the AAUW of Michigan Board of Directors for approval by unanimous consent.

## **Reports of Officers**

**Finance Vice President Report:** Finance Vice President Sally Doty presented the finance report, found on page 15 of the Program booklet, which reflects revenue and expenses from July 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024. Finance Committee members are Bonnie Boggs (Monroe), Sharon Postnieks (Rochester), and Carole Wells (Dearborn). **The report was filed for audit.**

**AAUW Funds Director:** AAUW Funds Director Ruth Briggs presented certificates to the top ten branches for Total Giving and after being questioned about Rochester being omitted, the amended list of eleven was presented: 1. Ann Arbor, 2. Birmingham, 3. Midland, 4. Wyandotte-Downriver, 5. Rochester, 6. Battle Creek, 7. Livonia, 8. Farmington, 9. Marquette, 10. Port Huron, 11. Plymouth-Canton.

Certificates were also given to the top ten branches for per capita giving:

1. Midland, 2. Ann Arbor, 3. Wyandotte-Downriver, 4. Birmingham, 5. Marquette, 6. Farmington, 7. Battle Creek, 8. Rochester, 9. Port Huron, 10. Livonia

Funds Committee members are Sheila Blair (Wyandotte-Downriver) and Sally Doty (Birmingham).

President Blair reported that the following branches have increased their membership from 2019-2024: Big Rapids by more than 52%, Detroit by nearly 17%, and Plymouth-Canton by nearly 10%. In the last year alone, Monroe has increased its membership by 41% and Rochester and Birmingham increased by 7 and 8% respectively.

**Bylaws Director:** President Blair presented the report of the Bylaws Committee, found on pages 17-18 of the Program booklet for Bylaws Director Jan Van Gasse. Bylaws Committee members are Ruth Brown (Jackson), Mary Mostaghim (Ann Arbor), Phyllis Relyea (Rochester), and Marsha Wainio (Iron Mountain/Kingsford).

President Blair moved to delete Article IX AAUW Membership and Dues. Section 2.d New Members. There are no longer dues for less than a full year.

**The motion to delete Article IX, Section 2.d was adopted.**

President Blair moved to delete the words “of duly accredited delegates” in Article XI, Section 3.b. We no longer have delegates to the annual meeting, since the bylaws were changed at the 2023 annual meeting to one member, one vote. It would read:

Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 3.b. Elections

b. The elected officers of AAUWMI shall be elected at the AAUWMI annual meeting.

**The motion to amend Article XI, Section 3.b was adopted.**

President Blair moved to delete “resolutions committee” in Article XIII, Section 2.b.2. The Resolutions Committee was eliminated in a bylaws vote at the 2023 annual meeting. It would read:

Article XIII. Board of Directors, Section 2. Qualifications. b. State Organization Administration 2) 2) Select the required members and chairs of the nominating committee and the awards committee.

**The motion to amend Article XIII, Section 2.b.2 was adopted.**

President Blair moved that Article XIII, Section 2.b.7 be amended to change “convention” to “annual meeting” because we only have conventions on a biennial basis and the recommendation of additional standing committees is to be done at the annual meeting. It would read:

Article XIII. Board of Directors. Section 2. Qualifications. b. State Organization Administration. 7) 7) Recommend to the AAUWMI annual meeting such additional standing committees as are considered necessary to the work of AAUWMI.

**The motion to amend Article XIII, Section 2.b.7 was adopted.**

President Blair moved that Article XIX, Section 1 be amended to change “delegates” to “members.” We no longer have delegates to the annual meeting, since the bylaws were changed at the 2023 annual meeting to one member, one vote. It would read:

Article XIX. Amendments to the Bylaws Requiring Member Vote. Section 1

Provisions of these bylaws not governed by the AAUW bylaws may be amended at the AAUWMI annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting, or by electronic or mail ballot, provided written notice shall have been sent to the members at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

**The motion to amend Article XIX, Section 1 was adopted.**

**Other Reports:** There were no additional officer reports given.

## **AAUW of Michigan Board Election**

**Nominating Committee Report:** President Blair read the Nominating Committee Report, found on pages 18-19 in the Program booklet, in place of Jean Bevevino (South Haven), Nominating Committee Chair. Nominating Committee members are Sally Doty (Birmingham), N’Kenge Gonzalez (AAUWMI Diversity Director), Deb Kennedy (Big Rapids and Wyandotte-Downriver), Julia Ludwig (South Haven), and Carol Steinhaus (Marquette).

Three positions were to be filled by the committee: Secretary, VP of Programs, and AAUW Funds Director.

Katie Weise was nominated for Secretary. Linda Kevorkian, running for a second term, was nominated for VP of Programs. There were no nominees for AAUW Funds Director.

Nominations from the floor included Sharon McKenna as Co-VP of Programs and Mary Jane Kearns as the AAUW Funds Director. Both were nominated by Sally Doty and both accepted the position.

**President Blair declared nominations closed and the slate was approved.**

### **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

### **New Business**

**Installation of Officers:** President Blair installed the newly elected officers.

**President Elect Message:** President Elect Amy Shamroe focused her message on her goals for the next two years, including recruitment and leadership.

**AAUWMI Dues Increase:** AAUWMI dues have not changed in ten years. Our dues help to support a Government Relations Coordinator, Mary Pollock, and a State Services Manager, Leah Monger.

**Sally Doty, on behalf of the Finance Committee, made a motion to increase the AAUWMI dues by \$3.00. Dues would increase from \$12 to \$15. The motion carried.** The increase will take effect July 1, 2024.

**A motion was made by Julie Leavitt, seconded by Pattie Rayl, to increase the AAUWMI dues by \$6.00. Dues would increase from \$12 to \$18. The motion was defeated.**

### **Announcements and Adjournment**

**Announcements:** President Blair made the following announcements:

- Remember to reach out to your state board members if you have any questions.
- The AAUW of Michigan website is a great place to get information and news and also to share what's going on in your branch.
- The AAUW Vote ends on May 15.
- Branch Annual Reports are due June 1<sup>st</sup>.

- 2024 Women's Equality Day Celebration is on August 24, 2024 at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia. Registration is open.

**Adjournment:** The annual meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

# Meet Your State Board

## Elected Officers/Executive Committee

**Amy Shamroe**  
AAUW Traverse City Area



**President**

**Linda Kevorkian**  
AAUW Birmingham



**Program Co-VP**

**Sharon McKenna**  
AAUW Birmingham



**Program Co-VP**

**Eva Hablb**  
AAUW Grosse Pointe



**Membership VP**

**Sheila Blair**  
AAUW Adrian-Irish Hills



**Finance Director**

**Katie Wiese**  
AAUW Birmingham



**Secretary**

**Mary Jane Kearns**  
AAUW Northville-Novl



**Funds Director**





# Meet Your State Board

## Appointed Members of the Board

## Administrative Staff

Jan Van Gasse  
AAUW Iron Mountain-  
Kingsford



Bylaws Director

Leslie Carpenter  
AAUW Wyandotte-  
Downriver



Diversity & Inclusion  
Director

Mary Pollock  
AAUW Capital Area



Government Relations  
Coordinator (Ret. 12/24)

Barb Duran  
AAUW Wyandotte-  
Downriver



College/University  
Director

Ruth Brown  
AAUW Jackson



Public Policy Director

Leah Monger  
AAUW Big Rapids



State Services Manager

## **President's Report**

**AAUWMI President**  
**Fiscal Year 2024-2025**  
**Amy Shamroe**  
**Traverse City Branch**  
[aauwamy@gmail.com](mailto:aauwamy@gmail.com)

Like so much beyond AAUW, this year was a time of change- both expected and unexpected. Our new board's retreat in August 2024 focused on how board members envisioned their roles this year. This meant more of a focus on individual roles and their place in AAUW as an organization right now.

That does not mean we have not worked together to accomplish great things as an organization as a whole, as well as supporting fellow chairs in their endeavors.

Collectively, a lot of work went into establishing two NEW branches in Michigan! We welcomed Capitol Area Branch and Adrian/Irish Hills this year and are thrilled to see our organization grow. This was a goal set by Past President Sheila Blair that came to fruition this year with strong leadership from Membership VP Eva Habib and support from the board.

I have also been working with our co-Program VPs Linda Kevorkian and Sharon McKenna on looking at new and different ways to host statewide events. This led to the move to not host a Spring Leadership Conference virtually this year, but instead offer more at a more robust virtual Annual Meeting and also looking to host a virtual Leadership Conference this coming Fall.

My goals for this year were:

- To continue to strengthen AAUWMI's communications with membership
- To launch a public policy app by end of fiscal year
- To open two new branches

This year also saw the retirement of our AAUW of Michigan lobbyist, Mary Pollock. She kept a pulse on issues of interest for our membership for a decade. With that change, we started work on an app that would allow AAUW of Michigan members to easily send messages to legislators. These messages will be about bills either in support or contrary to AAUW of Michigan's stated Public Policy goals. While we might miss the mark of a July 1, 2025 launch we are very far along in the process and look to have it available in our next fiscal year.

AAUW of Michigan is a strong organization because of each and every member. All of you choose to join together with us to advocate, empower, and fight for women in Michigan. I am grateful to serve you all as your President and support you however I can.

## **Finance Report**

**State Finance Officer**  
**Fiscal Year 2024-2025**  
**Sheila M. Blair**  
**Adrian/Irish Hills Branch**  
**(734) 674-2246**  
[sheilablairpmp@gmail.com](mailto:sheilablairpmp@gmail.com)

### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**

The 2024-2025 budget of \$24,800, a nearly \$12,000 decrease from the previous year, mainly due to there not being a Spring Convention in 2025. This budget was approved at the board retreat on August 3, 2024. Our bank accounts include a Checking account, a Money Market and a CD as we attempt to maximize our interest. We continue to seek opportunities to grow the AAUWMI investment.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

As of Feb. 1, 2025, Michigan had 32 branches. While the report on the following pages shows 31 branches, not listed is the new Adrian/Irish Hills Branch. Another new branch on this list is the Capitol Area branch operating out of the Lansing area. The report from AAUW shows 1,574 branch members in the state. Many of these members are honorary and do not pay dues.



**Financial Statement**  
**July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025**

<b>Assets</b>	
Money Market Account Balance	\$25,475.04
Certificate of Deposit Balance	\$26,976.18
Checking Account Balance	\$5,756.43
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$58,207.65</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Membership Dues	\$12,984.00
WED (Women's Equality Day)	\$3,266.85
Convention	\$0.00
Donations (Greatest Needs)	\$0.00
Fundraisers	\$0.00
Interest	\$852.03
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$17,102.88</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Communications and Publications	\$1,750.96
Organizational	\$4,267.93
Conference/Conventions	\$0
State Services Office/Contracts	\$6,676.25
WED and Coalitions	\$0
Projects, Grants and Awards	\$2,959.02
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,654.16</b>

*\*Not all members pay state dues. Honorary life members don't pay. Dual members only pay once.*

*\*\*There are three months of revenue and expenses still to be calculated as the Fiscal Year ends June 30, 2025.*



**American Association of University Women**  
**February 1 Count for Fiscal Year 2025**  
(Sorted by Branch Code)

<b>Branch Name</b>	<b>Affiliation Count</b>
MI4002-Albion Inc.	8
MI4005-Ann Arbor Inc.	207
MI4006-Battle Creek	54
MI4007-Bay City	13
MI4009-Big Rapids	28
MI4010-Birmingham	157
MI4015-Dearborn	86
MI4016-Detroit Inc.	7
MI4020-Farmington	44
MI4025-Grosse Pointe	64
MI4029-Iron Mountain-Kingsford	16
MI4031-Jackson	43
MI4035-Ludington	19
MI4037-Marquette	39
MI4038-Marshall	12
MI4039-Midland	68
MI4040-Monroe	19
MI4047-Plymouth-Canton	45
MI4049-Port Huron	43
MI4051-Saginaw	11
MI4053-South Haven	138



MI4055-Traverse City Area	61
MI4058-Wyandotte-Downriver	62
MI4060-Rochester	88
MI4062-Cass City	30
MI4065-Livonia	66
MI4070-Gaylord	37
MI4071-Escanaba Area	19
MI4074-Romeo Area	4
MI4077-Northville-Novl	84
MI4087-Capitol Area	2
<b>Total Affiliations:</b>	<b>1574</b>

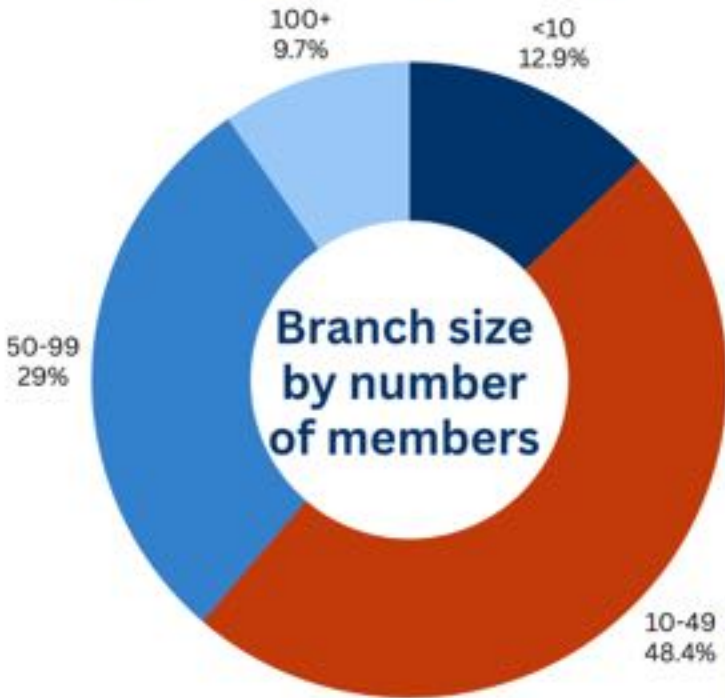
**Note:**The February 1 Count is a count of current members under the categories of national, lifetime, honorary lifetime, dual and students as of January 31st of the current fiscal year.

Questions should be directed to Connect2AAUW at [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).



# By The Numbers

● <10   ● 10-49   ● 50-99   ● 100+



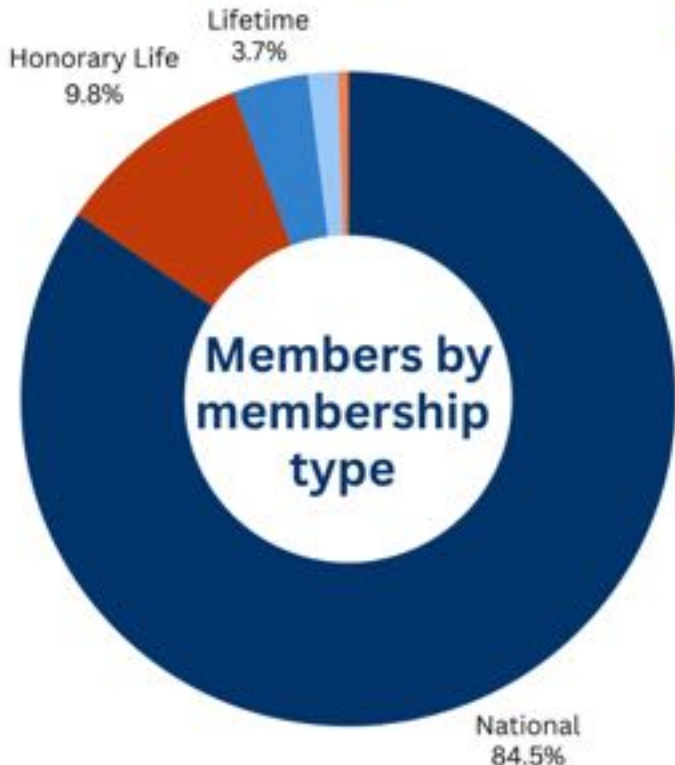
**31 active branches, including 2 newly formed this year**

**\$65,082.90** donated to National, an **18% increase** from last year

**16 college and university partners**

## THE AAUW PROGRAM

● National   ● Honorary Life   ● Lifetime  
● Dual   ● Student



### Branches That Earned Stars this Year

- ★ **Advancement**
  - Birmingham
  - Farmington
  - Midland
- ★ **Communications**
  - Ann Arbor
  - Big Rapids
  - Birmingham
  - Cass City
  - Dearborn
  - Farmington
  - Gaylord
  - Grosse Pointe
  - Ludington
  - Midland
  - Northville-Nov
  - Plymouth-Canton
  - South Haven
  - Rochester
- ★ **Governance**
  - Ann Arbor
  - Iron Mountain-Kingsford
  - Livonia
  - Midland
  - Plymouth-Canton
- ★ **Programs**
  - Birmingham
  - Dearborn
  - Gaylord
  - Livonia
  - Midland
  - Northville-Nov
  - Port Huron
- ★ **Public Policy**
  - Iron Mountain-Kingsford
  - Northville-Nov

## **Programs Report**

### **AAUWMI co-Programs Vice Presidents**

**Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

**Linda Kevorkian**

**Birmingham Branch**

**kevorkianlk@gmail.com**

**Sharon McKenna**

**Birmingham Branch**

**sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com**

### **Highlights**

- Held Program Committee Counterpart meeting in February. Eight branches were represented, either by the Program VP(s) or other branch board members. In addition to discussion about programs, there was much concern expressed regarding the challenge of reaching, attracting, engaging, and retaining new, younger members.
- Participated in the planning, organization, and facilitation of the Women's Equality Day 2025 Event in August 2024.

### **Challenges**

- Spring Leadership Conference did not occur, in part because of a shortened time frame before the virtual convention in April 2025.
- Fewer than 1/3 of the branches were represented at the Program Chair(s) meeting.
- Attracting and retaining members is of great concern to the Program Chair(s) as they plan for speakers that will be of interest to younger individuals.
- The Program Committee has four members. One or two additional members would be helpful in the planning and facilitation the next in-person state convention in 2026.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Recruiting new committee members.
- Planning for virtual Leadership Conference in September 2025.
- Ongoing Program Counterpart meetings to assist branches with program development and other concerns.
- Planning for the state convention in the spring of 2026.



## Membership Report

**AAUWMI Membership Vice President**

**Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

**Eva Habib**

**Grosse Pointe Branch**

[evahabib@comcast.net](mailto:evahabib@comcast.net)

### Membership Committee Members:

Sarah Lucas: Big Rapids- Membership

Mary Nameth: Dearborn- Membership

Judy Pollack: South Haven- President

Eva Habib: **Chair**- AAUWMI Membership VP

### Highlights:

- My primary project this year was to open additional branches in Michigan. We successfully established two branches: **the Capitol Area and the Adrian/Irish Hills Branches of AAUWMI**. Both branches elected their board members and are off to a great start.
- One of my key focuses is to **strengthen the connection between AAUWMI and the branches' Membership Vice Presidents (VPs)**. I send regular emails to the branches' Membership VPs to keep them informed of any updates from AAUWMI and maintain engagement. My committee and I also communicate with the branch Membership VPs via successful Zoom calls.
- **To bridge the gap between branch members and Michigan Board members**, I visited the Dearborn branch during one of their Meet and Greet events, as invited. I commend the Membership Chair and committee for their excellent work.
- **Increasing membership** on both a local and state level is another goal I have accomplished. My aim is to attract quality members who are committed to serving AAUWMI and advocating for women's equity—members who believe in our mission, have connections, and will spread the word for equity for all women. I am continuously working toward this goal.
- **Working with like-minded AAUW** women is my driving force and the motivation that keeps me striving for a top-notch AAUWMI membership.

**Challenges:**

- **Jackson Branch:** The branch is discussing disbanding. I consulted with Sheila Blair (Adrian/Irish Hills Branch) and Ruth Brown (Jackson Branch) for advice.
- Membership is everyone's responsibility, and I urge everyone to **recruit quality women** to join AAUWMI at both the state and local levels.
- I am confronted with the challenge that not all Membership Branch VPs attend meetings.

**Future Agenda Items:**

- **Establish additional AAUWMI branches,** potentially in Grand Rapids.
- **Increase membership** and spread the mission.
- **Continue Collaboration** between **Membership and DEI committee.**

## **Secretary's Report**

### **AAUW Secretary**

**Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

**Katie Wiese, Birmingham Branch**

**katie.wiese@att.net**

It has been a bit of a learning curve since last August when I joined the AAUWMI Board. Thank you to Jan Van Gasse and Kay Calley-Martin for all their advice and support as I learned the ways of this Board.

I have also enjoyed getting to know Secretaries from across the State at our counterpart meetings. Each branch is unique, but we all share the same goal of promoting equity for women and girls.

### **Highlights from the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year**

#### **August 1-3, 2024, Board Retreat**

##### **Motions**

- Approvals of Agenda and May 10, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the May 11, 2024, Annual Meeting Minutes.
- Ratified the President's appointments of Barb Duran as College/University Director, Jan Van Gasse as Bylaws Director and Ruth Brown as Public Policy Director.
- Adopted the 2024-2025 Budget as amended.
- Approved pursuing a AAUWMI version of the Two Minute Activist.
- Approved the Important Dates for 2024-2025 as amended (Board Meeting Dates, Newsletter Schedule, Annual Meeting Date, etc.)

##### **Other Business**

- Discussed duties of each board member as outlined by the Bylaws and Policies.
- Discussed Counterpart Meetings.
- Discussion of 2025 Leadership Conference.

#### **October 12, 2024, Board Meeting**

##### **Motions**

- Approvals of Agenda and August 2, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes.
- Approval of the Finance Report.
- Shelia Blair will appoint the Financial Review Committee
- Amy Shamroe will appoint a Nominating Committee and send the names to the Board for approval.
- Approved creating an ad hoc committee to explore a Public Policy App for AAUWMI.

##### **Other Business**

- Discussed the Spring 2025 Leadership Conference.

- Discussed the status of the new Lansing and Adrian/Irish Hills branches.

### **January 18, 2025, Board Meeting**

#### **Motions**

- Approvals of Agenda and October 12, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes.
- Approval of the Finance Report.
- Accepted the report from the Financial Review Committee.
- Approved adopting Flower Power as our Spring Fundraiser.
- Approved the appointment of Leslie Carpenter to the position of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director.

#### **Other Business**

- Discussed the Spring 2025 Leadership Conference.
- Discussed the status of the new Capitol Area and Adrian/Irish Hills branches.
- Discussed the status of the dissolved Grand Rapids branch.
- Discussed the status of the Lobby Corps webpage.

### **April 5, 2025, Board Meeting**

#### **Motions**

- Approvals of Agenda and January 18, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes.
- Approval of the Finance Report.
- Approved the contract for the State Services Manager.
- Approved moving forward with the development of an app which meets the identified criteria.

#### **Other Business**

- Discussed the format of the Annual Meeting in April.
- The Spring Leadership Event is rescheduled to Fall 2025.
- Discussed the information on fundraising on the National website.

## Funds Director's Report

**AAUWMI Funds Officer**  
**Fiscal Year 2024-2025**  
**Mary Jane Kearns**  
**Northville-Novu Branch**  
**mjkearns1@outlook.com**

Total donations to national AAUW from the state of Michigan for 2024 were \$65,082.90, an 18% increase over 2023 giving. The top 10 branches in order were Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Wyandotte-Downriver, Midland, Battle Creek, Rochester, Livonia, Plymouth-Canton, Marquette, and Port Huron. The top 10 branches in per-capita giving were Wyandotte-Downriver, Midland, Birmingham, Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Big Rapids, Plymouth-Canton, Marquette, Port Huron, and Livonia.

### **2024 Donations To AAUW**

<b>Branches</b>	<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>Per Capita</b>
Albion	\$75.00	\$9.37
Ann Arbor	\$13,099.50	\$63.28
Battle Creek	\$2,810.00	\$52.04
Bay City	\$270.00	\$20.77
Big Rapids	\$950.00	\$33.93
Birmingham	\$11,378.00	\$72.47
Cass City	\$485.00	\$16.17
Dearborn	\$830.00	\$9.65
Escanaba	\$315.00	\$16.58
Farmington	\$420.00	\$9.54
Gaylord	\$818.00	\$22.11
Grosse Pointe	\$835.00	\$13.05
Iron Mountain-Kingsford	\$311.50	\$19.47
Jackson	\$911.00	\$21.19
Livonia	\$1,765.00	\$26.74
Ludington	\$106.00	\$5.58
Marquette	\$1,258.00	\$32.26

Marshall	\$71.00	\$5.92
Midland	\$10,118.00	\$148.79
Monroe	\$150.00	\$7.89
Northville-Nov	\$1,078.40	\$12.84
Plymouth-Canton	\$1,520.00	\$33.78
Port Huron	\$1,187.00	\$27.60
Rochester	\$1,985.00	\$22.56
Saginaw	\$90.00	\$8.18
South Haven	\$915.00	\$6.63
Traverse City	\$1098.00	\$18.00
Wyandotte-Downriver	\$10,233.50	\$163.06

**College/University Liaison Director**  
**AAUW of Michigan Annual Report**

**AAUWMI C/U Liaison Director**  
**Fiscal Year 2024-2025**  
**Barb Duran**  
**Wyandotte-Downriver Branch**  
**barbduranaauw@gmail.com**

**Highlights:**

- Shared details of 2025 NCCWSL event with C/U branch counterparts.

**Successes:**

- Fielded questions from branch presidents and C/U counterparts regarding NCCWSL.
- Shared info about Money Smart, Work Smart, and other C/U articles from AAUW national with branch counterparts.
- Shared C/U flyers and forms with C/U branch counterparts to recruit C/U's in their areas.
- Submitted articles for AAUWMI newsletters.
- Offered all branches the opportunity for me to speak in person or virtually at a future branch meeting.

**AAUWMI Bylaws Director**  
**Annual Report 2025**  
**March 30, 2025**

The AAUWMI Bylaws Committee has several duties:

- To incorporate AAUW mandated bylaws amendments into the AAUWMI bylaws.
- To receive and consider amendments to the AAUWMI Bylaws proposed by branches.
- To propose bylaws amendments either on the committee's initiative or on request from the AAUWMI Board of Directors. These amendments are designed to align with current needs, AAUW requirements, and best governance practices.
- To draw up amendments to AAUWMI Policies to ensure that they are consistent with the AAUWMI Bylaws and to meet changing operational needs of AAUWMI. These amendments are generally written on request from the AAUWMI Board.
- To review proposed branch bylaw amendments and ensure that they are consistent with applicable legislation, AAUW requirements and best practices.

Members of the Bylaws Committee include:

Jan Van Gasse, Iron Mountain/Kingsford branch, C hair  
Ruth Brown, Jackson branch  
Mary Mostaghim, Ann Arbor branch  
Phyllis Relyea, Rochester branch  
Marsha Wainio, Iron Mountain/Kingsford branch

There were no nationally mandated amendments this year. There were also no branch proposals to amend AAUWMI Bylaws in 2024-2025. However, there was a proposal made by the AAUWMI Bylaws Director. The AAUWMI Board approved the proposed bylaws amendment at their January 18, 2025 Board meeting. This amendment will be voted on by AAUWMI members at the April 26, 2025 Annual Meeting.

The proposed bylaws amendment to the AAUWMI Bylaws that will be voted on by the members present at the Annual Meeting is the following:

**Delete the words “auditor or auditing committee” in Article XIII, Section 2.b.5 and in their place, insert the words “financial review committee.”**

Rationale: This reflects current practice and aligns with other sections of the bylaws.



<b>Current Bylaws</b>	<b>Proposed Bylaws</b>	<b>If adopted</b>
<b>Article XIII. Board of Directors. Section 2. Qualifications. b. State Organization Administration 5)</b>	<b>Article XIII. Board of Directors. Section 2. Qualifications. b. State Organization Administration 5)</b>	<b>Article XIII. Board of Directors. Section 2. Qualifications. b. State Organization Administration 5)</b>
<i>The board shall approve the report of the auditor or auditing committee.</i>	<i>The board shall approve the report of the <del>auditor or auditing committee</del> financial review committee.</i>	The board shall approve the report of the financial review committee.

Amendments to the AAUWMI Policies were adopted by the Board at the January 18, 2025 Board meeting.

The Bylaws Director has communicated via AAUWMI newsletter articles, emails, phone calls, and Zoom meetings with all branch bylaws chairs/presidents on the need to amend their bylaws. AAUW-mandated amendments must be submitted by June 30, 2026. There are also branch-specific articles that might need to be voted on at branch annual meeting because of AAUWMI’s bylaws changes that were approved at the 2023 annual meeting. As of March 25<sup>th</sup>, the amended final bylaws of 12 out of 29 branches have been approved by the Bylaws Director. 12 branches have consulted with the Bylaws Director and are in the process of amending their bylaws.

Jan Van Gasse  
 Bylaws Director  
[janicevangasse@gmail.com](mailto:janicevangasse@gmail.com)  
 906-396-2747

## Nominations Report

**AAUWMI Nominating Committee**  
**Fiscal Year 2024-2025**  
**Katie Wiese, Committee Chair**  
**Birmingham Branch**  
**katie.wiese@att.net**

The AAUWMI Bylaws dictate that the President-Elect, Membership Vice President, and Finance Vice President shall be elected in the odd-numbered years.

The AAUWMI Nominating Committee, under the leadership of Katie Wiese, Birmingham branch and chair of the committee, has identified the following qualified candidates for upcoming vacancies on the AAUWMI Board of Directors. Other members of the Nominating Committee include Leanne Baumeler, Traverse City Area Branch; Sally Doty, Birmingham Branch; Kay Calley Martin, Battle Creek Branch; and Amy Shamroe, AAUWMI President, Traverse City Area branch.

The following nominees are qualified to hold office and are presented to the membership. Members shall vote on this slate (and any nominations from the floor, provided written consent of the qualified nominee has been secured) at the Annual Meeting on April 26, 2025. Elected officers shall take office on July 1, following their election, for a two-year term except for the President-Elect, who will serve a one-year term as President-Elect and then automatically succeed to the Presidency, a two-year term in the following even-numbered year.

Open Position	Nominee	Branch
President Elect	Barb Duran	Wyandotte-Downriver
Vice President of Membership	Eva Habib	Grosse Pointe
Vice President of Finance	Shelia Blair	Adrian-Irish Hills

## **Board Member Nominees:**

### **Barb Duran – President Elect**

Barbara Duran is a Gratitude Consultant with SendOutCards, an on-demand greeting card & gift service, providing an appreciation marketing tool for business professionals to strengthen their client relationships.

Barbara joined the Wyandotte-Downriver branch of AAUW in 2019 and immediately stepped into the role of Communications Chair. She is a two-time past president of the branch and currently serves as the branch membership director. She also publishes the monthly branch newsletter and is the corresponding secretary for her branch.

At the state level, Barbara served 2 years as co-VP of programs, and recently moved into the C/U liaison director position.

Barbara is currently serving in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year on the Nominating Committee at the national level.

Barbara holds a Bachelor of Business Management degree from the University of Michigan. She is married with one daughter and one granddaughter, and she and her husband Bill, are snow birds, living in Tennessee in the winter and in Michigan during the summer.



### **Eva Habib – Membership Vice President**

Eva Habib was born in Cairo, Egypt. She immigrated to the US in 1980. Currently, she resides in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, with her husband. She has two daughters and five grandchildren who also live in MI.

She graduated from The American University of Cairo with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry in 1976. Eva worked as a City of Detroit Water and Sewage Department chemist for nearly 30 years. During that time, she was promoted to laboratory supervisor and got a certificate of excellence for her exceptional work from the State of Michigan NPDES Permit.

Since her retirement in 2014, following her mother's footsteps, she has engaged in nonprofit work for several organizations, including the American Association of University Women. She is currently serving as co-President of the Grosse Pointe branch. In 2023 was elected AAUWMI VP of Membership, and she is pleased to be nominated to serve a second term. Eva also serves on AAUW's Equity and Inclusion Committee.

Eva has been a member of the Grosse Pointe Rotary Club since 2016. In 2022/2023, she championed an International Project between her local Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe, MI, the Rotary Club of Cairo Sunrise Egypt, and Life Vision (NGO) focusing on Women's Empowerment in Menya, Egypt. She collected grants of \$32,400 to benefit the rural women of the project from Rotary Clubs, Foundation, and Rotary International. Eva has been a member of Dining for Women, Grosse Pointe chapter of Together Women Rise since 2016. In 2023, she was elected to serve on the Board of Directors. She serves on the Board of Friends of Grosse Pointe Public Library and the Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation. Eva is also a League of Women Voters, Grosse Pointe, MI member. Those local organizations serve the local community and its people.

Eva enjoys painting and often donates her paintings to charity and nonprofit organizations for fundraising. She donated one of her paintings to the 2024 AAUWMI Convention silent auction.

Eva's great passion is serving women and children and spreading global peace.

### **Sheila Blair – Finance Vice President**

Sheila Blair joined AAUW in 2016 and immediately moved into the position of Vice President of Finance in the Wyandotte-Downriver Branch in Michigan. Since then, she moved to the President-Elect and President positions of her Branch. In 2017, after learning more about the amazing work AAUW does, Sheila became a paid life member. Since then, she joined the AAUW of Michigan board as VP of Finance, President-Elect and President. She currently serves as AAUW of Michigan VP of Finance again and is the Scholarship Chair for her branch.



With the help of other state board members, Sheila started an Adrian/Irish Hills Branch in 2025 and serves as VP of Finance for that branch.

Sheila holds a Master's Degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology and a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (Business and Psychology). She holds a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification from the Project Management Institute (PMI) and she's also TPM (Talent Pipeline Management) Certified by the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

## Diversity and Inclusion Report

**Diversity and Inclusion Director**  
**Fiscal Year 2024-2025**  
**Leslie Carpenter (she/her)**  
**Birmingham Branch**  
**lesliescarpenter@gmail.com**

As I'm new to the AAUW MI Board I hope to present information that will be shared at branch meetings. It is my hope that by sharing DEI information at branch meetings more of our members will have a better understanding of the importance of DEI efforts in our state.

I would agree with former DEI Director N'Kenge Gonzalez's comment from the 2022-2023 annual report that there continues to be a need for DEI education for members/branches in order to keep in step with the mission of National. Not all branches have a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair and those with a DEI Chair do not have many members on a DEI committee.

Members are encouraged to join and read about the AAUW Inclusion and Equity group on Facebook. Also, as National continues to support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, it would be helpful for members to expand their understanding of the importance of DEI efforts. Members are encouraged to review this handy information: [www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/dei-toolkit/](http://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/dei-toolkit/).

ICE has been in the news lately. To learn how you may help folks who may be impacted by recent policy decisions, please click on the link to learn about red cards and how to use them. <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas#item-4477>

ILRC = Immigrant Legal Resource Center, cards of immigrant rights available to print in MANY languages. **All people in the United States**, regardless of immigration status, **have certain rights and protections under the U.S. Constitution**. The ILRC's Red Cards help people assert their rights and defend themselves in many situations, such as when ICE agents go to a residence.

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### **Strategies to increase DEI efforts:**

- 1) Invite speakers from a diverse population (LGBT+, race, culture, religion)
- 2) Become an ally/reach out to invite folks from different populations to attend a branch meeting and gauge interest in joining AAUW.
- 3) Field trip: attend a concert, movie, play/musical by or about a marginalized community/minority group.
- 4) Be a vendor at a PRIDE festival. This is a good way to advertise the branch's activities/events as well as promote the mission of AAUW.

## **Public Policy Report**

**AAUWMI Public Policy Director**

**Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

**Ruth Brown**

**Jackson Branch**

**travelgirl4@comcast.net**

Being the State Public Policy Director involves several responsibilities including serving as the Chair of the State Public Policy Committee. The members of this committee are:

Iron Mountain/Kingsford Branch: Barb Rice and Jan Van Gasse

Jackson Branch: Pattie Rayl and Ruth Brown

Marquette Branch: Katlyn Rapport

South Haven Branch: Julie Leavitt

AAUWMI's long time Government Relations Coordinator, Mary Pollock, retired from her position on December 31, 2024. At her last meeting, members of the State Public Policy Committee honored and recognized Mary for her time, dedication, tireless efforts, and hard work on behalf of AAUW of Michigan. This celebration was timely because Mary also celebrated her 80th birthday in the same month as her retirement from AAUW of Michigan.

Beginning with AAUW's mission statement, AAUWMI's Public Policy Priorities are the backbone of what we do in Public Policy. This year we have focused on the areas of education, civil rights, and economic security. Following Mary's retirement from AAUW of Michigan, the State Public Policy Committee identified these resources that provide tools for tracking legislation and for advocacy:

- BillTrack50 is the free legislation tracking platform provided by AAUW National. Three committee members participated in BillTrack50 training this year.
- Action Network ([actionnetwork.org](http://actionnetwork.org))
- Resistbot ([resist.bot/](http://resist.bot/))
- FastDemocracy ([fastdemocracy.com/](http://fastdemocracy.com/))
- 5 Calls ([5calls.org/](http://5calls.org/))
- Quorum ([www.quorum.us/](http://www.quorum.us/))
- State of Michigan ([www.michigan.gov/](http://www.michigan.gov/))

AAUW has a rich history of being a leading voice in influencing legislative debate and grassroots advocacy on critical issues affecting women and girls. Advocacy is as simple as finding a cause that is meaningful to you and uniting your fellow AAUW members to take action towards that cause. We as AAUW members are a community of women bound together by a mission of empowering women and girls.

We who serve in Public Policy at all levels of AAUW work to provide the skills needed to achieve our Public Policy goals together. Sometimes a life-changing event happens to us that makes a cause personal because we don't want the same thing to happen to someone else. At other times, we draw inspiration from women who have gone before us who have fought for

causes that were important to them resulting in life being better for decades of women who have followed them.

For all AAUWMI members who have advocated for women and girls this year, either on the branch or state level, or both, or in your communities, thank you for your efforts because we ARE making a difference. If we don't fight for the rights of women and girls, who will?

"The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them."

-- Ida B. Wells (1862 - 1931), Civil Rights Activist



*Ida B. Wells (Public domain)*

## AAUW of Michigan Public Policy Priorities 2023-2025

*AAUW is non-partisan but not values-neutral. We fight to remove barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. Public Policy Priorities underscore AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. AAUW of Michigan (AAUWMI) public policy positions are shaped by our commitment to being non-partisan and fact-based, and to acting with integrity.*

AAUWMI Public Policy Priorities are developed by the AAUWMI Public Policy Committee in alignment with National AAUW Public Policy Priorities (2023-2025) and approved by the AAUWMI Board.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>

### Education

To support and strengthen a high-quality system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls,

AAUW of Michigan advocates

- Strengthening vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education
- Adequate and equitable funding for and access to a quality public education that is free of harassment, bullying, and sexual assault for all students
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and to charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools
- Increased support for academic freedom, civic education, protection from censorship, bias-free education, and responsible funding for all levels of education, including early childhood education and programs for students with disabilities
- Support of equal and unfettered access to public information, media, and literature
- Increased support for and protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, including strong promotion of science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) education and comprehensive sexual health education



- Increased support for and access to affordable higher education for women, including alleviating the debt burden that disproportionately impacts borrowers of color and exacerbates the racial wealth gap
- Support for practices that halt the flow of students from schools to prisons, including reforming school disciplinary practices that disproportionately punish girls and students of color

## Economic Security

To achieve economic security for all women, AAUW of Michigan advocates

- Pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits
- Equitable access and advancement in employment, free from systemic barriers and biases, including vigorous enforcement of employment discrimination statutes
- Closing the gender and race gaps in leadership opportunities for women of all backgrounds
- Increasing the number of women, and the diversity of backgrounds they represent, including race, ethnicity, age, income, gender, and sexual identity, in policy-making and other decision-making positions
- Greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance, including quality and affordable dependent care and paid family, medical, and sick leave
- Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce, including nontraditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship
- Strengthening programs, including welfare and career and technical education, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential
- Increasing the number of quality jobs that pay a living wage
- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements

## Equality, Individual Rights, and Social Justice

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW of Michigan advocates

- Adoption and certification of the Equal Rights Amendment into the US Constitution

- Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, regardless of ethnicity, race, economic status, gender identity, or other marginalized peoples
- Expanding voting rights and removing barriers to voting access through support for open and fair elections that are broadly accessible to all voters
- Complete, accurate, and timely collection of data, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender identity to inform policy decisions and the apportionment of political representation
- Full access to and self-determination of one's reproductive and gender related health decisions
- Universal access to quality, affordable health care and comprehensive family planning services, including expansion of patients' rights
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including domestic and partner violence, hate crimes and gun violence, in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities
- Support for gun safety regulations because AAUWMI recognizes that gun violence is a public health issue and a safety crisis
- Freedom in the definition of self and family, including protection from discrimination and a guarantee of civil rights for all gender identities and family structures
- Targeted legislation and vigorous enforcement to end human trafficking
- Support for government ethics, accountability, transparency, lobbying, and campaign finance reform

## **State Services Report**

**AAUWMI State Services Manager**  
**Fiscal Year 2024-2025**  
**Leah Monger**  
**Big Rapids Branch**  
**stateservices@aauwmi.org**

My report will focus on communications since so much of my job revolves around AAUWMI's internal and external communications.

### **AAUWMI Quarterly Newsletters and other Email Communications**

I compile and distribute most of the AAUWMI emails you receive using the Constant Contact platform. If you do not receive emails from AAUWMI, please [email me](#) for assistance in determining why and how to remedy the situation.

### **Social Media**

On behalf of AAUW of Michigan, I make daily posts to [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#). AAUWMI joined Facebook in January 2011, and it is the social media platform that sees the most interaction with followers. As of April 14, 2025, AAUW has 1205 Facebook followers, an increase of 55 new followers since last year's annual report. Our LinkedIn and Instagram accounts were launched during the 2022 convention, so these two pages are about three years old. The AAUWMI Instagram account currently has 105 followers, an increase of 26 since last year, and LinkedIn has 104 followers, an increase of 44 since a year ago. While these two platforms see less engagement than Facebook, I'm very pleased about the significant increase in followers.

AAUWMI also has a YouTube channel where we post recordings of Zoom presentations. This year AAUWMI posted a video of Lisa Maatz, former AAUW Vice President of Governmental Relations and Advocacy, who presented on "Vote Your Values: Arm Yourself with Knowledge before You Go to the Polls in 2024," and a presentation by AAUWMI Finance Vice President Sheila Blair titled "It's in the Numbers!: Financial and Fundraising Information for Your AAUW Branch."

Posts to our social media pages are always relevant to the AAUW mission. I encourage you to follow AAUWMI on one or more of these platforms and to share the posts on your branch and personal social media pages.



### **AAUW.org**

The look and feel of the AAUWMI website saw some modifications this past year. There is now real estate on the homepage with information about finding and joining Michigan branches. The Google map of branches includes links to branch websites, newsletters, and social media pages if I was able to access these pages and they appeared to be currently maintained and updated. If you think your branch's online presence is not adequately represented on the Google map, please [contact me](#) and let me know.

I would love to know what our members think about the website. Can you find what you are looking for? Is there information missing from the site? Do you have suggestions to improve accessibility and organization? Please [email me](#) your feedback.

### **Assistance to Branch Leaders**

Responding to questions from branch leaders is another aspect of my job. As June 30 approaches, it will soon be time for branch presidents to update leadership rosters in the Community Hub with the names of 2025-2026 officers. Instructions on how to accomplish this task are posted on the AAUWMI [website](#). Please contact me if you need assistance with this task or have questions about anything else related to AAUW.

On July 1, I will celebrate my fourth anniversary as State Services Manager. I've enjoyed getting acquainted with many of you when you've contacted me for help, so please don't hesitate to email me if you have questions. I'm here to help!

## **COUNCIL ABOUT PAROCHIAD (CAP) 2024-2025**

Mickey Edell, CAP Treasurer

734-716-1833

[mousemick@att.net](mailto:mousemick@att.net)

The Council of Organizations and Others for Education about Parochiad (CAP) is a non-profit coalition of organizations and individuals that was formed in the 1970s. These groups include child advocacy, civil rights, and educational groups supporting the constitutional guarantees of a free public education for Michigan children. CAP's primary activity has been to oppose the flow of public funds to private and parochial schools. Because AAUW supports the public funding of public education and also the separation of church and state, a close tie has existed since the Council was first organized.

CAP opposes the removal of Michigan's constitutional ban on parochiad and the creation of voucher or tuition tax credit programs. CAP is organized to provide education on the following subjects: the preservation of religious liberty, the separation of church and state and the importance of public education in a democracy.

The CAP Board of Directors is made up of four elected officers and four at-large directors. The current officers and directors are: President Lois Lofton Doniver (AFT Michigan), Vice-President Nancy Knight (MEA), Secretary Bob Kefgen (MASSP), and Treasurer Mickey Edell, (AAUW). The directors are Michelle Fecteau (TTC), Jennifer Smith (MASB), Paul Liabenow (MEMPSA), and Merissa Kovach (ACLU). Meetings are held quarterly on Zoom.

In March 2017 CAP and a coalition of education and parent groups filed a lawsuit against the state of Michigan to block distribution of \$2.5 million in public funds appropriated by the legislature to nonpublic schools. Litigation has continued to ensue over this issue, and our stance continues to be that there is no constitutional right to use public funds for private education.

During each election cycle CAP conducts a Candidate Questionnaire to poll the candidates running for political office. The questions asked will ascertain each person's stance on funding for parochial/religious schools.

## Announcements and Reminders

### Have You Voted in the AAUW Member Election?

AAUW National's member election opened on Monday, April 14. Don't miss your opportunity to vote on directors, bylaws amendments and proposed changes to AAUW's Public Policy Priorities. Once again, AAUW is using a third-party vendor to administer AAUW's membership vote. Your ballot and unique voting credentials should have been emailed to you directly from [vote@simplyvoting.com](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.com). Check your spam folder if you can't locate the email. Voting closes on May 13 at 5:00 p.m. ET.



### May 15 is the deadline to order from AAUWMI's "Flower Power" Fundraiser

There is still time to order from our spring fundraiser, but time is getting short. We've partnered with [Flower Power](#) on a fundraiser that will provide AAUWMI with 50% of the profits. The Traverse City Area Branch has previously used this fundraiser and been pleased with the quality of products received. Bulbs and plants are guaranteed to grow, and [Flower](#)

[Power](#) notes which of their products are deer-resistant. You can order now through May 15. Orders are shipped in the order received beginning this month. Brighten up your own flower gardens with new plants, and order some as gifts for friends and family too!

On April 1, branch leaders should have received an email notification from Tremayne Parquet that the FY25 Annual Branch Survey is open through June 30. This survey is a vital tool for assessing our collective progress and aligning our efforts with AAUW's strategic goals. **You can find the [survey link](#), [checklist](#), and full set of [questions](#) on the AAUW [Five Star Program page](#).** The survey questions are carefully aligned with the Five Star Program criteria, providing branches with a framework to ensure they are financially healthy, sustainable, and fully aligned with AAUW's mission and priorities. Please coordinate within your branch to ensure that only **one** survey is submitted per branch.







Big Rapids summer gathering, July



Dearborn members at Women's Equality Day event, August

# The Year in Pictures

## 2024-2025



Grosse Pointe 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, September



Midland City Council issues proclamation honoring 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Midland branch, September





South Haven "Blessings in a Backpack" project, October



Midland book sale, October



South Haven Candidate Forum, October



Cass City "Reading is Fundamental" book distribution, October



South Haven Lunch Bunch, November



Gaylord tours Kirtland Community College, November



Monroe book event with author Barbara McQuade, November





Birmingham Luncheon, December



Northville-Novi Festival of Trees, December



Wyandotte-Downriver STEM Planning Team, January



Gaylord Christmas Potluck, December



Northville-Novi shoe drive, January



Dearborn dedicates new "little library," January





Big Rapids "Feminonomenon" presentation on the history of feminist music during Big Rapids Festival of the Arts, February



Cass City 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, January



Adrian-Irish Hills inaugural meeting, January



Gaylord "Future of STEM Road Trip" to East Lansing "Girls Math & Science Day," March



Plymouth-Canton "Beauty and the Beast" production, February



Cass City Flamingo Fling, April

