1 September 2025

Northville-Novi (MI) update

Volume 50 No. 2
September 2025

CHECK OUT

OUR WEBSITES:

AAUW Michigan:
https://www.aauwmi.org/

AAUW National:
https://www.aauw.org/
connect@aauw.org

AAUW Northville-Novi:

https://aauwnn.org/
info@aauwnn.org
AAUW-NN
P.O. Box 511
Northville, MI 48167

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Northville-Novi (MI) update

President’s Message
Karen Zyczynski
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info@aauwnn.org AAUW Mission

The AAUW MISSION is to advance
gender equality for women and girls
through advocacy, education, and
research.

AAUW Diversity Statement
AAUW values and seeks an inclusive
membership, workforce, leadership
teams and board of directors. There
shall be no barriers to full participa-
tion in this organization on the basis
of age, disability, ethnicity, gender,
gender identity, geographical location,
national origin, race, religious beliefs,
sexual orientation, and socioeconomic
basis.

Update is published monthly, August
through June, for the members and
friends of the American Association of
University Women Northville-Novi
(MI)

I hope you are planning on joining us as we kick off our 50th year on Sep-tember 24, 2025. After dinner, we will take ‘A Walk Down Memory Lane: 50 Years of Advocacy’ highlighting the many activities we generated over the years in our local communities to advance gender equity for women and girls.

For example, we hosted Science Camp, Let’s Read Math, Career Path Days and read books in classrooms about women in history during March is Reading Month. We supported college scholarships for high school seniors, scholarships for women returning to school to complete their education at both Schoolcraft College and Oakland Community College and sending stu-dents to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders and much more.

Of course, we had to raise money to support all these programs and came up with some fun and creative ways to do just that. Some are more successful than others!

And last, but most important, we need to look to the future and where we go from here. As members your input is very much needed and appreciated.

So please join us as we celebrate our successes and look to the future with new energy, new ideas, and new ways to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. The invitation is in-cluded in this newsletter as well as on our website at aauwnn.org.

Looking forward to seeing you on September 24.
Karen

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ABOUT
SEPTEMBER MEETING
If you are hesitating about coming to the meeting on September 24
because you need a ride to the
meeting or you feel you can’t walk very far, send an email to
info@aauwnn.org by September
20. The meeting is on the main
level of Genetti’s and you can be dropped off right in front.

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Northville-Novi (MI) update

Membership
Emily Doubler, VP Membership
eajw1976@gmail.com

Membership Matters

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Summer is AAUW membership renewal time for most of us. You will receive an email from AAUW Na-tional reminding you when it’s time to pay your dues. You may pay online from a link in the email OR you may write a check made out to AAUWNN for $99 and mail it to AAUWNN Membership, PO Box 511, Northville, MI 48167 ATTN: Treasurer

If you don’t know if you have paid your annual dues, you may send a request to info@aauwnn.org and we will respond back to you.

LET’S GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP!

Each year, AAUW National offers our branch two or three free annual memberships to members in good standing. As an incentive to grow our amazing community of AAUWNN members, we’d like to reserve those free memberships for members who actively work to bring in new members. You’re encouraged to invite friends, neighbors, relatives, and acquaintances that may have an interest in our mission to our meet-ings to see what an exciting organization we are! An initial membership is just $62 for those who join as a result of attending one of our events. Make sure that the Membership Application submitted includes your name as the Member Recruiter so we can keep track of your efforts. Maybe YOU will win a free member-ship for yourself for the 2026-2027 year! (Membership Applications available on our AAUWNN.ORG website and in this newsletter on page 13.)

P.S. What better event to showcase our group than our 50th Anniversary party at Genetti’s on September 24? Be sure to buy tickets now and note the important messages on page 2 and this page!

More Info on 50th Anniversary

1. If anyone would like a ride to and from Genetti’s, please
email info@aauwnn.org to make arrangements by Sep-
tember 20.
2. Drop-off will be available. You can stop in front of Ge-
netti’s and have another member park your vehicle.
3. You are welcome to bring your special dessert to share with members.
4. If you have any memorabilia that you would like to dis-play, see that Karen Zyczynski or Carol Murchison has them by September 19.

Get Well Wishes

Judy Poole has suf-
fered a fall in in her
home and had sur-
gery to repair the
skin on her arm. She
is now recuperating
at Wellbridge on 11
Mile in Novi. We’re
not sure how long
she will be there, but
if you would like to
send her a card, you
can mail it to her
home address, 41715
Onaway Drive,
Northville, MI
48167. Her mail is picked up there and brought to her regularly.

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Northville-Novi (MI) update

Note from National

We Are 5 Star Winners Again

Dear Karen,

Thank you once again for taking part in the FY25 Annual Branch Survey. Your responses not only help AAUW understand and support the work happening at the branch level, but also ensure your efforts are recognized through the Five Star Program.

I’m delighted to share that the Northville-Novi (MI) Branch has earned a Public Policy & Advocacy, Governance & Sustainability, Communications & External Relations and Advancement Star in the Five Star Program for FY25! This achievement reflects your branch’s commitment to advancing gender equity and aligning your programs, advocacy, and sustainability efforts with AAUW’s strategic priorities.

We are so grateful for the time and energy you and your fellow leaders devote to this work. Congratu-lations on this well-deserved recognition and we look forward to celebrating your success further in the months ahead, including through future highlights in Membership Matters and on the AAUW web-site.

With appreciation,

Tremayne A. Parquet (he/him/his)

Deputy Director of Advancement
AAUW, 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005

$$$ PASSIVE FUNDRAISING $$$

Shopping, it’s what we all do well, several times a week. We visit Kroger for food and gasoline and browse AAUWNN spirit clothing from Big Frog. You can EASILY add to the coffers of AUWNN by signing up with these two companies. A portion of your purchase will go directly into our account. You do not have to do a thing but shop! You know how to do that, don’t you??? Sign up now!

KROGER
Sign up for the Kroger Community Rewards Program to help AAUWNN achieve its financial goals! Go online to https://www.kroger.com/o/store-services/community-rewards. Sign in using your email address and designate American Association of University Women Northville/Novi as the recipient of your rewards. If you do not already have a Kroger Plus Card, you will be issued one.

BIG FROG

Sign up from the homepage of our website: https://aauwnn.org/ . Scroll down to Spirit Wear and click to be linked to Big Frog, Novi.

5 September 2025

Northville-Novi (MI) update

SMALL PARTIES

Around 2016-18 we hosted a series of small parties to raise some extra
money to help fund our philanthropic endeavors. So why now?

Since then, we have increased the number of high school scholarships we
offer as well as the amount of each scholarship. We incurred a significant
expense when we purchased the equipment for our zoom meeting availa-
bility. In the past most of our meetings were held in locations that did not
charge for the use of the meeting room; now, except for our lunch meetings, we must pay for the meeting room. Of course, prices have increased on everything else, too. As a result, for the 2026-27 year we are looking to recreate our small parties.

What are they? A series of parties, planned by our members, that may be hosted at a local venue or someone’s home for free. We charge a fee to attend, maybe twenty-five dollars per event; and members and friends attend those of interest to them. We held a free event at a yoga studio, Cutco Knives hosts cook-ing classes for free, a wine tasting at someone’s home, bourbon tasting, etc. Generally, fifteen to twenty members and friends would attend these small fundraisers.

What can you do to help? Right now, we are looking for ideas and
people who might be willing to coordinate an event. Maybe you
take an exercise class, and the instructor would be willing to host a
session for free, or a yoga class, do you know a place that might
host a wine tasting, how to write your family history or ??? The
possibilities are endless. The plan is to run a series of these begin-
ning the fall of 2026.

If you have a fun or creative idea and are willing to help, please let
me know on or before December 1 by email or text. I will need your
name, idea, and if you are willing and able to coordinate the activi-
ty. I will collect these ideas and sometime in the spring we can start making plans and tying down dates and locations.

Thank you for your help!
Karen Zyczynski
zyczynski2002@aol.com
(734)718-3341

6 September 2025

Northville-Novi (MI) update

Public Policy
Mary Jane Kearns, Chair
mjkearns1@outlook.com

Public Policy
News You Can Use

Arthur Chan says that “Diversity is a fact. Equity is a choice. Inclusion is an action. Be-
longing is an outcome.” In AAUW, we must not be satisfied to simply talk the talk. We must back up our words with actions by walking the walk. This means to go further than just discussing the inequities that women and girls face. It means aiming to achieve equity through practical solutions in education, communi-ties, and workplaces. Because AAUW doesn’t simply belong to us. It belongs to the future generations of women and girls that are coming up behind us, like our children and grandchildren. We fight today for a bet-ter future for them tomorrow.

However, the current federal administration, under President Trump, has enacted a series of policies and ex-ecutive orders in 2025 that many experts and advocacy organizations describe as threatening equality for women, rolling back decades of progress in the areas of healthcare, economic security, civil rights, and workplace protections. Below are the main ways these threats are manifesting:

• Attacks on Abortion and Reproductive Rights: The administration has strictly enforced the Hyde
Amendment, blocking federal funding for most abortion services and extending bans to organizations abroad that provide or advocate for abortion. Pardons have been given to anti-abortion activists prose-cuted for clinic blockades. The overturning of Roe v. Wade was also supported by policy alignment, re-sulting in many states enacting widespread abortion bans, which endangers women's autonomy, health, and economic security.

• Dismantling Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): A major focus has been eliminating all DEI pro-
gramming and removing women-focused initiatives across government agencies and federal contractors. Federal employees tied to DEI activities have been dismissed or placed on leave, and new rules threaten federal funding for educational institutions embracing diversity standards. Private sector organizations supporting DEI, including those for women in underrepresented fields, face federal compliance investi-gations.

• Rollbacks in Workplace and Economic Protections: Programs advancing women's representation in
science, the trades, and national security have been canceled. The administration rescinded efforts to in-crease women’s participation in national security and the military, and terminated federal support for research encouraging women and minorities in STEM fields.

• Restrictions on Gender Identity and Gender-Affirming Care: The administration signed executive
orders regulating gender and enforcing traditional gender roles, which target and discriminate against transgender, intersex, and nonbinary individuals, forcibly reinforcing sex assigned at birth as a legal cat-egory. This has resulted in increased scrutiny and surveillance, creating an environment hostile to both transgender people and cisgender women who do not conform to gender stereotypes.

• Stripping Protection for Women in Education: Title IX enforcement has shifted so that federal fund-
ing is denied to schools supporting trans women's participation in sports, while investigations are launched against institutions protecting transgender and nonbinary students. Relatedly, DEI language
has been erased from Education Department communications and grants.

• Elimination of Government Women’s Equality Offices: The White House Gender Policy Council has
been disbanded, and gender-inclusive spaces (like all-gender restrooms) in federal buildings were shut down.
(Continued on page 7)

7 September 2025

Northville-Novi (MI) update

In Memory of Corinne Vincent

Several members have asked what they could do to honor the passing
of longtime member Corinne Vincent. Her memorial likely will be
held in Maine where she spent several months every summer near her
son and his family.

With the approval of her family, AAUW Northville-Novi would like to give you the opportunity to show your appreciation for her many contributions to our branch by donating to the Endowment Fund she spearheaded for us through the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Because this is our 50th anniversary, and because of Corinne’s dedica-tion to women’s issues, we would like to suggest that your donation be in multiples of $50. This can be done by writing a check made out to the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. Please write
AAUWNN on the memo line of your check and mail to:

AAUWNN
Attn: Treasurer
P.O. Box 511
Northville, MI 48167

Or if you would prefer to donate directly through your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, please contact your financial advisor.

Public Policy (Continued from page 6)

• Increased Health and Economic Insecurity: Tariffs on imported drugs, including contraceptives, have increased costs and reduced access. Healthcare and science officials are now restricted in their ability to communicate public health warnings regarding issues affecting women.

These actions are collectively described as eroding essential protections and opportunities for women, roll-ing back federal support for equality, and heightening systemic discrimination and insecurity for women, especially those belonging to marginalized groups.

It has never been more important that we pursue a mission-based recruitment and program as we more for-ward into the 2025-26 fiscal year. Support of AAUW at all levels matters in these unprecedented times.

8 September 2025

Northville-Novi (MI) update

Programs
Mary Ann MacLaren, VP Programs
maryann@maclareninc.com

AAUWNN 2025-26

Monthly Programs

September 24 - 50th Anniversary Celebration at Genetti’s

October 14 at 6:45 pm – Hinkle Resource Center, Schoolcraft College – NCCWSL and Spirit Wear Ruth Rickard facilitator

November 11 at 6:45 pm – Domestic Violence at Carlo Room, Northville Library
Emily Doubler facilitator
Nicole Beverly presenter

December 9 – Holiday Party – TBD

January 13 at 11:30 am – Rank Choice Voting - Northville Sports Den
Mary Jane Kearns facilitator

February 10 at 11:30 am – Autism - Northville Sports Den
Rhonda York facilitator

March 10 at 11:30 am – Charitable Gifting Options - Northville Sports Den Jackie Duggan facilitator and presenter

April 14 at 6:45 pm - TBD

May 12 Annual Meeting - TBD

Board Briefs

Your board held a busy and productive meeting on August 25 to plan for the 2025-26 program year, plan for the April fashion show, and finalize plans for the 50th anniversary celebration.

Karen Zyczynski made a motion to “appoint Joyce Murdock as Interim
Chair of the Communications Committee, a board position.” Motion carried unanimously.

Caryn Doehler, Secretary

9 September 2025

Northville-Novi (MI) update

10 September

Northville-Novi (MI) update

Movie Goers
Rhonda York, Contact

Movie Goers are now meeting the first Tuesday of the month. Rhonda will send an email to those on the list.

To be added to the list or for information, contact Rhonda York at rlyork03@gmail.com.

Bridge Group
Marian Brockie, Contact

The Bridge Group currently is meeting at Laurel Park Food Court area every Wednesday at 1 p.m. For more information on joining contact Marian Brockie at mbrockie@umich.edu.

Mah Jongg
Mary Jane Kearns, Contact

The Mah Jongg group plays Friday afternoons at members’ homes. The September schedule is as fol-lows:
September 5 Ruth Rickard
September 12 Carol Murcison
September 19 Susan
September 26 Jan Wargo *We will keep
score this week

We enthusiastically welcome
our recent new members. Inter-
ested in joining us? Contact
Mary Jane Kearns to join us.
mjearns1@outlook.com or
(248) 449-8693.

Daytime Book Group
Marian Brockie, Contact

The daytime book group will
meet October 9 to discuss The
First Ladies by Marie Bene-
dict and Victoria Christopher
Murray. All of the meetings
will be on zoom. It will be a
group lead.

For more information on join-
ing this group please contact
Marian Brockie at mbrockie@umich.edu.

Evening Book Group
Mary Jane Kearns, Contact

The Evening Book Group will re-
sume meeting in person in Septem-
ber on the fourth Monday of the
month at 7 p.m. On September 22,
we will meet in person at Joyce
Murdock’s home. We will discuss
the book Becoming Madam Secretary by Stepha-nie Dray. Ruth Rickard will lead our discussion. A complete list of what we will be reading is pub-lished on our web site.

Interested in joining? We’d love to have you. Con-tact Mary Jane Kearns at mjkearns1@outlook.com or (248) 449-8693.

Restaurant Rovers

Joyce Murdock, Contact

The Restaurant Rovers will dine
at the Down Town Pourhouse
Tavern, 860 Fralick St, Plym-
outh, on September 17 at 6 p.m.
It was formerly called Stella’s.

If you would like to join this group, please contact Joyce Murdock at (313) 381-2350 or jgmurdock12051942@wowway.com.

Great Decisions

Mary Jane Kearns, Contact (Temporary)

We meet via
ZOOM on the third
Tuesday of the
month at 1:30 p.m.
On September 16,
we will be discuss-
ing Chapter 7 in the
Great Decisions
Handbook: AI and
America National Security.

We encourage new members and guests. For more information and a ZOOM invitation contact Mary Jane Kearns at mjkearns1@outlook.com or (248) 449-8693.

11 September

Northville-Novi (MI) update

May 14, 2026 TBD TBD TBD TBD

12 September

Northville-Novi (MI) update

13 September

Northville-Novi (MI) update

American Association of University Women Northville – Novi – a 501(c)(3) An Affiliate of National AAUW, one of many local groups across the nation.

We are an association of dynamic local women committed to our Community with Action. AAUW-NN works to break education and economic barriers so that women and girls have fair and equal opportunity, while taking time to network and enjoy personal enrichment.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2025-26

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name____

Address____City/State/zip__________________________

Phone (c) ________________________(h)_____________________(w)_________________________

Email_____________________________

Provide graduate associate or equivalent, baccalaureate or higher degree from a qualified educational insti-tution:
College/University/Equivalent _____________________________State________Highest Degree______

College/University/Equivalent_____________________________ State________Highest Degree______

Grad Year/s_______________Major/s____ Date of Birth (optional) _____________

Ethnicity (optional): Hispanic (Y or N) _ White _ American Indian/Alaska Native _ Black/African American _
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander _ Asian _ Other _

ELIGIBILITY

I am a graduate holding an associate or equivalent (RN), baccalaureate or higher degree from a qualified educational institution ( ). I am an undergraduate student ( )

____

Signature Date

MEMBER RECRUITER if applicable Name ____

Individual Annual Membership Shape the Future-New Member AAUW National membership fee $74 $37

$74 tax deductible
State of Michigan fee – not tax deductible 15 15
AAUW-NN fee - $10 tax deductible 10 10
TOTAL $99 $62

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO AAUWNN – mail to AAUWNN Membership, P.O. Box 511, North-ville, MI 48167 AAUW fiscal year extends from July 1 through June 30. AAUW membership extends for 12 months from enrollment

14 September

Northville-Novi (MI) update

15 September

Northville-Novi (MI) update

Articles for the October 2025 issue
due September 20 to:
Mary Ann MacLaren
info@aauwnn.org

AAUW Northville-Novi (MI) Calendar of Events

visit the website for more information at https://aauwnn.org/
Board Meeting ...…………..…Fourth Tuesday, 6:45 p.m. Bridge Group……..………………....Wednesdays, 1 p.m. Day Book Group………………Second Thursday, 10 a.m. Evening Book Group………. ……Fourth Monday, 7 p.m. Great Decisions ………………..Third Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. Mah Jongg……………………………… ..Fridays, 1 p.m. Restaurant Rovers……………...Third Wednesday, 6 p.m.