



2026 Biennial Convention



Educate to Elevate

W O M E N L E A D I N G T H E W A Y

Saturday, April 25, 2026
9 AM - 3 PM

FireKeepers Casino & Hotel
11177 East Michigan Ave.
Battle Creek, MI 49014

Host Branch: AAUW Battle Creek



WELCOME

Members and Guests, we welcome you to our 2026 biennial convention and hope your day is an amazing educational and social experience.

Your satisfaction with this convention is important to us. You have received an evaluation form we would like you to complete throughout the day. We take your feedback seriously and we strive to provide valuable programs to our state members.

To ensure you and others have an excellent experience today, please silence your cell phones and raise your hand to speak only during public commentary and/or Q & A, unless otherwise directed.

If you have questions, please ask one of the members of the AAUWMI Board for assistance, or someone from the host branch.

Please participate in today's fundraisers to support your sister branches.



CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Sharon McKenna, Co-Chair, Birmingham
Linda Kevorkian, Co-Chair, Birmingham
Barb Duran, Co-Chair, Wyandotte-Downriver
Sheila Blair, Adrian/Irish Hills
Kay Calley Martin, Battle Creek
Sharalyn Davis, Battle Creek

Mickey Edell, Plymouth-Canton
Eva Habib, Grosse Pointe
Leah Monger, Big Rapids
Amy Shamroe, Traverse City Area
Jan Van Gasse, Iron Mountain-Kingsford
Katie Wiese, Birmingham

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Mickey Edell, Chair, Plymouth-Canton
Sheila Blair, Adrian/Irish Hills

Jan Van Gasse, Iron Mountain-Kingsford
Carole Wells, Dearborn

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ruth Brown, Chair, Jackson
Leanne Baumeler, Traverse City Area
Sheila Blair, Adrian/Irish Hills

Mickey Edell, Plymouth-Canton
Deb Kennedy, Big Rapids

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 WINNERS!

Martha Griffiths Equity Award



Susan H. Grant has spent many years advocating for women, including campaigning to

ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, speaking to girls about the opportunities they have to fulfill their dreams, which she didn't have at their age. She also worked for 30 years on various projects to honor Anna Howard Shaw, culminating in her induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2000, where Susan accepted the award on behalf of Shaw at the ceremony in Seneca Falls, NY.

She has overcome much and continues to advocate for women. When she started in her career in the early 80s, she was the only female attorney in the Big Rapids area. She has been involved in many cases relating to women's rights: working in the Legal Aid office, on domestic relations cases, performing court-appointed work in the circuit and family court.

In 1996, she was elected 77th District Court Judge, where she served as the first female judge in Mecosta and Osceola Counties. Upon retirement in 2015, she worked part-time, as a contract attorney, handling Child Protection Cases until 2024.

Liz Kummer Award



Sally Doty is a passionate advocate for the mission of AAUW. Upon her retire-

ment in 2000, Sally was recruited by the Birmingham Branch of AAUW.

Experiencing her first Explorathon provided the impetus that Sally needed to become not just an active member, but an inspiring branch leader. Currently the AAUW funds director, Sally works diligently to motivate and attain the maximum number of member donors in support of the mission. In the branch, Sally has held the positions of database chair, dues treasurer, recording secretary, and president, and she spearheaded the formation of the branch foundation to allow for more fundraising activities and to increase the productivity of each event.

At the state level, Sally has served several terms as finance officer, both before and after her elections as president-elect and president. Her outstanding people skills have been effective in enlisting and encouraging many members to step into leadership roles, within the branch and at the state.

Young Leader Award



Sarah Lucas is the Co-VP of Membership at the AAUW Big Rapids Branch.

She received her Bachelor's Degree in Integrated Studies, focusing on philosophy and religious studies, from Ferris State University. She went on to earn her Master's Degree in Philosophy from Western Michigan University, and her PhD in Philosophy from Purdue University.

She has taught English as a second language in Daegu, South Korea, and worked as a property and casualty insurance agent in Flagstaff, Arizona.

She returned to her hometown of Big Rapids and is currently an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religions at Ferris State University.

She has two children, Maeve (5) and Willow (3) that she and her husband are raising to be strong, independent, and curious.





April 10, 2026

Dear AAUW of Michigan Members,

Welcome to AAUW of Michigan's State Convention! This meeting is a powerful testament to your enduring commitment to equity, education, and empowerment for women and girls in your community. Let me begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible work you've done over the years to create a brighter future for women and girls throughout your communities and the world. Your first branch in Detroit was established in 1889, meaning AAUW's presence in Michigan is longstanding. Over the decades, members have worked on key issues, from education access to public policy reform, while supporting programs rooted in leadership development, STEM initiatives, and community advocacy.

From the very beginning, you have championed the core of AAUW's strategic priorities. With 68% of Michigan branches participating in the Five Star Program for FY25 and three branches achieving all five stars, your state continues to champion the core mission of advancing gender equity through education and advocacy.

AAUW of Michigan continues to thrive with such passion, purpose, and unwavering dedication.

While challenges remain, your impact proves progress is possible. Together, we will continue to chart a course powered by advocacy and strengthened by community. With your continued support and leadership, I have no doubt AAUW of Michigan will carry its legacy into a second century of achievement.

Thank you for being an integral part of AAUW's collective impact, legacy, and future. I am thrilled to celebrate with you and look forward to continuing this journey together!



With gratitude,

Gloria L. Blackwell,
Chief Executive Officer

**Congratulations to
AAUW's Greatest Needs
Fund Honorees 2026**

**Debborah Connery
Christine Santoro
Cathy Vestrand**





Welcome to the 104th AAUW of Michigan Annual Convention!

It is my honor to welcome you all to Battle Creek this weekend. Our in-person conventions are always such special occasions and I am so grateful many of us are here to learn, share, and grow as individuals from many branches coming together to be AAUW of Michigan as one.

While we often refer to conventions by years, I really did want to emphasize we are celebrating our 104th Annual Meeting. Milestones are usually nice, round numbers. We, as an organization, celebrated our 100th Anniversary at Convention in Midland with swag and an exciting weekend at The H Hotel. It was a great time!

Now, here we are now at 104. We should be celebrating. I am going to paraphrase a quote from Sophia on the *Golden Girls* here when she said, "every birthday over 80 is a milestone." For an organization, every anniversary over 100 should be a milestone.

This milestone does not need swag or a party, but it is something we should all appreciate as we spend this time together. Here in Battle Creek, with its own long history of legendary people and an industry that built the American breakfast, we celebrate our own deep roots in Michigan, and the nation. AAUW has existed for 145 of America's 250 years. That is something special and something to be cherished.

With this historical perspective, we also look ahead to *Educate to Elevate: Women Leading the Way*. AAUW women have always led the way. That is our history and our future, if we are going to survive. This program is filled with the work of an amazing committee who have assembled an inspiring weekend of AAUW leaders. From Young Leaders who represent what's next, Fellows who have benefited from AAUW's educational funds and are now stepping forward in our community, innovators who are creating ways to keep our organization fresh, to women who have a lifetime of dedication to advocating for women and girls--we all are fortunate to celebrate her with them this weekend.



And we will celebrate us. At the incredible age of 104, how can we not?

With gratitude,

President **Amy Shamroe**



Welcome to southwest Michigan and to the AAUW of Battle Creek!

We are honored to host AAUW members from throughout the state to the 2026 Biennial Convention of AAUW Michigan. Our Battle Creek branch was founded in 1917 and welcomes members all across southwest Michigan from as far away as Portage, Marshall, and Coldwater.

Battle Creek is proud of its rich, multi-cultural past and present. Founded almost 175 years ago, Battle Creek has been known by many names throughout its history but today is best known as “Cereal City” for its reputation as the birthplace of the cereal industry. From its earliest days, the city welcomed social and religious non-conformists such as Quaker pioneer Erastus Hussey and abolitionist and conductor on the Underground Railroad Sojourner Truth, who first visited Battle Creek in 1856. She and her family moved to the area in 1857 and are buried in the city’s Oak Hill Cemetery.

One cannot mention Battle Creek history without honoring two of its most famous forbears, Dr. John Kellogg and his brother W.K. Kellogg. The Kelloggs created the first cereal while searching for radical changes in the American diet that they believed were the cause of chronic indigestion and related illnesses. They advocated a lighter, vegetarian diet with no artificial stimulants such as caffeine. Dr. Kellogg opened a sanitarium to care for people with various diseases such as pneumonia and TB that became world-renowned for its success at treating patients with those diseases. Their experiments with grains led to the development of the cold cereal industry that still tops the world today.

The Battle Creek Branch runs a used bookstore that fully funds our two scholarship programs: one for college students and one that gives grants for young women studying for non-traditional careers. Our once-a-month sales are eagerly awaited by our faithful customers as well as new customers who leave greatly impressed by the breadth and organization of the approximately ten thousand books that our little bookstore houses. We are able to grant as many as four scholarships and several grants each year because of the great success of our bookstore!

We hope that your time with us at the Biennial Convention will be enjoyable and informative and we thank you for your participation in the mission of AAUW: equity in education and employment for women and girls.



Sincerely,

Fran Pierce, Battle Creek Branch President



PAST PRESIDENT LETTERS



Greetings to Michigan AAUW Annual Convention Attendees,

How I wish I could be with you for your annual convention, however age and distance keep me here in Indiana, where I continue to be active in the South Bend Branch and by long-distance with the Northville-Novu Branch (Michigan). So many great memories, experiences, and friends for me from my time with Michigan AAUW at the state level. Wishing you a fun, productive, and important convention. Keep up the great work that we all do for women and girls, particularly in these challenging times.

Sincerely, **Harriet Sawyer**, AAUW of Michigan Past President (1985-1987)



Dear AAUW of Michigan members,

I am delighted to be able to be a part of your convention booklet this year. I remember AAUW of Michigan with great fondness from my years living in Michigan twice- 1978-87 and 1992-2000. I have the poster of the quilt designed for the 75th reunion still pegged to the closet door in our bedroom and therefore think of all of you on a daily basis. I am old enough to now be an honorary life member of the Association! Hard to believe more than 50 years since I joined in Easton, PA. My husband and I are happy to be members of AAUW's Legacy circle. I am not active in a local branch anymore but still keep plenty busy. I am in a book group and a quilting group. I play golf in season (not very well, but there is still no place prettier than a golf course). I also play a lot of duplicate bridge and am proud to say as a member of the American Contract Bridge League I am a bronze life master.

I hope you have a wonderful convention in Battle Creek.

Fondly, **Carol Parker**, AAUW of Michigan Past President (1998-2000)



Dear AAUW of Michigan Convention Attendees,

Having been a member of AAUW of Michigan and the Plymouth-Canton Affiliate for 37 years, I am so thankful for all of the incredible women that I have met, for the opportunity to develop leadership skills, and to support the mission of equity for all women and girls. I will miss reconnecting with so many of you, but I know that you will enjoy the camaraderie and the energy of another outstanding convention. Keep making your voices heard!

In Solidarity, **Mickey Edell**, AAUW of Michigan Past President (2006-2008)



I have such wonderful memories of the friendships that I gained while attending past conventions. Substantive conversations were invaluable, as was the learning. AAUW of Michigan is such an important part of my life to this day and I am thankful for the opportunity to participate now via Zoom. Enjoy and be grateful for our state organization!

Jan Van Gasse, AAUW of Michigan Past President (2020-2022)

EVENT SCHEDULE

All sessions will take place in the same room.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
8:00 AM	Event Registration & Breakfast
9:00 AM	Opening Remarks and Introduction of AAUWMI Action Alert by AAUWMI President Amy Shamroe
9:30 AM	Keynote Tremayne Parquet, Deputy Director of Advancement at AAUW (National) and Q & A
10:30 AM	Break
10:40 AM	Incorporating Self-Care into Branches to Re-Energize Burnt Out Leaders with Sheila Blair, Adrian/Irish Hills Branch
11:10 AM	Empowering Women, Inspiring Change with Mary Nameth, Dearborn Branch
11:45 AM	Lunch
12:30 PM	Awards Ceremony
1:00 PM	Annual Meeting
1:50 PM	Break
2:00 PM	Fellows Panel with Moderator Amy Shamroe and Panelists Demet Korucu and Hanikka Muna
2:50 PM	Closing Remarks by Amy Shamroe

PRESENTERS



Amy Shamroe was twice elected and currently serves as Mayor of Traverse City. Previously, she served eight years as a City Commissioner and was Mayor Pro-Tem for six of those years. She has served on several other government boards as well. She also works with several literacy coalitions in her community and serves on her area's Friends of the Library board. She has been a member of AAUW since 2009 and has served as branch president and public policy chair, as well as Program VP, College/University Liaison, and Diversity Chair for AAUWMI. She is now the outgoing AAUWMI President, where she has served the last two years.



Tremayne Parquet serves as the Deputy Director of Advancement at the American Association of University Women (AAUW), bringing over 20 years of dedicated service to the organization. Throughout his tenure, he has been instrumental in supporting branches nationwide with membership and fundraising initiatives, developing essential resources and tools, and overseeing member support and customer service operations. Currently, Tremayne focuses on the AAUW Five Star Program, a strategic framework designed to guide branches toward success in alignment with AAUW's mission and priorities.



Sheila Blair is an Industrial & Organizational Psychology consultant, executive coach, and leadership development expert with nearly 20 years of experience helping high-performing leaders and organizations thrive without burnout. She specializes in leadership resilience, employee engagement, performance management, and sustainable high-performance cultures. She has coached and mentored leaders across global enterprises, nonprofits, and public-sector organizations, with a particular focus on helping women leaders navigate overextension, self-criticism, and chronic burnout. Her work blends evidence-based psychology, organizational development, and practical leadership strategies to help individuals realign with their strengths, rebuild energy, and lead with clarity and confidence. She challenges the belief that success requires self-sacrifice—guiding women leaders to re-emerge stronger, grounded and more effective.



In the little more than 3 years that **Mary Nameth** has been a member of the Dearborn Branch, she has co-chaired the annual book sale, shadowed the VP of membership, and currently edits the Branch newsletter, the Legacy. She has started a special interest group that focuses on crafts and book art and has taken the crafters into the middle schools to work with STEM and Key Club students. Mary is a retired middle school teacher, previously the Member Services Training Director for Realty World of Michigan, and currently chairs the Senior Commission for the Mayor. With a background in sales, Mary believes that understanding the AAUW mission makes it easy to sell. Mary will suggest strategies and lead a guided discussion focusing on member recruitment and retention, targeting the younger generation that is imperative to the future of AAUW.



Demet Korucu, PhD, was awarded an AAUW postdoctoral fellowship in 2022. She is currently working on superconductivity as a physicist, while also teaching optics and electronics labs at Michigan State University. In addition, she writes two columns for different journals, aiming to inspire readers about life, hope, success, and communication in science.

PRESENTERS



Hanikka Muna is a third-year student at the U of M Medical School and a 2022–2023 AAUW Selected Professions Fellow. Originally from Dededo, Guåhan, she brings an Indigenous Pacific Islander perspective to her clinical, research, and community work. Ms. Muna serves as Executive Director of Wolverine Street Medicine, where she works to expand access to care for individuals experiencing homelessness.



Barbara Duran joined the Wyandotte-Downriver branch of AAUW in 2019 and immediately stepped into the role of Corresponding Secretary. She is a two-time past president of the branch and currently serves as the branch membership director. She also publishes the branch's monthly newsletter. At the state level, Barbara served two years as co-VP of programs, and two years as the College/University Liaison. Barbara also served for two years on the Nominating Committee at the national level. Barbara Duran is a Gratitude Consultant with SendOutCards, an on demand greeting card and gift service, providing an appreciation marketing tool for business professionals to strengthen their client relationships. 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.



Women's Equality Day Luncheon Celebration

Sat., Aug. 22, 2026
Livonia, MI

Watch your email for registration information.

Best Wishes for a Successful Convention!



Ruth Brown
Past State President
2004-2006

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Please use your paddles to vote.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
1:00 PM	Call to Order — Opening Comments, Roll Call, Introductions
1:05 PM	Convening Motions — Adoption of the Credentials Report, Meeting Rules and Agenda
1:10 PM	Approval of the Minutes of the 103rd Annual Meeting
1:15 PM	Updates from Officers — Finance Vice President, Funds Director, Membership, Bylaws Director, Others
1:25 PM	AAUW of Michigan Board Election — Nominating Committee Report
1:35 PM	Unfinished Business
1:40 PM	New Business — Installation of Officers, President Elect Message
1:45 PM	Announcements & Adjournment

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Number of AAUWMI Branches in Michigan: 32

Number of AAUWMI Branches in Attendance:

Number of Members in AAUWMI: 1,525

Number of Members in attendance today eligible to vote: _____

Number of Members in good standing needed for a quorum: 31

In order to have a quorum for the annual meeting, we need a 2% representation of the AAUWMI membership present at the meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING RULES

1. Any eligible voter wishing to speak in favor of or against the motion shall raise their paddle and speak into the mic when called upon. This is the same process in regard to point of order, request for information, parliamentary inquiry, etc.
2. No one may speak a second time when there are others wishing to speak who have not yet spoken to the question.
3. No one may speak longer than three minutes at a time without a unanimous consent of the convention.
4. A signal will be given at one minute and 30 seconds before the time limit of each speaker has been reached.
5. A signal will be shown when the time limit has been reached.
6. When time is up, the mic will be removed.
7. During debate, an effort will be made to alternate between supporting and opposing arguments.
8. Debate will be limited to 30 minutes on items requiring a vote.

ANNUAL MEETING ROLES

1. Facilitator—**Amy Shamroe**, AAUWMI President
2. Recording Secretary—**Katie Wiese**, AAUWMI Secretary
3. Timekeepers—**Sheila Blair**, AAUWMI VP of Finance & **Sharon McKenna**, AAUWMI Co-VP of Programs
4. Pages—**Kay Calley-Martin & Kathy Shaw** from AAUW Battle Creek Branch
5. Tellers—**Ruth Brown**, AAUWMI Public Policy Director & **Barb Duran**, AAUWMI President Elect
6. Editors of Minutes—**Jan Van Gasse**, AAUWMI Bylaws Director & **Leah Monger**, AAUWMI State Services Manager

Save the Date

The Grosse Pointe Branch of
the American Association of University Women
Fundraiser

The STEAM Stars of Tomorrow

SEPT 20 2026 at 4:30 pm.
Grosse Pointe Yacht Club

We will spotlight scholarship winners from
Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South High Schools,
the members of our all-girls robotics team, the Botmasterz,
and the winners of our Listen to Women Art Contest.

Doctor Suja Sukumar, Honorary Chair
Internist and accomplished author with a lifelong commitment to science and art



2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: AAUW of Michigan President Amy Shamroe called the meeting to order at 10:09 am EST on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Opening Comments: President Shamroe thanked Jan Van Gasse and Leah Monger for their invaluable help in organizing the annual meeting as well as the entire board who has worked hard all year.

President Shamroe introduced Ruth Brown (Jackson) and Sally Doty (Birmingham) as the timekeepers, Katie Wiese (Birmingham) was introduced as the secretary and Jan Van Gasse (Iron Mountain/Kingsford) and Leah Monger (Big Rapids) as editors of the minutes. Jan Van Gasse (Iron Mountain/Kingsford) was introduced as the Credentials Chair.

Roll Call: AAUW of Michigan Secretary Katie Wiese called the roll of branches. 17 branches were represented.

Introductions: President Shamroe introduced the past state presidents in attendance: Joanne Snell (1979-1981), Ruth Brown (2004-2006), Mickey Edell (2006-2008), Sally Doty (2010-2012), and Jan Van Gasse (2020-2022).

Convening Motions:
Adoption of the Credentials Report: Jan Van Gasse presented the Credential Report: 40 AAUW members eligible to vote with 17 branches in attendance. The report was adopted and a quorum declared.

Adoption of Meeting Rules: Credentials Chair Van Gasse moved to adopt the Annual Meeting Rules as printed on pages 10-11 [LM1] of the annual report. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Adoption of Agenda: The meeting agenda as printed on pages 4-5 of the annual report was adopted by unanimous consent.

Minutes of the 102nd Annual Meeting: The minutes of the 102nd Annual Meeting found on pages 12-16 of the Annual Report were approved by the State Board of Directors. The minutes were adopted by unanimous consent and will be filed for the record.

Minutes of the 103rd Annual Meeting: The minutes of this meeting will be reviewed by the editors of the minutes and presented to the State Board of Directors for approval.

Reports of Officers
Finance Vice President: President Shamroe presented the finance report,

found on pages 20-21 of the Annual Report, on behalf of Sheila Blair, Finance Vice President. The report reflects revenue and expenses from July 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025. The report was filed for audit.

AAUW Funds Director: AAUW Funds Director Mary Jane Kearns recognized the largest branch donors. The top ten branches for Total Giving in order were Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Wyandotte-Downriver, Midland, Battle Creek, Rochester, Livonia, Plymouth-Canton, Marquette, and Port Huron. The top ten branches in order for Per Capita Giving were Wyandotte-Downriver, Midland, Birmingham, Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Big Rapids, Plymouth-Canton, Marquette, Port Huron, and Livonia.

Bylaws Director: Bylaws Director Jan Van Gasse, presented the report of the Bylaws Committee, found on pages 33-34 of the Annual Report. Bylaws Committee members are Ruth Brown (Jackson), Mary Mostaghim (Ann Arbor), Phyllis Relyea (Rochester), and Marsha Wainio (Iron Mountain/Kingsford). The proposed bylaws amendment to the AAUW Bylaws is to delete the words "auditor or auditing committee" in Article XIII,

Section 2.b.5 and in their place insert the words “financial review committee.” The motion to replace “auditor or auditing committee” with “financial review committee” in Article XIII, Section 2.b.5 was adopted.

AAUW of Michigan Board Election

Nominating Committee

Report: Nominating Committee Chair Katie Wiese read the Nominating Committee Report, found on pages 35-37 of the Annual Report. Nominating Committee members are Leanne Baumeler (Traverse City), Sally Doty (Birmingham), Kay Calley Martin (Battle Creek) and Amy Shamroe (State President).

Three positions are to be filled by the committee: President Elect, Membership Vice President, and Finance Vice President. Barb Duran was nominated for President Elect; Eva Habib was nominated for Membership Vice President and Sheila Blair was nominated for Finance Vice President. President Shamroe declared nominations closed and the slate was approved.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Installation of Officers: President Shamroe installed Barb Duran and Eva Habib. Sheila Blair will be installed at the Board’s Summer Retreat.

Announcements and Adjournment

- 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 is going on in your branch.
- Save the date for Women’s Equality Day Luncheon on August 23, 2025, at St. Mary’s Cultural Center in Livonia. More information to follow.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am EST.

FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>Asset Source</u>	<u>Amount on March 31</u>	<u>Asset Source</u>	<u>Amount on March 31</u>
Checking	\$14,713.22	Money Market	\$52,720.03

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Actual July 1-March 31</u>
\$18,990.00	State Dues	\$14,437.00
\$500.00	2025 Women’s	\$1,527.21
\$1,000.00	Fundraisers	\$336.34
\$1,000.00	Interest/Bank Refunds	\$318.39
\$1,000.00	AAUWMI Greatest	\$0.00
\$21,590.00	Totals	\$16,618.94

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expense Category</u>	<u>Actual July 1-March 31</u>
\$2,830.00	Communications & Publications	\$684.99
\$4,325.00	Organizational	\$2,843.01
\$10,000.00	Conference/ Convention	\$2,719.54
\$19,060.00	State Services Office	\$8,908.75
\$175.00	Coalitions	\$0.00
\$3,300.00	Projects, Grants and Awards	\$65.23
\$39,690.00	Totals	\$15,221.52

FUNDS REPORT

The following information was recorded in the calendar year 2025. This reflects branch and individual donations to AAUW (National). This table shows the top 10 branches for donations to AAUW.

Branch	Donations	Branch	Donations
Ann Arbor	\$20,318.50	Dearborn	\$2,453.00
Birmingham	\$10,339.00	Port Huron	\$2,123.91
Midland	\$8,532.00	Rochester	\$2,015.30
Battle Creek	\$2,815.00	Farmington	\$2,012.00
Wyandotte-Downriver	\$2,600.00	Northville-Novı	\$1,645.00

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The following information was collected from February 2025 through January 2026. It shows the top branches who are recruiting new members. As of Feb. 1, 2026, there are 1,525 statewide members.

Branch	New Members	Branch	New Members
Dearborn	16	Battle Creek	6
Ann Arbor	14	Marquette	6
Birmingham	13	Plymouth-Canton	6
South Haven	10	Traverse City Area	6
Grosse Pointe	7	Livonia	5

Please join us ...

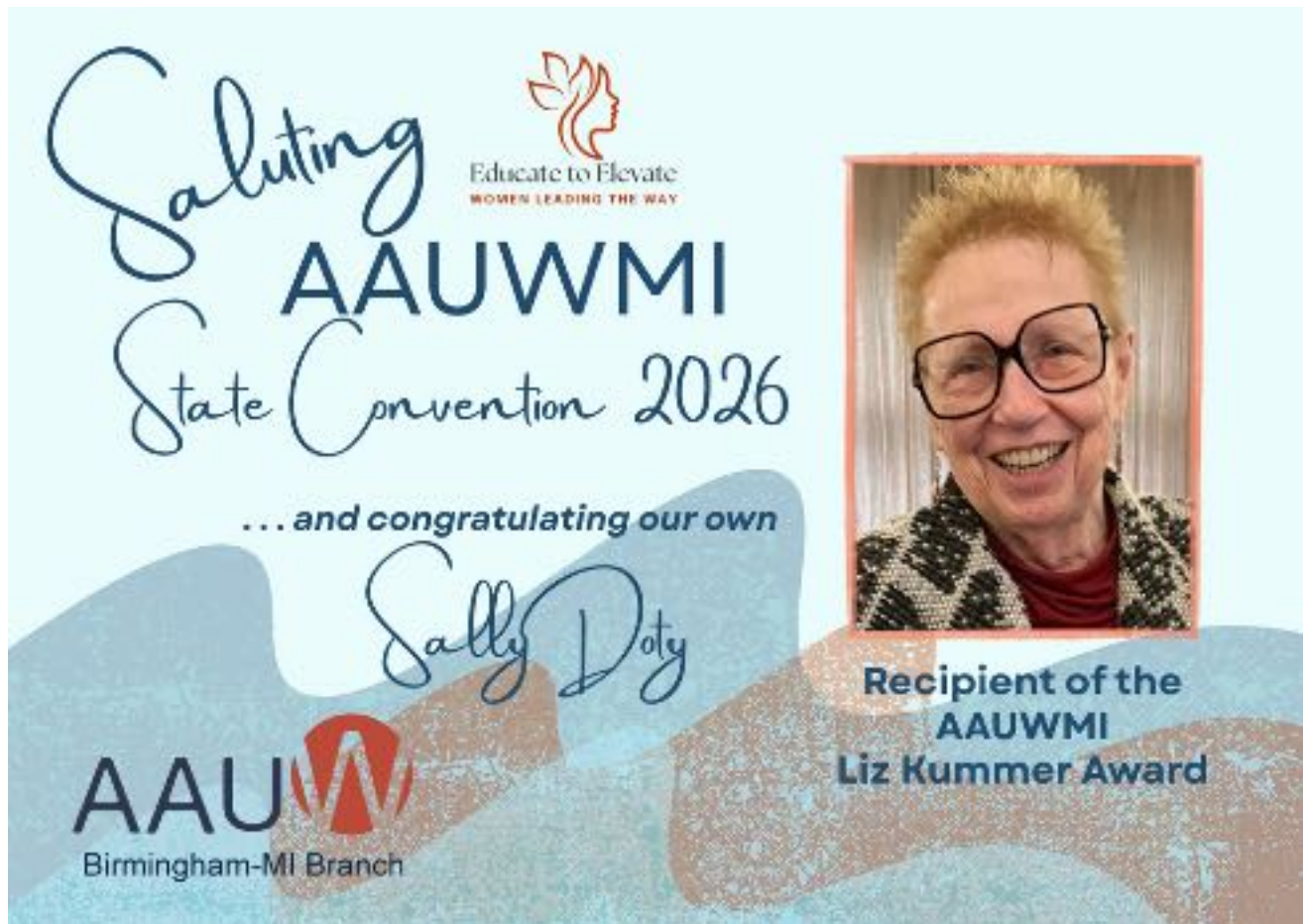
Would you like to help plan AAUWMI events like this Convention and Women's Equality Day? AAUWMI is seeking Program Committee Members. Please contact Co-VP of Programs, Sharon McKenna, at sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com.

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

1 of 11) Delete the words “official notice of the meeting” and replace with “final meeting registration date” in Article X, Section 2a

Rationale: We can check as of the final meeting registration date to see if registrants are AAUWMI members

Current Bylaws	Proposed Bylaws	If adopted
Article X. Meetings of AAUWMI. Section 2.a. Representation	Article X. Meetings of AAUWMI. Section 2.a. Representation	Article X. Meetings of AAUWMI. Section 2.a. Representation
<i>All AAUWMI members in good standing as of the official notice of the meeting may participate and be entitled to one vote</i>	<i>All AAUWMI members in good standing as of the official notice of the meeting final meeting registration date may participate and be entitled to one vote.</i>	<i>All AAUWMI members in good standing as of the final meeting registration date may participate and be entitled to one vote.</i>



PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

2 of 11) Add “at its fall meeting” to Article XI, Section 1a

Rationale: This will clarify by when the Nominating Committee is to be appointed and confirmed and the term of the Nominating Committee.

Current Bylaws	Proposed Bylaws	If adopted
Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 1.a. Nominating Committee.	Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 1.a. Nominating Committee.	Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 1.a. Nominating Committee.
<i>There shall be a nominating committee of five members (including the chair) appointed by the president and confirmed by a majority of the Board of Directors, to serve until a new committee is appointed. Nominating committee members may serve only two consecutive years.</i>	<i>There shall be a nominating committee of five members (including the chair) appointed by the president and confirmed by a majority of the Board of Directors at its fall meeting,to serve until a new committee is appointed. Nominating committee members may serve only two consecutive years.</i>	<i>There shall be a nominating committee of five members (including the chair) appointed by the president and confirmed by a majority of the Board of Directors at its fall meeting. Nominating committee members may serve only two consecutive years.</i>



What is the AAUW Legacy Circle?

The AAUW Legacy Circle recognizes individuals who include AAUW National in their estate plans (such as a will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance beneficiary). Planned giving provides an average of \$1 million annually to sustain AAUW's programs. Learn more here: aauw.org/leave-a-legacy



Hope was installed at Kellogg Community College's North Entrance Park in 2020 as part of the Centennial celebration of AAUW of Battle Creek. Fundraising began in 2017 and the branch's centennial committee and the artist,

Paula Blinco collaborated on how our statue would appear. She was designed to depict a middle school age female, carrying her textbooks and contemplating her future while looking over a college campus (KCC). In the beginning we called the statue "What's Next World?" When she was cast and delivered to Battle Creek, it was decided to call her "Hope" because the year, 2020, we needed a little Hope.

P R O P O S E D B Y L A W S C H A N G E S

3 of 11) Delete Article XI, Section 1b

Rationale: This section is already stated in Article XI, Section 1a

Current Bylaws	Proposed Bylaws	If adopted
Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 1.b. Nominating Committee.	Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 1.b. Nominating Committee.	Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 1.b. Nominating Committee.
<i>The chair of the nominating committee shall be appointed by the president and affirmed by a majority of the board of directors.</i>	<i>The chair of the nominating committee shall be appointed by the president and affirmed by a majority of the board of directors.</i>	<i>Article XI, Section 1b would be deleted</i>

4 of 11) Delete “to all affiliate presidents” in Article XI, Section 1d (c)

Rationale: This would permit the announcement of the committee members and the distribution of the executive board nomination form together on November 1. (See below)

Current Bylaws	Proposed Bylaws	If adopted
Article XI, Nominations and Elections. Section 1.d Nominating Committee	Article XI, Nominations and Elections. Section 1.d. Nominating Committee	Article XI, Nominations and Elections. Section 1.d. Nominating Committee
<i>The nominating committee shall be announced to all affiliate presidents by November 1.</i>	<i>The nominating committee shall be announced to all affiliate presidents by November 1.</i>	<i>The nominating committee shall be announced by November 1.</i>

5 of 11) Add subsection a (d) to Article XI, Section 2 stating the date of distribution for the executive board nomination form (Subsections a-d will become b-e)

Rationale: This subsection will add clarity to this section

Current Bylaws	Proposed Bylaws	If adopted
Article XI, Section 2.a. is not in the current bylaws.	Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 2.a Nominating Committee.	Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 2.a Nominating Committee.
	<i>The Executive Board Nomination Form shall be distributed by November 1</i>	<i>The Executive Board Nomination Form shall be distributed by November 1</i>

P R O P O S E D B Y L A W S C H A N G E S

6 of 11) Designate a specific date for submission from the affiliates for nominees in Article XI, Section 2.a (b)

Rationale: A specific date will add clarity

Current Bylaws	Proposed Bylaws	If adopted
Article XI, Nominations and Elections. Section 2.a Nominations	Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 2.a Nominations	Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 2.a Nominations
<i>Suggestions from the affiliates for nominees shall be submitted in writing to the chair of the nominating committee at least sixty (60) days prior to the AAUWMI annual meeting, the specific date to be set by the AAUWMI president.</i>	<i>Suggestions from the affiliates for nominees shall be submitted in writing to the chair of the nominating committee at least sixty (60) days prior to the AAUWMI annual meeting, the specific date to be set by the AAUWMI president. by January 31.</i>	<i>Suggestions from the affiliates for nominees shall be submitted in writing to the chair of the nominating committee by January 31.</i>

P A S T P R E S I D E N T L E T T E R S

Greetings to members gathered at the 2026.

AAUWMI Convention in Battle Creek on April 25. The theme of the convention, “Educate to Elevate: Women Leading the Way” continues to emphasize the organizational empowerment of women by advancing equity through research, education and advocacy.

As you celebrate the many accomplishments of members at the state and branch levels that support the advancement of women and girls, be proud of the contributions the state organization has made over its long history to the national AAUW. The mission continues because the educational needs of women and girls persist.

Best wishes,

Barbara J. Bonsignore,
AAUW of Michigan Past President (1995-1998)

Hello to fellow AAUW members!

I am thinking of you as you gather to share and learn from each other. And I know you are also enjoying Battle Creek and the fellowship with each other.

Women have been leading the way for so many years, and it is not time to stop! A good leader doesn’t get too far ahead of the parade, or there is nothing to lead. A good leader also doesn’t get too far behind the parade or then she is just a follower. Gauge where your parade members are and TAKE OFF. Be a leader!

AAUW has been a major part of my life, and I hope you are feeling the same sense of making a difference in your community and your personal lives. There is much to do.

Joanne Snell,
AAUW of Michigan Past President (1979-1981)

P R O P O S E D B Y L A W S C H A N G E S

7 of 11) Add a new Article XII with the title of “Awards”

Rationale: “Awards” has not been in the bylaws and is similar to “Nominations and Elections”

Current Bylaws	Proposed Bylaws	If adopted
<p>Article XII. Awards. Is not in the current bylaws</p>	<p><i>Article XII. Awards.</i> <i>Section 1. Awards Committee.</i></p> <p><i>a. There shall be an awards committee of five members (including the chair) when there is a convention. The chair shall be appointed by the president and confirmed by a majority of the Board of Directors at its fall meeting</i></p> <p><i>b. The chair shall be a recent Past President.</i></p> <p><i>c. The quorum for the awards committee shall be a majority.</i></p> <p><i>d. The Awards Committee Chair shall choose the members of the committee.</i></p> <p><i>e. The Awards Committee shall be announced by November 1.</i></p> <p><i>Section 2. Call for Awards. The Call for Awards Nominations shall be distributed by November 1.</i></p> <p><i>Section 3. Nominations for Awards. Nominations for awards shall be sent to the AAUWMI Awards Committee Chair by January 31.</i></p>	<p><i>Article XII. Awards.</i> <i>Section 1. Awards Committee.</i></p> <p><i>a. There shall be an awards committee of five members (including the chair) when there is a convention. The chair shall be appointed by the president and confirmed by a majority of the Board of Directors at its fall meeting.</i></p> <p><i>b. The chair shall be a recent Past President.</i></p> <p><i>c. The quorum for the awards committee shall be a majority.</i></p> <p><i>d. The Awards Committee Chair shall choose the members of the committee.</i></p> <p><i>e. The Awards Committee shall be announced by November 1.</i></p> <p><i>Section 2. Call for Awards. The Call for Awards Nominations shall be distributed by November 1.</i></p> <p><i>Section 3. Nominations for Awards. Nominations for awards shall be sent to the AAUWMI Awards Committee Chair by January 31.</i></p>

P R O P O S E D B Y L A W S C H A N G E S

8 of 11) Change “diversity” to “equity and inclusion” in Article XII (XIII), Section 3.

Rationale: This is the current title for this appointed officer

Current Bylaws	Proposed Bylaws	If adopted
Article XII (XIII). AAUWMI Officers. Section 3. Appointed Officers	Article XII (XIII). AAUWMI Officers. Section 3. Appointed Officers	Article XII (XIII). AAUWMI Officers. Section 3. Appointed Officers
<i>The appointed officers of AAUWMI may be: Bylaws and Policies, College/University Relations, Diversity, and Public Policy.</i>	<i>The appointed officers of AAUWMI may be: Bylaws and Policies, College/University Relations, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and Public Policy.</i>	<i>The appointed officers of AAUWMI may be: Bylaws and Policies, College/University Relations, Equity and Inclusion, and Public Policy.</i>

9 of 11) Add “and Duties” to the title of Article XIII (XIV), Section 2

Rationale: This section also speaks to the duties of the Board of Directors

Current Bylaws	Proposed Bylaws	If adopted
Article XIII (XIV). Board of Directors. Section 2. Qualifications	Article XIII (XIV). Board of Directors. Section 2. Qualifications and Duties.	Article XIII (XIV). Board of Directors. Section 2. Qualifications and Duties.

10 of 11) Delete “select” and substitute “confirm” and change “chairs” to “chair” and add “the chair of” before “awards committee” in Article XIII (XIV), Section 2b.2

Rationale: The Board only confirms the members and chair of the Nominating Committee and confirms the chair of the Awards Committee.

Current Bylaws	Proposed Bylaws	If adopted
Article XIII (XIV). Board of Directors. Section 2. Qualifications. b.2. State Organization Administration.	Article XIII (XIV). Board of Directors. Section 2. Qualifications. b.2. State Organization Administration.	Article XIII (XIV). Board of Directors. Section 2. Qualifications. b.2. State Organization Administration.
<i>Select the required members and chairs of the nominating committee and the awards committee.</i>	<i>Select Confirm the required members and chairs chair of the nominating committee and the chair of the awards committee.</i>	<i>Confirm the required members and chair of the nominating committee and the chair of the awards committee.</i>

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

11 of 11) Add information about how affiliates propose bylaws amendments to AAUWMI bylaws in Article XIX (XX), Section 1. (The current Section 1 will become Section 2)

Rationale: This will clarify the procedure for amending bylaws

Current Bylaws	Proposed Bylaws	If adopted
Article XIX (XX). Amendments to the Bylaws Requiring Member Vote. Section 1	Article XIX (XX). Amendments to the Bylaws Requiring Member Vote. Section 1	Article XIX (XX). Amendments to the Bylaws Requiring Member Vote. Section 1
	<i>Members may propose amendments to the AAUWMI bylaws by completing the Bylaws Amendments Form. It shall be distributed by November 1 and shall be sent to the AAUWMI Bylaws Director by January 31.</i>	<i>Members may propose amendments to the AAUWMI bylaws by completing the Bylaws Amendments Form. It shall be distributed by November 1 and shall be sent to the AAUW Bylaws Director by January 31.</i>

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee recommends this slate of officers for two-year terms at the 2026 Annual Meeting:

1. Secretary: **Katie Wiese**, Birmingham
2. Co-Vice Presidents of Programs: **Sharon McKenna**, Birmingham and **Sheila Blair**, Adrian/Irish Hills
3. Funds Director: Vacant (Nominations will be taken from the floor)

Completing Sheila’s remaining term (one year) for the VP of Finance position: Carol Arnosky, Midland (Carol’s fulfillment of this role will be approved by state board members).

Thank you to the Nominating Committee for their work and congratulations to the nominees for agreeing to serve on the AAUW of Michigan State Board.



ELECTION SLATE



Katie Wiese has served as the Recording Secretary for AAUWMI since 2024. She brings a robust educational background to the role, holding a BA in Economics from the University of Michigan and an MA in Education from California State University. Now retired, Katie enjoyed a diverse career teaching computer science at the community college level and conducting specialized corporate technology training. Her technical proficiency remains one of her greatest professional strengths.

**Secretary—
two-year
term**

In addition to her state-level duties, Katie is an active member of the Birmingham Branch, where she contributes her skills in many areas. She is currently the President of the AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation and assists with fundraising for scholarships. She supports branch communications by maintaining the Birmingham Branch website. Katie previously served as the VP of membership.

When she isn't volunteering her time to various organizations, Katie enjoys traveling, reading, gardening, and needlepoint.



Sharon McKenna is retired from a 38-year career in public education, teaching home economics, mathematics, and computer technology at the middle school level. She also served as a consultant for the Intermediate School District. Sharon holds a BS from Wayne State in Human Growth and Development, an MA from Eastern Michigan in Clothing and Textiles, and an MS from University of Detroit in Math.

**Co-VP of
Programs—
two-year
term**

Sharon joined the Birmingham Branch in 2016 and joined the Executive Board in 2017 as electronic communications coordinator. She also serves as chair of the nominating committee and co-coordinator of the study and interest groups.

With a lifelong interest in the fiber arts, Sharon has taught classes and workshops in embroidery, beadwork, and color and design. As a member of the Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild, she chaired the Guild's Fiber Feast event for 18 years. She is also a member of the Michigan League of Handweavers where she organizes and presents the biannual fashion show and coordinates the fashion and accessories exhibits and the Needlework and Textile Guild of Michigan where she serves on the Executive Board and produces the monthly newsletter.



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, and VP of Finance, President-Elect and President of the AAUW of Michigan Board. She currently serves as AAUW of Michigan VP of Finance.

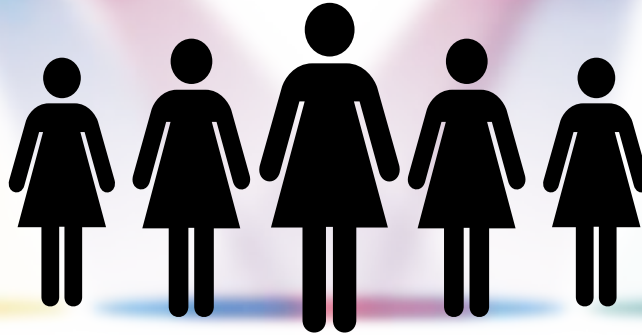
**Co-VP of
Programs—
two-year
term**

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, as well as serving in the same role for the new Capitol Area branch.

In her various roles, she is often involved in events, including designing marketing items, programs, etc., for events. She is excited about the potential move to serve in Programs.



WE NEED YOU
to
Volunteer to Host the 2028 AAUW of Michigan Convention
Highlight Your Branch and Surrounding Community



*Interested? Please contact VP-Programs Co-chair Sharon McKenna at sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com as soon as possible to discuss the many **benefits** of hosting, including free tickets to events and statewide branch fundraising opportunities.*

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY



SAVE THE DATE

Women's Equality Day Celebration

SAT., AUG. 29, 2026

*Follow us on
Facebook to learn
about the latest
events and activities.*



Raise Funds for Your Branch

Did you know?

AAUW of Michigan has created an opportunity for you to leave a legacy to AAUWMI (<https://aauwmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/AAUWMI-Codicil.pdf>) or to a single branch?

These are through codicils, created by our attorney. Individual branch codicils are available here: <https://aauwmi.org/legacy-giving-to-your-branch/>