



# 2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

104th Annual Meeting  
April 25, 2026

104 Years of Empowering Women  
and Girls in the State of Michigan





# Annual Report 2026

## Table of Contents

Message from AAUWMI President.....	p. 4
In Memoriam.....	p. 5
Meet Your State Board.....	p. 6-7
President’s Report.....	p. 8
President Elect’s Report.....	p. 9-10
Finance Vice President’s Report.....	p. 11-12
AAUWMI Membership Totals.....	p. 13-14
AAUWMI By the Numbers.....	p. 15
Program Vice President’s Report.....	p. 16-17
Membership Vice President’s Report.....	p. 18-19
Secretary’s Report.....	p. 20-21
Funds Director’s Report.....	p. 22-23
Bylaws Committee Report .....	p. 24-31
Public Policy Director’s Report.....	p. 32-33
2021-2023 Public Policy Principles.....	p. 34-35
State Services Manager’s Report.....	p. 36-37
Council about Parochiaid (CAP) 2022-2023 Report.....	p. 38

Announcements and Reminders.....p. 39-40  
The Year in Pictures 2025-2026.....p. 41-44



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 here with them this weekend.

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

With gratitude, President Amy Shamroe

## *In Memoriam*

*In loving memory of the incredible members who died in 2025 and are no longer with us. Their love and legacy continue to shine bright in our hearts.*

### Battle Creek

- Jacqueline “Jackie” Inglett
- Joanna McCollum Learner
- Grace Truman Smith

### Big Rapids

- Mildred “Millie” Gillies

### Birmingham

- Carolyn Hall
- Elizabeth Flury
- Barbara Cochran

### Dearborn

- Marjorie “Marge” Eckert (also Traverse City Area branch member)

### Grosse Pointe

- Jane Alice O’Halloran

### Midland

- Mary Lou Angelotti
- Nan Skochdopole

### Northville-Novl

- Joan Barber
- Jean Hanson
- Judy Ann Kaye
- Darlene Ursel
- Corinne Vincent

### Rochester

- Dorene Janet “Jan” Alverson

### Traverse City Area

- Marjorie “Marge” Eckert (also Dearborn branch member)

### Wyandotte-Downriver

- Mary Sue Sickafus



# Meet Your State Board

## Elected Officers/Executive Committee

**Amy Shamroe**  
AAUW Traverse City Area



**President**

**Barb Duran**  
AAUW Wyandotte-  
Downriver



**President-Elect**

**Linda Kevorkian**  
AAUW Birmingham



**Program Co-VP**

**Sharon McKenna**  
AAUW Birmingham



**Program Co-VP**

**Eva Habib**  
AAUW Grosse Pointe



**Membership VP**

**Sheila Blair**  
AAUW Adrian-Irish Hills



**Finance Director**

**Katie Wiese**  
AAUW Birmingham



**Secretary**

**Mary Jane Kearns**  
AAUW Northville-Novi



**Funds Director**



# Meet Your State Board

## Appointed Members of the Board

## Administrative Staff

**Jan Van Gasse**  
AAUW Iron Mountain-  
Kingsford



**Bylaws Director**

**Ruth Brown**  
AAUW Jackson



**Public Policy Director**

**Leah Monger**  
AAUW Big Rapids



**State Services Manager**

## President's Report

**AAUWMI President**  
**Fiscal Year 2025-2026**  
**Amy Shamroe**  
**Traverse City Branch**  
[aauwamy@gmail.com](mailto:aauwamy@gmail.com)

My report last year focused on how AAUWMI board members envisioned their individual roles at our retreat and carried that through the year. This year, the board came together to accomplish great things with the strengths of each of their roles.

This transition made for some good, solid work. It also meant some projects took longer to complete than others.

Last year in my report, one of my goals was to have an AAUW of Michigan advocacy app running by the start of the fiscal year. That, unfortunately, did not happen. It was a good goal to have in mind, but in the end my committee consisting of Ruth Brown, Sheila Blair, Jan Van Gasse, and Katie Wiese needed time to give due diligence to the task. The small but mighty team covered everything from investigating different app models and factoring in budgetary concerns to creating a process for implementation. In the end, a combination of Bill Track 50, Resistbot, and our dedicated Public Policy Committee will be the engine that drives the AAUWMI Action Alert.

In an effort to strengthen communication between AAUWMI and our members, we also hosted monthly Coffee and Conversations. Board members took turns leading conversations on topics ranging from Bylaws to Programs. These one-hour, state-wide Zooms allowed board members to give updates and share information. They also gave members a chance to have the opportunity to engage on topics informally.

Our convention this year is in-person, hosted by the Battle Creek branch, which is always a lift (with love) by the board. President-Elect Barb Duran and VP Program Linda Kevorkian and Sharon McKenna led a dynamic committee made up of board members and members from around the state to craft an informational and fun two-day event for all of us!

AAUW of Michigan is a strong organization powered by volunteers. All that we accomplish is thanks to all of you giving your time, energy, knowledge, and experience to the organization. I am grateful for the amazing women who served on the AAUWMI board this year and each of you as members who make our organization strong!

**President-Elect - 2026 Annual Report**  
**Barbara Duran**  
**Wyandotte-Downriver Branch**  
**313-300-1710**  
[barbduranaauw@gmail.com](mailto:barbduranaauw@gmail.com)

I feel so honored to have been elected as your next state president to the AAUWMI Board.

I joined AAUW in 2019 after attending a branch meeting and the holiday dinner. I was impressed by the level of camaraderie that was taking place amongst all of the women in the branch. This truly was the sisterhood I had been seeking. I was also extremely interested in the branch's annual "STEM SAVVY" event and their Scholarship Awards that were presented each year to young women who were furthering their education after high school.

Not long after joining the Wyandotte-Downriver branch, I stepped into the Corresponding Secretary role and took over publishing the branch newsletter.

From there, I moved to Branch President-Elect, then served as Branch President and Co-President for two terms. I now serve as the branch Membership VP and am also a member of the Scholarship Committee and the branch's STEM event committee.

At the state level, I've served 2 years as the Programs co-VP, and 2 years as the C/U director, then moved into the President-Elect position in 2024.

At the national level, I've served one year on the Nominating Committee and was also a member of the Midwest Regional Conference Committee that planned the 12-state event that was held in St. Louis in October of 2023.

I have worked on both my branch's and the state affiliate's strategic plans and am very motivated to continue to implement these plans. Moreover, it's extremely important, at this time in AAUW's history that we provide tangible support to branch leadership for the recruitment and retention of members; the evolution of our organizational culture to feature an emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion; as well as advancing the utilization of technology to make it easier for greater participation. Use of technology also will attract the next generation of members, a portion of which is being rolled out with the new app at the 2026 convention.

I am also rolling out the MBA (Michigan Branches in Action) program that will allow for more engagement and collaboration between branches, sharing programs, speakers and events on the state website so as to allow branch members from various parts of the state to support other branches by attending events, supporting fundraisers and collaborating on ideas and activities that will bring more positive exposure to the AAUW mission to potential members and students throughout the state. I believe this will create more opportunities for branch growth and engagement with community partners at the local and state level.

I am excited to start my new role on July 1st, but I would be remiss if I didn't mention how much I have learned under our current State President Amy Shamroe and the two most recent past State Presidents, Jan Van Gasse and Sheila Blair. Jan's organizational skills are second to none and Sheila's leadership skills and business acumen are top notch and align quite well with AAUW's strategies and values

Both Sheila and Jan have been a huge inspiration to me and, along with current State President Amy, it's clear how much they care about this organization.

I am fortunate enough to have Amy, Jan and Sheila to guide me on the new board as they all continue to serve on the state board in different capacities.

I would love to hear from branch leaders and members as to their suggestions for the future of AAUWMI and our statewide efforts in preparation for setting the 2026-2027 agenda.

Please reach out to me at [barbduranaauw@gmail.com](mailto:barbduranaauw@gmail.com) to let me know your thoughts or concerns.

Thank you, again, for your support and I look forward to working with each AAUW member, branch and supporting partners in continued growth of our organization into the future.

## Finance Report

**State Finance Officer**

**Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

**Sheila M. Blair**

**(734) 674-2246**

[sheilablairpmp@gmail.com](mailto:sheilablairpmp@gmail.com)

### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**

The 2025-2026 budget of \$39,690 a significant increase from the previous year, mainly due to the Spring Convention in 2026. Our bank accounts include a Checking account, a Money Market and a CD as we attempt to maximize our interest. However, the CD matured in March of 2026 and the better interest rate was to move all the savings into one Money Market account. We continue to seek opportunities to grow the AAUWMI investment.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

As of Feb. 1, 2025, Michigan had 32 branches. The report from AAUW shows 1,525 branch members in the state. Many of these members are honorary and do not pay dues.

### **TOTAL ASSETS:**

In March 2026, our CD matured and, in researching the best possible use of our funds, we determined to move all our savings into a Money Market account to maximize interest. By March 31, 2026, AAUWMI held \$52,720.03 in our Money Market Account and an additional \$14,713.22 in our Checking account. Our total assets equal \$67,433.25.



**Financial Statement**

**July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026**

<b>Assets</b>	
Money Market Account Balance	\$52,720.03
Checking Account Balance	\$14,713.22
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$67,433.25</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Membership Dues	\$14,437.00
WED (Women’s Equality Day)	\$1,527.21
Convention	\$5,035.24
Donations (Greatest Needs)	\$0.00
Fundraisers	\$336.34
Interest	\$318.39
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$21,654.18</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Communications and Publications	\$684.99
Organizational	\$2,843.01
Conference/Conventions	\$2,719.54
State Services Office/Contracts	\$8,908.75
WED and Coalitions	\$0
Projects, Grants and Awards	\$65.23
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,221.52</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, 2026.*



**American Association of University Women**  
**February 1 Count for Fiscal Year 2026**  
(Sorted by Branch Code)

<b>Branch Name</b>	<b>Affiliation Count</b>
MI4002-Albion Inc.	8
MI4005-Ann Arbor Inc.	208
MI4006-Battle Creek	52
MI4007-Bay City	12
MI4009-Big Rapids	23
MI4010-Birmingham	158
MI4015-Dearborn	93
MI4016-Detroit Inc.	7
MI4020-Farmington	46
MI4025-Grosse Pointe	61
MI4029-Iron Mountain-Kingsford	14
MI4031-Jackson	40
MI4035-Ludington	20
MI4037-Marquette	41
MI4038-Marshall	8
MI4039-Midland	57
MI4040-Monroe	14
MI4047-Plymouth-Canton	49
MI4049-Port Huron	39
MI4051-Saginaw	11
MI4053-South Haven	139

MI4055-Traverse City Area	60
MI4058-Wyandotte-Downriver	51
MI4060-Rochester	84
MI4062-Cass City	28
MI4065-Livonia	63
MI4070-Gaylord	34
MI4071-Escanaba Area	15
MI4074-Romeo Area	4
MI4077-Northville-Novl	79
MI4086-Adrian-Irish Hills	4
MI4087-Capitol Area	3
<b>Total Affiliations:</b>	<b>1525</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).

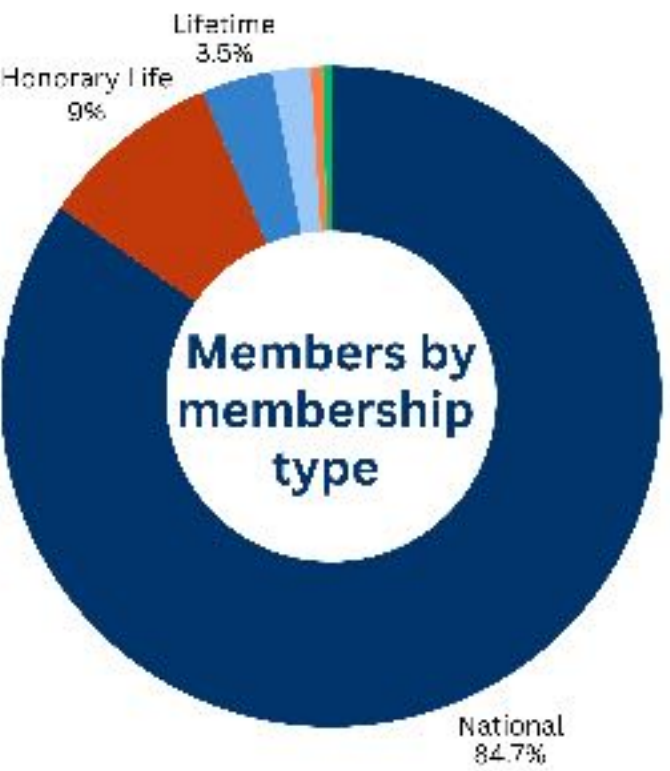
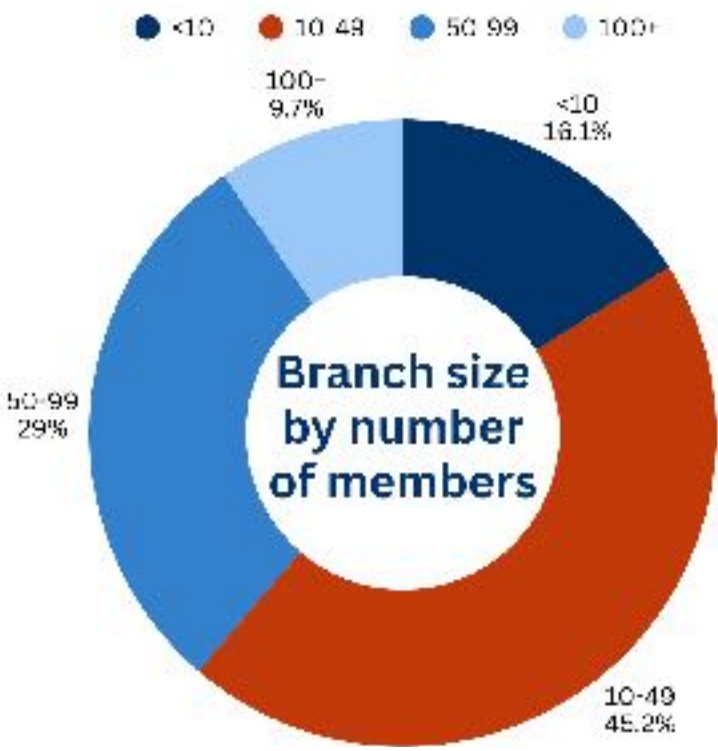


# By The Numbers

31 active branches

\$65,082.90 donated to National, a 1% decrease from last year

11 college and university partners



## THE AAUW 5 STAR PROGRAM

### Branches That Earned Stars this Year

- ★ **Advancement**
  - Birmingham
  - Knoxville-Novi
  - Wyandotte-Dowdler
- ★ **Communications**
  - Ann Arbor
  - Battle Creek
  - Big Rapids
  - Birmingham
  - Dearborn
  - Farmington
  - Cayler
  - Grosse Pointe
  - Midland
  - Northville-Novi
  - Plymouth-Canton
  - Port Huron
  - Rochester
  - South Haven
  - Wyandotte-Dowdler
- ★ **Governance**
  - Ann Arbor
  - Battle Creek
  - Birmingham
  - Dearborn
  - Farmington
  - Iron Mountain-Kingsford
  - Ludington
  - Midland
  - Northville-Novi
  - Plymouth-Canton
  - Port Huron
  - Rochester
  - Saginaw
  - South Haven
  - Wyandotte-Dowdler
- ★ **Programs**
  - Ann Arbor
  - Big Rapids
  - Birmingham
  - Dearborn
  - Midland
  - Plymouth-Canton
  - Port Huron
  - Saginaw
- ★ **Public Policy**
  - Ann Arbor
  - Battle Creek
  - Big Rapids
  - Birmingham
  - Dearborn
  - Farmington
  - Grosse Pointe
  - Ludington
  - Midland
  - Northville-Novi
  - Plymouth-Canton
  - Port Huron
  - Rochester
  - Saginaw
  - South Haven
  - Traverse City Area
  - Wyandotte-Dowdler



## **Programs Report**

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

**Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

**Linda Kevorkian**

**Birmingham Branch**

**kevorkianlk@gmail.com**

**Sharon McKenna**

**Birmingham Branch**

**sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com**

### Highlights

- Planning for Spring 2026 Convention
  - Contracted with Firekeepers Casino for conference space, rooms, and food service
  - Worked with Battle Creek Branch as hosts
    - Arranged bus tour of the city for attendees on Friday afternoon
    - Provided member volunteers to assist during convention and at annual meeting
  - Arranged for presenters
    - Tremayne Parquet to give the keynote address and Q & A
    - Presenters from Dearborn and Irish Hills/Adrian Branches to speak about membership and leadership
    - Panel discussion including AAUW Fellowship recipients
  - Finalized evaluation form to be given to attendees at registration and collated responses for committee review during convention debriefing
- Hosted Coffee & Conversation in March; 26 registered participants
- Participated in planning, organization, and facilitation of Women's Equality Day in August 2025

### Challenges

- Recruiting new program committee members
- Attracting and retaining branch members is of great concern to the Program Chair(s) as they plan for speakers that will be of interest to younger individuals
- Increase awareness of opportunities for branch Program Chairs to meet and discuss challenges in providing programs that are of interest to members and potential members of all ages

### Future Agenda Items

- Ongoing Program Counterpart meetings to assist branches with program development and other concerns
- Assist branches in developing/facilitating combined meetings with other branches, held in person or via Zoom platform

- Participate in planning, organization, and facilitation of Women’s Equality Day in August 2026
- Planning for virtual annual meeting in the spring of 2027
- Planning for the state convention in the spring of 2028

## Membership Report

**AAUWMI Membership Vice President**

**Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

**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**

- Updated AAUWMI Membership Playbook resources to support branch-level recruitment and retention efforts.
- Developed the 2025 Recruitment Plan: <https://aauwmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Final-AAUWMI-2025-Recruitment-Plan.pdf>
- Developed the 2025 Retention Plan: <https://aauwmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Final-AAUW-MI-2025-Retention-plan71.pdf>
- Created a customizable Orientation PowerPoint to help branches welcome and onboard new members.
- Began developing a succession-planning framework that is practical for branches with different sizes, needs, and cultures.
- Strengthened communication with branch Membership Vice Presidents by sending regular updates and remaining available for consultation and support.
- Offered to visit branches to support programming, answer questions, and strengthen connections between branch members and the AAUWMI Board.
- Respond to all concerns and questions from Branch Presidents and Membership Vice Presidents regarding membership issues and find answers to their questions.
- Served on the April 2026 Convention Planning Committee.

### **Challenges**

- Jackson Branch: The branch had been considering disbanding for more than two years. After consulting with leaders from the Adrian and Jackson branches, I contacted the Jackson Branch President and shared a proposal to explore a transition into the Adrian/Irish Hills Branch. Ultimately, Jackson chose to disband.
- Sustaining membership growth remains a shared responsibility across AAUWMI. Continued outreach is needed to recruit and retain mission-aligned members at both the branch and state levels.
- Not all branch Membership Vice Presidents are able to attend state-level meetings consistently, which can limit information-sharing and coordination.

**Future Agenda Items**

- Continue to increase membership while amplifying AAUW's mission and impact across Michigan.
- Continue collaboration between the Membership and EI Committees to support inclusive outreach, welcoming practices, and retention strategies.
- Finalize and distribute a practical succession-planning guide for branches.

**In closing,** I extend my sincere appreciation to our MI and branch leaders, Membership Vice Presidents, and members statewide for the time and energy they dedicate to AAUW's mission. By continuing to welcome new voices, strengthening inclusive practices, and supporting one another through leadership transitions, we will grow a strong and engaged AAUWMI community—one that advances equity for all women and girls across Michigan.

## **Secretary's Report**

### **AAUW Secretary**

**Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

**Katie Wiese, Birmingham Branch**

[katie.wiese@att.net](mailto:katie.wiese@att.net)

I'm enjoying being on the AAUWMI State Board and am looking forward to meeting many of you. It's been enjoyable getting to know Secretaries from across the State at our counterpart meetings in the Fall and Spring. Each branch is unique, but we all share the same goal of promoting equity for women and girls.

### **Highlights from the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year**

#### **August 1-3, 2025, Board Retreat**

##### **Motions**

- Approvals of Agenda and April 5, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes.
- Approval of the April 26, 2025, Annual Meeting Minutes.
- Approval of the Financial Report.
- Approval of Public Policy Principles.
- Approval of Bylaws and Policies changes as submitted.
- Adopted the 2025-2026 Budget as amended.

##### **Other Business**

- Accepted the resignation of Barb Duran as College/University Director. A replacement needs to be named.
- Reviewed Membership materials.
- Discussion about creating an application for sending Public Policy alerts to our membership.
- Discussion of 2026 State Convention.
- Review of Branch Survey results was deferred to the October meeting.
- Established Coffee and Conversation to allow AAUWMI leadership to present a different topic each month.
- Discussion about sending a welcome to AAUW card to new members was deferred to the October meeting.

#### **October 11, 2025, Board Meeting**

##### **Motions**

- Approvals of Agenda and August 2, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes.
- Approval of the Finance Report.

##### **Other Business**

- Lynch Creek was designated as a holiday fundraiser.
- Accepted the resignation of Leslie Carpenter as Equity and Inclusion Director with regrets.

- Amy Shamroe will appoint a Nominating Committee and send the names to the Board for approval.
- Amy Shamroe will select an Awards Committee Chair and send the name to the board for approval.
- The Branch Surveys were reviewed. Board members will reach out to the Branches who did not complete the survey.
- The Jackson Branch has voted to dissolve.
- Educate to Elevate: Women Leading the Way was selected as the theme for the April Convention.

### **January 17, 2026, Board Meeting**

#### **Motions**

- Via electronic ballot on October 18, 2025, approved the Nominations Committee.
- Via electronic ballot on October 18, 2025, approved the Awards Committee Chair.
- Via electronic ballot on January 8, 2026, approved holding the 2026 Convention on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Firekeepers Casino in Battle Creek.
- Approvals of Agenda and October 11, 2025, 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 funding to subscribe to ResistBot to provide Public Policy Advocacy messages to the membership.
- Approved funding to send welcome to AAUWMI cards to new AAUW members.
- Approved Bylaw changes as presented.

#### **Other Business**

- Reminder to Board members to reach out to their assigned branch regarding Branch surveys.

## Funds Director's Report

**AAUWMI Funds Officer**  
**Fiscal Year 2025-2026**  
**Mary Jane Kearns**  
**Wyandotte-Downriver Branch**  
**mjkearns1@outlook.com**

Total donations to national AAUW from the state of Michigan in 2025 were \$65,082.90, a 1% decrease over 2024 giving. The top 10 branches in order were Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Midland, Battle Creek, Wyandotte-Downriver, Dearborn, Port Huron, Rochester, Farmington, and Nortville-Nov. The top 10 branches in per-capita giving were Midland, Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Port Huron, Battle Creek, Wyandotte-Downriver, Farmington, Big Rapids, Romeo Area, and Iron Mountain-Kingsford.

### **2025 Donations To AAUW**

<b>Branches</b>	<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>Per Capita</b>
Albion	\$125.00	\$15.63
Ann Arbor	\$20,318.50	\$97.69
Battle Creek	\$2,815.00	\$54.13
Bay City	\$340.50	\$28.38
Big Rapids	\$980.00	\$42.61
Birmingham	\$10,339.00	\$65.44
Capitol Area	\$50.00	\$16.67
Cass City	\$150.00	\$5.36
Dearborn	\$2,453.00	\$26.38
Escanaba	\$277.00	\$18.47
Farmington	\$2012.00	\$43.74
Gaylord	\$258.00	\$7.59
Grosse Pointe	\$996.00	\$16.33
Iron Mountain-Kingsford	\$535.50	\$39.25
Jackson	\$1,151.00	\$28.78
Livonia	\$250.00	\$3.97
Ludington	\$40.00	\$2.00

Marquette	\$1,286.00	\$31.37
Marshall	\$175.00	\$21.88
Midland	\$8,532.00	\$149.68
Monroe	\$193.50	\$13.82
Northville-Nov	\$1,645.00	\$20.82
Plymouth-Canton	\$373.00	\$7.61
Port Huron	\$2,123.91	\$54.46
Rochester	\$2,015.30	\$23.99
Romeo Area	\$195.00	\$48.75
Saginaw	\$364.00	\$33.09
South Haven	\$857.00	\$6.17
Traverse City	\$838.00	\$13.97
Wyandotte-Downriver	\$2,600.00	\$50.98

**AAUWMI Bylaws Director**  
**Annual Report 2026**  
**March 29, 2026**

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, Chair
- Ruth Brown, Jackson branch
- Mary Mostaghim, Ann Arbor branch
- Phyllis Relyea, Rochester branch
- Marsha Wainio, Iron Mountain/Kingsford branch

There were no national mandated amendments this year. There were also no branch proposals to amend AAUWMI Bylaws in 2025-2026. However, there were proposals made by the AAUWMI Bylaws Director. The AAUWMI Board approved the proposed bylaws amendments at their January 17, 2026, Board meeting, These amendments will be voted on by AAUWMI members at the April 25, 2026, Annual Meeting.

**1) 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.

<b>Current Bylaws</b>	<b>Proposed Bylaws</b>	<b>If adopted</b>
<b>Article X. Meetings of AAUWMI. Section 2.a. Representation</b>	<b>Article X. Meetings of AAUWMI. Section 2.a. Representation</b>	<b>Article X. Meetings of AAUWMI. Section 2.a. Representation</b>

<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 <del>official notice of the meeting</del> 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>
---	---	---

**2) 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.

<b>Current Bylaws</b>	<b>Proposed Bylaws</b>	<b>If adopted</b>
<b>Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 1.a. Nominating Committee.</b>	<b>Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 1.a. Nominating Committee.</b>	<b>Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 1.a. Nominating Committee.</b>
<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 <b>at its fall meeting</b>, 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 <b>at its fall meeting</b>. Nominating committee members may serve only two consecutive years.</i>

**3) Delete Article XI, Section 1b**

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

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

<i>by a majority of the board of directors.</i>	<del><i>by a majority of the board of directors.</i></del>	
---	--	--

**4) 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.)

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

**5) 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.

<b>Current Bylaws</b>	<b>Proposed Bylaws</b>	<b>If adopted</b>
Article XI, Section 2.a. is not in the current bylaws.	<b>Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 2.a Nominating Committee.</b>	<b>Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 2.a Nominating Committee.</b>
	<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>

**6) 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.

<b>Current Bylaws</b>	<b>Proposed Bylaws</b>	<b>If adopted</b>
<b>Article XI, Nominations and Elections. Section 2.a Nominations</b>	<b>Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 2.a Nominations</b>	<b>Article XI. Nominations and Elections. Section 2.a Nominations</b>
<i>Suggestions from the affiliates for nominees shall</i>	<i>Suggestions from the affiliates for nominees shall</i>	<i>Suggestions from the affiliates for nominees shall be</i>

<p><i>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></p>	<p><i>be submitted in writing to the chair of the nominating committee <del>at least sixty (60) days prior to the AAUWMI annual meeting, the specific date to be set by the AAUWMI president.</del> by January 31.</i></p>	<p><i>submitted in writing to the chair of the nominating committee by January 31.</i></p>
--	--	--

**7) 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.”

<b>Current Bylaws</b>	<b>Proposed Bylaws</b>	<b>If adopted</b>
<p>Article XII. Awards. Is not in the current bylaws</p>	<p><i>Article XII. Awards.</i>  <i>Section 1. Awards Committee.</i>  <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>  <i>b. The chair shall be a recent Past President.</i>  <i>c. The quorum for the awards committee shall be a majority.</i>  <i>d. The Awards Committee Chair shall choose the members of the committee.</i></p>	<p><i>Article XII. Awards.</i>  <i>Section 1. Awards Committee.</i>  <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>  <i>b. The chair shall be a recent Past President.</i>  <i>c. The quorum for the awards committee shall be a majority.</i>  <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>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>
--	---	---

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

Rationale: This is the current title for this appointed officer.

<b>Current Bylaws</b>	<b>Proposed Bylaws</b>	<b>If adopted</b>
<b>Article XII (XIII). AAUWMI Officers. Section 3. Appointed Officers</b>	<b>Article XII (XIII). AAUWMI Officers. Section 3. Appointed Officers</b>	<b>Article XII (XIII). AAUWMI Officers. Section 3. Appointed Officers</b>
<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, <del>Diversity</del> 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) 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.

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

**10) 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
<b>Article XIII (XIV). Board of Directors. Section 2. Qualifications. b.2. State Organization Administration.</b>	<b>Article XIII (XIV). Board of Directors. Section 2. Qualifications. b.2. State Organization Administration.</b>	<b>Article XIII (XIV). Board of Directors. Section 2. Qualifications. b.2. State Organization Administration.</b>
<i>Select the required members and chairs of the nominating committee and the awards committee.</i>	<i><del>Select</del> Confirm the required members and <del>chairs</del> 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>

**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
<b>Article XIX (XX). Amendments to the Bylaws Requiring Member Vote. Section 1</b>	<b>Article XIX (XX). Amendments to the Bylaws Requiring Member Vote. Section 1</b>	<b>Article XIX (XX). Amendments to the Bylaws Requiring Member Vote. Section 1</b>
	<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 AAUWMI Bylaws Director by January 31.</i>

Numbering for Articles and Sections will be changed – see parenthesis

Amendments to the AAUWMI Policies were adopted by the Board at the August 2, 2025 Board meeting.

The Bylaws Director has communicated via AAUWMI newsletter articles, emails, phone calls, and Zoom meetings with all branch bylaws chairs/presidents/other officers on the need to amend their bylaws. “Coffee and Conversations” on January 10, 2026, also focused on the requirement that branches must change and submit their revised bylaws by June 30, 2026, to reflect changes approved by the AAUW membership in 2023 (Articles I-VII). In addition to amending Articles I-VII, all branches need to look at their branch specific articles. Branch-specific articles that might need to be changed based on the bylaws changes to AAUWMI’s bylaws that were approved at our 2023 annual meeting are as follows:

- Any mention of delegates to the annual meeting will need to be changed. We no longer have delegates, but rather each member in good standing is entitled to vote.
- Any mention of the Convention should note that it is held biennially. The annual meeting, however, is held every year and each member in good standing is entitled to vote if in attendance at the annual meeting. The annual meeting is held during the Convention in even-numbered years and electronically in odd-numbered years.
- Any mention of a specific date when dues are due will need to be changed. AAUW National dues are no longer due by June 30<sup>th</sup> for all members, but rather are due according to a schedule of when a member joins AAUW. Their due date for dues could be any month. A statement that says “Follow AAUW’s schedule” would be appropriate in a branch-specific article if you have an article about dues.

Amendments to branch specific articles must be reviewed by Jan Van Gasse, Bylaws Director, prior to being voted on at the branch annual meeting. After amendment at the annual meeting, branch bylaws should be forwarded to the AAUWMI Bylaws Director. She will submit all amended branch bylaws to National by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

As of March 29<sup>th</sup>, the following branches have completed the process, and their branch bylaws are ready to be sent to National:

1. Adrian/Irish Hills
2. Battle Creek
3. Big Rapids
4. Birmingham
5. Cass City
6. Dearborn

7. Detroit
8. Escanaba
9. Gaylord
10. Grosse Pointe
11. Iron Mountain/Kingsford
12. Jackson
13. Marshall
14. Midland
15. Northville-Nov
16. Plymouth-Canton
17. Rochester
18. Saginaw
19. South Haven
20. Traverse City

The following branches have had their bylaws reviewed and will forward their bylaws to Jan Van Gasse for submission to National after their 2026 annual meeting:

1. Ann Arbor
2. Capitol Area
3. Farmington
4. Ludington
5. Marquette

The following branches are in the process of having their bylaws reviewed by the Bylaws Director:

1. Bay City
2. Port Huron
3. Wyandotte-Downriver

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

## **Public Policy Report**

**AAUWMI Public Policy Director**

**Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

**Ruth Brown**

**Jackson Branch**

**travelgirl4@comcast.net**

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve AAUW of Michigan as your Public Policy Director for the past four years. Being the State Public Policy Director means several responsibilities. First, I represent AAUW of Michigan on the National State Public Policy Director monthly meetings. These meetings are led by Meghan Kissell, Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy who provides a federal update. Interactive discussions ("roundtables") take place with State Public Policy Directors from all over the United States who share what they are working on in their states.

Your AAUWMI Public Policy Director is 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: Karlyn Rapport

South Haven branch: Julie Leavitt

This committee has been meeting monthly focusing on advocacy and updating the Public Policy Playbook. The essence of the Playbook is in the Public Policy resources. AAUWMI Public Policy Priorities are developed by this committee in alignment with AAUW Public Policy Priorities (2025-2027) and approved by the AAUWMI State Board. They can be found in the document following my report.

Committee highlights this year included hosting the November 2025 "Coffee and Conversations" and committee member Julie Leavitt presenting to the counterparts in March 2026 on the South Havens branch voter registration project.

Your AAUWMI Public Policy Director also serves as the liaison between AAUWMI and the Public Policy branch counterparts holding quarterly meetings to answer questions, provide current and relevant information, to help the counterparts do their jobs more efficiently, and to facilitate discussion sharing ideas, best practices, and how to overcome challenges.

Being on the State Board carries many responsibilities of its own such as writing reports and articles, participating in State Board meetings, and serving on State committees. This year I served as the Nominating Committee Chair. If you are ever presented with the opportunity to serve on the State Board, say yes!

For all AAUWMI members who have worked on Public Policy this year, either on the branch or state level, or both, thank you for your efforts because, as you can see, we ARE making a difference, and it is possible to get laws passed that will positively change the lives of women and girls. As I gratefully thank you, I also hope that you have found your work as rewarding as I have

found mine and, if so, that you will "pay it forward" by mentoring a woman coming up behind you because that woman is the future of AAUW.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."  
-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

## AAUW of Michigan Public Policy Principles 2025-2027

AAUW of Michigan is non-partisan but not values-neutral. We fight to remove barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. Public Policy Principles 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, evidence-based, experience driven, inclusive and intersectional.

AAUWMI opposes all forms of discrimination on the basis of age, disability, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, religious beliefs, pregnancy or parental status, or socioeconomic status, and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals.

AAUWMI Public Policy Principles are developed by the AAUWMI Public Policy Committee in alignment with the [National AAUW Public Policy Principles and Priorities \(2025-2027\)](#) and approved by the AAUWMI Board.

**AAUW of Michigan supports the following principles for action on which AAUWMI branches and their members can choose to focus their advocacy efforts.**

### **We Stand for EDUCATION:**

- **Public Education:** Support strong, equitable, high quality public education that serves ALL students. Oppose the use of public funding for non-public schools. Support responsible funding for all levels of education; reduce barriers to completion.
- **Inclusive Curriculum:** Support curriculum that is accurate, science-based, and free of censorship or bias. Support comprehensive and medically accurate sexual health education. Support equal and unfettered access to public information, media, and literature.
- **STEM Opportunities:** Support closing the gender gap in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education and expanding access to vocational and technical training.
- **Strengthen Civil Rights and Title IX Protections:** Support safe learning environments that are free of harassment, bullying, and sexual assault, and protections to prohibit discrimination.
- **Higher Education:** Support affordable, inclusive higher education that yields high-quality credentials or degrees; reduce barriers to completion; and address the student debt burden.

### **We Stand for ECONOMIC SECURITY:**

- **Pay Equity:** Support fairness in compensation by ensuring equal pay for work of equal value through salary transparency, fair wage laws, and anti-discrimination

enforcement. Support programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workplace, including non-traditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship.

- **Caregivers:** Support policies that expand access to paid sick leave, medical leave, affordable child and elder care. Support ante-mortem legislation.
- **Retirement Security:** Support protection and strengthening of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and employment pensions.
- **Health Care:** Support universal access to quality, affordable health care and comprehensive family planning services and abortion care for all women regardless of location.
- **Economic Policies:** Support policies that positively affect all women and the diversity of backgrounds they represent, including level of education, race, ethnicity, age, gender, income and sexual identity.

#### **We Stand for SOCIAL JUSTICE and CIVIL RIGHTS**

- **Constitutional Rights:** Support vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including recognition and publication of the *Equal Rights Amendment*. Support complete, accurate and timely collection of data to inform public policy decisions and the apportionment of political representation.
- **Voting Rights:** Support expanding voting rights to promote equitable political participation and ensuring all Americans have full access and the right to vote.
- **Self-determination:** Support 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.
- **Harassment and Violence:** Support the right to freedom from violence and fear of violence, including domestic and partner violence, hate crimes and gun violence, in homes, schools, workplaces and communities. Support policies to end gender-based violence, including reauthorization of the *Violence Against Women Act*. Support policies that address prevention of human trafficking and protection of its victims.

## State Services Report

**AAUWMI State Services Manager**  
**Fiscal Year 2025-2026**  
**Leah Monger**  
**Big Rapids Branch**  
**stateservices@aauwmi.org**

My report for the past year will once again 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 15, 2026, AAUW has 1296 Facebook followers, an increase of 91 new followers since last year's annual report. Last year, I would have said that we did



*Social media post that performed well on Facebook, but not so much on Instagram and LinkedIn.*



Jeffrey Epstein was keenly interested in science. He invested in the careers of many male scientists and corresponded with them. The 19<sup>th</sup> News has sifted through the Epstein files to reveal how much influence Epstein and his cronies had in excluding women from advancing in STEM careers. The emails reveal pervasive misogyny and sexism within the old boys' club of science.



*Can you find the lone woman in the photo? She was the only woman to attend the International Conference on the Biology of Whales in Virginia in 2010. The same misogyny and gender bias that has always held women back from STEM fields is still alive and well as revealed by correspondence uncovered in the Epstein files.*

*LinkedIn post that went "viral."*

well to have a handful of Facebook posts get 100 views or more each month. In recent months, nearly every Facebook post has received at least 100 views.

Our LinkedIn and Instagram accounts were launched during the 2022 convention, so these two pages are about four years old. The AAUWMI Instagram account currently has 126 followers, an increase of 21 since last year, and LinkedIn has 188 followers, an increase of 84 since a year ago. While these two platforms see less engagement than Facebook, I'm very pleased about the significant increase in followers. We also had our first "viral" post on LinkedIn at the end of February this year. A post about Jeffrey Epstein and misogyny and sexism in the old boys' club of scientific research had 46,854 impressions, 98 reactions, 12 comments, and 11

reports as of April 15. The same post on Facebook garnered only 242 views on Facebook and 31 on Instagram. In contrast, a March 7 post about craftivism in Denmark got 3121 views, 27 shares, and 61 reactions on Facebook, but only 11 impressions on LinkedIn and 26 view on Instagram. The audiences on the three platforms are not the same, and what performs well on one platform will not necessarily do well on the other two.

AAUWMI also has a YouTube channel where we post recordings of Zoom presentations. This year AAUWMI been posting recordings of the monthly series of “Coffee & Conversations” with AAUWMI board members.

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.



[AAUWMI.org](https://www.aauwmi.org)

I also manage the AAUWMI website. 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 2026-2027 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.

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

## **COUNCIL ABOUT PAROCHIAD (CAP) 2025-26 REPORT**

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 coalition of education, child advocacy, faith based, civil liberty organizations, as well as concerned citizens supporting the guarantee of a free public education for all of Michigan. CAP was founded in the 1970s with the mission of educating the public about the risks of granting governmental aid to nonpublic schools in Michigan and is a strong supporter of public education. Because AAUW supports the public funding of public education and supports the separation of church and state, a close tie has existed since the Council was first organized.

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), Shanna Spikard (MEMSPA), Jennifer Smith (MASB), and Kyle Zawacki (ACLU). Meetings are held quarterly on Zoom.

In March 2026 CAP sent a letter to Governor Whitmer urging her to decline to opt Michigan into the Education Freedom Tax Credit, which proposes a nationwide voucher program that would redirect an indeterminate amount of funds from public schools to private schools. Not only is this proposal financially irresponsible and lacks transparency, but it will create major winners and losers in education systems across our state. There are many issues with voucher programs.

Before the November 2026 elections CAP will conduct a Candidate Questionnaire to poll a number of candidates running for political office. The questions asked will ascertain each person's stance on funding for parochial/religious schools. The gubernatorial candidates will be polled before the primaries, and others running for office will be asked to respond after the primaries.

## Announcements and Reminders

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

AAUW National's member election opened on Monday, April 13. Don't miss your opportunity to vote on AAUW Board of Directors candidates. 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 12 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 16, branch leaders should have received an email notification from Tremayne Parquet that the **FY26 Branch and Affiliate Annual Report** (formerly known as the Annual Branch Survey) is open through June 30. For full context on this year's new reporting process, financial documentation, Five Star criteria, available resources, and the updated FAQ, please visit the [AAUW Five Star Program page](#). AAUW suggests that you review the [report questions](#) before getting started, and check back for additional resources that may be added based on member feedback.

**Applications are currently open for AAUW National Committees through May 6.** Serving on a national committee is a meaningful way to contribute your expertise, help shape AAUW's priorities and advance the mission, and collaborate with members across the country.

How to apply:

- Submit your [application](#).
- Learn more about each committee's [charter and responsibilities](#).

When preparing your application, please:

- 1) Review the committee charter carefully and use it as a guide when answering application questions.
- 2) Submit a separate application for each committee you are applying to.
- 3) Tailor your resume to highlight relevant experience for each committee and upload it with your application.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [baxterc@aauw.org](mailto:baxterc@aauw.org).

Notice to branch financial officers—**AAUW can file your branch's 990-N for the tax year ending 6/30/2025 if your branch's gross receipts are \$50,000 or less.** Submit the group exemption by October 15.

Notice to branch presidents—**Please update your officers for 2026-2027 in the Community Hub by June 30.** [Email State Services Manager Leah Monger](#) if you need assistance.



Rochester donation, June



AAUWMI Women's Equality Day Event, August

# The Year in Pictures

## 2025-2026



Midland branch book sale, September



Big Rapids candidate forum, September

**AAUW MONROE Presents...**

**Leah Litman**  
LAWLESS

**Book Signing & Lecture**  
Tuesday, September 9, 2025  
at 6:30 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm)

Monroe County Community College  
Weyer Theater Auditorium  
Located inside of the Center  
3001 S. Acworth Rd., Monroe, MI 48136

**Supporter/Member**  
\$10 per person  
Cash, check, American Express, Visa, Mastercard  
Book available for purchase after  
lecture in lecture hall  
Event Reservations:  
481-336-5500 ext. 3000, M-F 9AM-5PM  
www.monroecommunitycollege.edu

For more information contact: [jeanne.monroe@aaupl.com](mailto:jeanne.monroe@aaupl.com)

Monroe book event, September



Cass City branch meeting with guest speakers, October

**AAUW**  
American Association of University Women - Michigan  
Since 1916

**72nd Annual  
USED BOOK SALE**  
October 3-5, 2025

Preserving Literacy • Local Educational Programs • Leadership

<b>Friday, Oct. 3</b> 9am-7pm Early Entry 9-11am	<b>Saturday, Oct. 4</b> 9am-5pm All books are 1/2 off	<b>Sunday, Oct. 5</b> 9am-5pm 2 bags for \$10
Free Sign Free Admission	Sign-Up Starts Free Admission	Sign-Up Free Admission

Located at  
**THE DEARBORN ICE SKATING CENTER (DISC)**  
44500 Ford Rd., Dearborn, MI 48124  
Second floor

\*Including: Nonprofit/charitable books, Native children's, craft projects and many more categories!  
\*AAUW Empowering Women Merchandise  
\*Book Art Cards

All book profits are donated  
\*Member: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)  
\*Event: [www.aauw.org/usedbooksale](http://www.aauw.org/usedbooksale)

AAUW Dearborn is a 501(c)(3) public charity.

Dearborn book sale, October



Battle Creek members at the Rededication of "Hope," October



Northville-Novri 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration with mayors of both cities, October



Northville-Novri members at the Purple Rose Theater in Chelsea, November



Midland meeting, December



Midland hard hat tour of the Midland Center for the Arts, December



Plymouth-Canton theatrical production, February



Big Rapids sponsored concert featuring *Venus Envy* for Big Rapids Festival of the Arts, February



Marquette display at NMU Gender Fair, March



Grosse Pointe Women's Day celebration, March



Rochester meeting with costume show from local theater costume shop, March



Birmingham members volunteer for Forgotten Harvest, March



Gaylord celebrates their 2026 Woman Making History awardee, March



Pattie Rayl, Jackson, delivers information to state legislators, Equal Pay Day, March



Northville-Novii library display for Women's History Month, March



Saginaw fundraiser for scholarships, April



Big Rapids book sale, April

