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Recording Secretary	Laurie Lotter

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Membership Book	Laurie Lotter
Newsletter	Laurie Lotter
Publicity	Allison Peters
Public Policy	Karlyn Rapport
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University Relations NMU	OPEN
Website	Laurie Lotter

**AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls
through research, education, and advocacy.**

Website: <http://marquette-mi.aauw.net>

Facebook: [AAUW Marquette Branch](#)

Program Information**Connecting Local to National**

On **Thursday, October 8, at 7:00pm**, our meeting will feature a past president of Florida's AAUW and current Northern Michigan University Assistant Vice President of Opportunity, Empowerment and People (OEP), Dr. Shawnrece Butler. She will be

presenting her experiences engaging with national AAUW, including providing scholarships and funding NCCWSL as a recruitment and sustainability strategy. Following the presentation, there will be a discussion panel on how our branch can incorporate these strategies. This program supports all three of the AAUW Policy Principles, investing in women, educating women, and creating a strong network of women.

Ellen Koski
Programming Vice-President

But Wait, There's More!

Our Democracy is hanging by a thread and we can make a difference! At the **October 8** meeting, there will be an opportunity to participate in a Get Out the Vote activity.



We will have postcards from [Signs of Justice](#) that have been created to encourage more voters in swing states to participate in these mid-term elections. The process is simple and handwritten notes have been shown to be effective. Post cards, stamps, and a list of voter names and addresses from swing states will be provided. Do what you can to get out the vote!

Karlyn Rapport, Public Policy Chair
Laurie Lotter, Recording Secretary



Upcoming Events

October 1	Book Club	<i>Mona's Eyes</i>
October 6	Latina Equal Pay Day	
October 8	Program	Connecting Marquette AAUW to National AAUW
October 19	Election	Last day to register to vote
October 24	Election	Early voting begins
October 29	Board Meeting	To join in the discussion, contact Laurie Lotter
November 3	ELECTION DAY!	VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! (If you have not voted already)
November 5	Book Club	<i>Last Rites</i> , by Ozzy Osbourne

President's Report

Greetings to Marquette Branch AAUW members!!! Your board members have been very busy behind the scenes, and several things are being done. I won't mention all of them here; they are elsewhere in this newsletter. Please take the time to read about what we are doing for and with you!

I hope that you will be able to attend our next meeting on **Thursday night, October 8, 7:00 pm** in the Clubhouse. We have some special things occurring, including distributing Blue Books to members who didn't pick them up last month. Karlyn Rapport and Laurie Lotter have done a lot of work so that we have materials to use for the meeting, asking all attending members to take a few minutes to address and write postcards to voters who have not participated in midterm elections recently, encouraging them to "get out and vote." This is nonpartisan, will improve turnout (as research shows this type of effort does get results), and will earn our branch a star for the area of Public Policy! Our scheduled speaker, Shawnrece Bulter, has some excellent ideas for our chapter---be there!!

I hope to see you at the October branch meeting. Remember, if you need a ride, you can call Pat Pellett at (906) 250-5392.

Carol Steinhaus, President

Public Policy

Take a deep breath.



The One Big Beautiful Bill Act is taking a hit on student loan borrowers. AAUW is part of a coalition of 89 organizations urging Congress to convene an emergency hearing to protect borrowers and hold the U.S.

Department of Education and its student loan services accountable. *Under the One Big Beautiful Bill the federal financial aid system suffered unprecedented cuts.* Students have fewer federal resources to finance higher ed; student loan bills are out of sight. There are fewer affordable repayment options.

The affordability crisis makes matters worse. Delinquency rates are rising. The US Department of Education terminated the SAVE repayment plan. *The total number of student borrowers in distress could reach 17 million.* Their credit score could decrease 57 points, making it harder to access affordable credit, secure employment or housing.

The information sent from the Education Department and services had been confusing and contradictory. *The administration dismantled the Consumer Financial Protection bureau and the U.S Department of Education.* The student loan services used to help borrowers manage their student loans.

The coalition urged Congress to convene an emergency hearing to hold the administration accountable, asking them to protect Americans struggling with student loan debt. Good luck with this request. **Congress is leaving town on Oct 4.** This is a nightmare in progress. Sorry to be the bearer of sad tidings.

Karlyn Rapport
Public Policy Chair

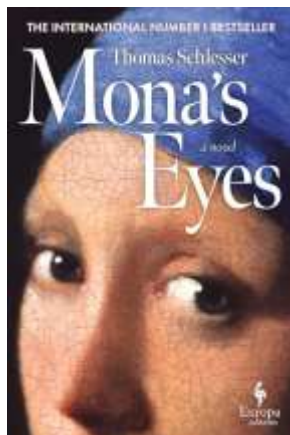


AAUWMI Action Alert is AAUW of Michigan's new advocacy tool to alert our membership and public policy allies to take quick action on important pending legislation in the state of Michigan. Instead of searching for email addresses for your elected officials or writing your own message, you can sign an AAUWMI-drafted petition and send it to your representatives in under a minute!

AAUWMI Action Alert uses the Resistbot platform. AAUW of California also uses Resistbot for its advocacy alerts. Resistbot is a simple, free tool that helps people contact their elected officials by sending text messages. It is an automated assistant that replies instantly with clear instructions when you text it. Download the AAUWMI Action Alert Guide by clicking the first button below.

**Download the AAUWMI
Action Alert Guide**

Book Group Reads...



The AAUW Book Group is working on our second book, and we are currently reading *Mona's Eyes* by Thomas Schlessler for our October 1st discussion at 12:30pm at Margie West's home. Beverly Matherne is preparing a visual presentation to accompany our discussion of this delightful, educational book.

For something more contemporary, join us next month for our discussion of *Last Rites* by Ozzy Osbourne on November 5th. We happily welcome new members, new perspectives, new opinions! Contact Karen Rudisill (karen.rudisill@gmail.com) for more info.

Karen Rudisill
Book Group Chair



Protect Our Constitution from Special Interests and Lansing Politicians

[Click to read AAUW Michigan Notice on this proposal](#)

It's a Good Start



Pat Pellett's garage is very full!

Renee Leow has been busy picking up books for the Spring Book Sale. Four estates have been liquidated of their books, with two of those estates counting for 75% of the book-filled boxes seen here. So, check those local garage sales and Facebook Marketplace to see if anyone is willing to donate their used books to a good cause! If you know of someone that has a substantial collection to donate, contact Renee (906-250-5503) to see if someone is available to pick up.

Laurie Lotter
Recording Secretary
and Book Sale Volunteer

Notes from the AAUW Fall Gathering

The three strategic priorities were discussed during a September 17 Zoom webinar.

1. Funding Higher Education

Through its Investing in Women initiative, AAUW has awarded more than 240 scholarships and fellowships totaling \$6.1 million. Branch grants are available for STEM projects. As education funding becomes harder to secure, STEM support for women and girls is increasingly important.

2. Removing Barriers to Success in Education and the Workplace

Civil rights remain especially challenging. AAUW is working to keep Title IX central as the departments handling these cases are dismantled and more claims are denied. As of September 2026, more than 90% of Title IX cases are routinely dismissed. AAUW will launch a branch advocacy toolkit on this issue.

Women's economic barriers have improved only slightly, with wages up 3% overall, but the increase is limited to young Caucasian women. Black and brown women continue to lose ground, while older women's wages remain flat. Equal pay remains distant. A new *Simple Truth* wage report, due in January, will support 2027 Equal Pay advocacy.

3. Creating Strong Branches

Members have said, "The mission is my passion. AAUW is my megaphone, my voice," and "National AAUW brings scale to the advocacy equation, while State and Local branches bring relationship." The 5-star Program was created to strengthen AAUW's network and measure its impact; it has grown exponentially since 2024.

National AAUW recommends this cycle to grow branch membership:

Join Collaborate with organizations that share similar goals.

Give Set branch giving goals; currently, 1 in 5 members donates to the mission.

Act Use your voice.

Learn Participate in activities and pursue grants.

Share Spread the word.

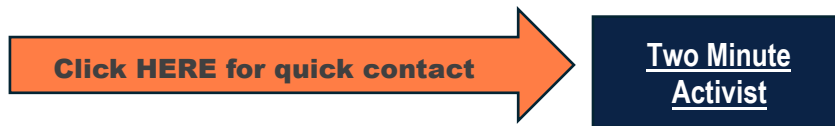


Laurie Lotter

Recording Secretary

Do 1 thing every day...

Women are facing tougher times ahead due to the policies of the current administration. In times like these, the best thing we can do is stand up. Doing nothing is not an option any longer and we MUST make ourselves heard. If each one of us stands, we cannot be ignored. Make yourself heard by contacting our representatives!



Legislator	Phone	Email
U.S. Senator Gary Peters	(202) 224-6221	Senator@peters.senate.gov
U.S. Senator Elisa Slotkin	(202) 224-4822	slotkin.senate.gov/
U.S. Rep Jack Bergman	(202) 225-4735	Bergman.constituent@mail.house.gov
MI Senator Ed McBroom	(517) 373-7840	senemcbroom@senate.michigan.gov
MI Rep Karl Bohnak	(517) 373-0498	KarlBohnak@house.mi.gov

Not Receiving AAUW newsletters or AAUWMI emails?

Keeping up with women's issues within our nation and state can be exhausting. Let national AAUW and AAUW Michigan help! They will notify you of any ongoing or urgent need within the organization that is currently being addressed by US Congress and State of Michigan Congress.

If a member is not receiving AAUW emails, they should check the email address in their Community Hub member record to make sure it is correct. Contact State Services Manager **Leah Monger** if you need help. Someone who isn't receiving AAUW emails and whose email address is correct in the Hub should update their AAUW email subscription through this **resubscribe link**.

If anyone in your branch isn't receiving AAUWMI emails, please ask them to submit this **form** to resubscribe.



**Please provide your email address to update your
AAUW subscription status**

To securely access your information, please provide the email address you have listed with us to receive a link that provides one-time access to your account.

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**Resubscribe to AAUW of Michigan
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