
MAY Annual Meeting

MEETING LOCATION

Kopernick Tech Center located just east of I-275 on Kopernick Rd.

The Tech Center is comprised of 2 buildings. We will be located in the southeast corner of the southern-most building. Look for the entrance to BeckRidge Productions.

Maps are on a separate pdf file. If you need assistance getting to the meeting, call someone on the Board for a ride.

Board of Directors

President – Mickey Edell	981-6770
Program VP – Dawn Parker	207-5596
Co-Membership VP – Diana Wilcox	591-2597
& Shirley Zaetta	455-6366
Finance VP -- MaryBeth Chmielewski	673-0890
Corresponding VP – Esther Nelson	981-4938
Recording VP – Kathy Kish	550-6808

Thursday, May 19
at 6:30 a.m.

Our Annual Branch Meeting will be on Thursday, May 19th at the Kopernick Tech Center.

We will have a salad supper at 6:30 PM, followed by a Reader's Theater on Famous Women Writers in History, performed by our very own members, under the direction of Sharon Belobraidich!

We will also elect and install our new officers for the 2016-2017 AAUW year. See the board's nominations on page two; nominations can be made from the floor.

Plan to pay \$8 for this wonderful supper. I hope you will be able to join us, as we wrap up the year together.

Dawn Parker

Menu for May Branch Meeting

A Sampling of Salads:

Hudson's Maurice Salad
Potato Salad
Spring Greek Pasta Salad
Seven Layer Salad
Spinach and Strawberry Salad

Extras:

Blueberry Lemon Bread
Rolls and Butter

Key Lime Squares
Hummingbird Sheet Cake

President's "Post"

The beauty of winter is that it makes you appreciate spring. Isn't that the truth, especially in Michigan? And what an uplifting time of year it is with azure skies, burgeoning blossoms, and warming weather. For AAUW of Michigan spring is also the time of year our annual convention is held. Our theme was **Members in Action**, and we gathered at the Somerset Inn in Troy. Mickey Edell, Sharon Belobraidich, and Helene Lusa were all able to attend. It was a time for reconnecting with friends and networking, hearing national AAUW's message from Christy Jones, Membership Vice-President, being energized by Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence, and then educated about the ERA three state strategy, Title IX and campus safety, GOTV, the AAUW of Michigan new lobby corps, and pending legislation that impacts women and girls. Plymouth-Canton was one of sixteen branches that received the "Our Mission Matters" Award. This honor is given to branches that continue to move the AAUW mission forward. This event leaves me feeling energized and even more committed to promoting equity for all women and girls.



The Equal Pay Day event held in Lansing on April 12th was another success. About ninety people attended the Issues Briefing in the morning and the rally on the Capitol steps, which followed. The "sea of red" was inspiring but also discouraging, since the "red" continues to signify the inequity in pay that women experience. Right now there are 11 bills that have been introduced in Michigan to address this issue, but they are all still sitting in committees. It is imperative that we call or email our state senators and representatives to encourage them to move this legislation. What a travesty that this situation still exists. It must be rectified!

It has been my privilege to serve as branch president, once again. Gratitude and kudos to all of the board members for their commitment and dedication to our branch. And many thanks to all of our members, who continue their efforts to make a difference for women and girls. I hope to see all of you at our May meeting.

- Mickey

May Election – Slate of Officers

The Board is pleased to present the following candidates:

President: Helene Lusa

Recording Secretary: Gail Conte

Corresponding Secretary: Marie Mack

Spring Luncheon Review

It was wonderful to see so many of our AAUW members and their guests at our Spring Luncheon held at La Bistecca Italian Grille in Plymouth on Saturday, April 16, 2016. The owners and staff of the restaurant were so friendly and accommodating, right down to the bud vases of flowers on each table! The food was delicious and the company terrific! We were fortunate to have Rebecca Green, independent film producer join us as our guest speaker. Rebecca talked about her chosen career path and of the challenges when working in film production. Her two films, which won awards at the Sundance Film Festival are an Indie horror film, "It Follows," which was set in Detroit and "I'll See You in My Dreams," starring Blythe Danner.



Program Ideas

We get many of our best program ideas from our very own members. Please contact me (DSP626@aol.com or 734-207-5596) if you have a topic that you feel would interest our members in the next year. I would welcome your input.

Thank you, Dawn Parker, Program V.P.

A Gentle Reminder

To subsidize our scholarship funds, we are asking that each branch member consider a \$25 donation, although any amount will be appreciated. This is in lieu of a fundraiser, which takes time, energy, and member involvement. You may make your check payable to Plymouth-Canton AAUW and send to MaryBeth Chmielewski, 7627 Melvin Ave., Westland 48185. Thank you for your generosity!

Membership News!

Thank-you to all of you who helped update our directory by responding to the membership survey. We appreciate your help! Sue Sayers will have all the updates for the directory she is preparing for September. We will be mailing membership renewal forms to all members in the spring. Membership dues will be \$71.00. We hope to see you in May at the branch meeting. Have a great summer! See you in September.

Shirley Zaetta
Diana Wilcox

Plymouth-Canton sends their eighth student to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

Anjali Martin is our candidate for NCCWSL this spring. Anjali is graduating from Eastern Michigan University in May. Her major is International Affairs. She has three minors, Music Performance, International Business, and French Language. Ms. Martin graduates with honors. Anjali is the Student Body Vice President. Anjali is a wonderful candidate for the leadership conference. Some of you may have met Anjali when she spoke at our March branch meeting. Anjali hopes to improve education access for girls around the world. What a wonderful career goal!

LUNCHEON AT SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

On April 26, 2016 a group of branch members traveled to Schoolcraft College for lunch at the American Harvest Restaurant. We had been invited there by the President of the Schoolcraft College Foundation Board, Elizabeth Johnson, as a thank you to our branch for all we do for women. She and Mary Holaly, the Scholarship Coordinator took us on a short tour of the culinary arts department where we met the head chef. We were served a delicious luncheon with desserts that were out of this world. We were also given a short history of Schoolcraft College, how it began and how it has grown in the last 40 years. Elizabeth's mother, Jane Moehle, was a member of our branch many years ago and was one of the founders of Schoolcraft College. We, as a community, are fortunate to have such a fine local institution which serves almost 20,000 students. The culinary program is one of the finest in the world. I thank all of you who were able to join us to share in this wonderful experience. It was fun and we did a lot of laughing. Remember, "Laughter is good for the soul". **Sharon Belobraidich**



Public Policy Report

Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership

AAUW has just recently released their newest research entitled *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership*. Women are much less likely than men to be in leadership positions. However, women are not new to leadership. Just think of Cleopatra, Queen Elizabeth, and Indira Gandhi. Also, the women who led the civil rights and education reform movements. But women are still outnumbered by men in the most prestigious positions from Capitol Hill to the board room. *Barriers and Bias* examines the causes of underrepresentation in leadership roles in business, politics, and education and suggests that we can change the status quo.

Some Appalling Statistics

- U.S. state legislators are 75% men and 25% women, including 5% women of color.
- The gap is even worse in the U.S. Congress. In 2016 19% of our legislators are women.
- There are only six U.S. governors that are women, including two women of color.
- Executives by race and gender: 63% are white men, 24% are white women, 2% are black women, 1% are Hispanic women, and 1% are Asian American women.

Why Should We Care about Having More Women Leaders?

- It's good for both men and women to challenge ideas about gender roles. Just as the status quo is holding women back from leadership roles, it is holding men back from caretaking and support roles.
- It's good for families whether they rely on women as the sole breadwinners or have a two-earner income.
- It's good for business to draw on the creativity of a diverse staff and recognize the purchasing power of women.
- It's good for the country because the more diverse the pool, the more talented our leaders will be.

To find out what you can do to close the gap visit national AAUW at aauw.org.

Mickey Edell, Public Policy Director



Dorothy Grant received letters from Schoolcraft College regarding this past year's scholarships. This, in part, is the thank you letter from Beth Kohler, the Director of Development.

Dear Ms. Grant:

Your support of Schoolcraft College and the students it serves is very much appreciated. The Schoolcraft College Foundation has been able to award more than 300 scholarships to date to deserving students for the 2015-2016 academic year. This is due in large part to the assistance and valuable resources provided by the American Association of University Women Plymouth-Canton Scholarship and the Jane K. & John W. Moehle Memorial Endowment.

In addition, recipients sent letters which will be available to read at the May meeting.

Laura B. plans to obtain a certificate in Medical Coding and an Associate degree in Health Information Technology. After her husband sustained an injury and she had a difficult pregnancy, Laura realized that going back to school is an investment in her family's future. She intends to continue working toward a nursing degree.

Allie D. is currently working as a registered dental assistant. Helping patients is very rewarding to her. Her goal is to complete prerequisite courses, then attend Oakland Community College to become a dental hygienist. She looks forward to helping and educating patients to an even greater degree than she does now, and to being financially independent.



Here to help

a play director (or co-directors). This year's play will be Cinderella. Work on scripts, try-outs, and costumes begins in the early fall. If being a director is one of your talents, please consider this year's play.

As we move into late spring and summer, give a thought to your role in our AAUW branch. Our new president will be counting on members to step forward and fill open positions. Serving on the board is only a little extra time and work, with rewards of being 'in on' the operation of the branch and building friendships. Right now we are especially looking for



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