

Meetings will be held at the Koppernick Tech Center, located just east of I-275 on Koppernick 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.

**Board of Directors**

Helene Lusa, President	421-6408
Dawn Parker, Program VP	207-5596
Diana Wilcox, Co-Membership VP	591-2597
Shirley Zaetta, Co-Membership VP	455-6366
MaryBeth Chmielewski, Finance VP	673-0890
Gail Conte, Recording VP	674-2829
Marie Mack, Correspondence VP	427-3552

## *May Branch Meeting*

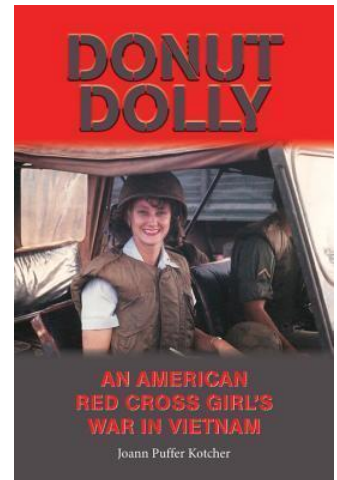
*Thursday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m.*

Please join us for the last Branch meeting of the 2016-17 year. We'll be meeting at 6:30 PM for a light salad supper, with our program beginning about 7:15 p.m.

Our program focus this year has been on "Women in Leadership Roles." Our guest speaker truly fits into this category! We will welcome author, Joann Puffer Kotcher, also known as "Donut Dolly."

Mrs. Kotcher was a former math teacher at the explosive beginnings of the Viet Nam War and was one of the first women to serve in a combat zone. She has written a historically accurate, award winning book, An American Red Cross Girls' War in Vietnam,

about her experiences far from home, as a Red Cross Donut Dolly. She intertwines her personal life with her compassion for soldiers, demonstrating courage and bravery on the front lines. Mrs. Kotcher will bring copies of her book to sell. The cost is \$25.00 and part of the proceeds will be donated to Veterans' charities.



Following our program, we will have a business meeting, and the voting and installation of new Board officers for 2017-18. I am looking forward to seeing you. Dawn Parker, Program VP

Join us for supper provided by Mickey Edell. Plan to pay \$8.00.

**Cobb Salad**  
**Jambalaya Rice Salad**

**Michigan Cherry Salad**  
**Greek Orzo Salad**

**Poppy Seed Cheese Bread**

**Banana Pudding Trifle**  
**Strawberry Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting**



## *From the President:*

Many of us can remember significant times in history that were also defining moments during our lives. The Vietnam War was one of those for me. The events of this particular war hit close to home as the war occurred while I was in college and when I started teaching. The draft, deferments, and unfortunately, fatalities, were part of the regular conversation. My first cousin, Robert J. Miller, was killed by a sniper in Vietnam and his name is on the Wall. So, I will be listening intently to this month's speaker, Donut Dolly. She will share her experiences as a nurse during the Vietnam War. She has also written a book about her experiences, and it will be available for sale.

The May meeting will also feature the election and installation of the new officers. Please join me in welcoming Lori Demski, Barbara McKane, Dawn Parker, Kathy Kish and Laurie Kempisty to new leadership roles in our branch. We also thank Mary Beth Chmielewski, Diana Wilcox, Shirley Zaetta, and Dawn Parker for their service over the last two years.

Chef Mickey has returned so we will enjoy a light salad dinner. The cost for dinner is \$8.00. We told Mickey that it took about eight of us to replace her in March!! See you there for an evening of good food, good friends, and interesting information.

Helene

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## **Election of Officers**

The Board presents this slate of officers:

Vice President of Finances – Lori Demski

Co-Vice Presidents of Program – Kathy Kish and Laurie Kempisty

Co-Vice Presidents of Membership – Barbara McKane and Dawn Parker

It is time to renew your membership – dues are \$71.00.

As you renew your membership, please consider how you can support the branch – your presence at meetings, work on the play or other projects, sharing ideas for speakers or fund-raisers. All these things make our branch stronger.



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## *National Conference for College women Student Leaders*

Our Plymouth-Canton branch has an excellent candidate for the NCCWSL leadership conference – Kirsten Kempisty.

Kirsten is a sophomore at Michigan State University majoring in Psychology. Her career goal is to be school counselor. Kirsten is active in many student clubs including French, recycling, psychology and Lions International. We are proud to be sending Kirsten Kempisty to the leadership conference.

Kirsten is Laurie Kempisty's daughter! Congratulations Kirsten!

Diana Wilcox [Diana\\_Wilcox@att.net](mailto:Diana_Wilcox@att.net) Membership Vice-President

## Book Beat May 2017

*By Dorothy Grant*



Everyone's Reading: *Once in a Great City: A Detroit Story*. This is a community wide reading program sponsored by metro Detroit public libraries. The program is to promote community dialogue through the shared experience of reading and discussing the same book. I think this book would be of interest to many in our AAUW branch since it deals with Detroit and a look at a few pivotal years in the history of our neighboring city. The author is David Maraniss who was born in NW Detroit and lived there until the age of 7.

How he came to write this book is an interesting story in itself. This Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist describes the people, politics and culture of Detroit at the height of its prosperity in the early 1960s. He writes about the Civil rights Movement, the rise of Motown, the development of the Mustang car, the Mafia, the deep-seated racial tensions and the visionary leaders of the time. Recommended for all with an interest in how we came to this point in the history of this city and with hope for the future.



## CINDERELLA

Our Cinderella play was a huge success this year with many wonderful comments from the audience on their way out.

Our group is fortunate to have so many wonderful women who work (and "play" 😊 ) together so well. It made for a great experience for Laurie and Kathy as directors! Also, we need to credit our expert helpers with the sets, ushering as well as our great cooks!



We made about the same amount of profit as last year which will go for more scholarships in the area!



# Human Trafficking Issue Update

After following this issue for several years, I find I can update you on some good news. This is because there seems to finally be more awareness of the problem than ever before. Credit goes to the groups that have arisen to deal with the issue, new legislation around this crime being enacted, & the media's part in focusing on & disseminating information. **Pearls of Great Price Coalition** is one of these groups. It is a grassroots Christian coalition in Wayne & Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, working together to fight against human trafficking. Their focus is threefold: **Awareness-Education-Action**. According to this coalition "human trafficking is a heinous sin that has crept into our midst while we had our heads buried in the sand...we definitely didn't consider it a problem in our own backyard... until now". Human trafficking is the third largest criminal enterprise in the world behind selling illegal guns & selling drugs (Dept. of Homeland Security.) On average, girls are usually trafficked at age 12-14, for boys & transgender youth it's 11 to 13. (fbi.gov)... "online human trafficking often involves child porn". (Michigan Senator Judy Emmons). A day long educational event sponsored by this group will be held in Canton on Friday May 12 with speakers from the FBI, the Attorney General's office, anti-porn experts, a survivor & more. For more information please contact Pastor Carrie Wood stopHT [now@yahoo.com](mailto:now@yahoo.com)

**May 25 National Missing Children Day:** You can draw attention to this day by sending an email blast to everyone on your list publicizing this day, including website information for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. [www.Missingkids.com](http://www.Missingkids.com)

**Blue Campaign** (one voice, one mission, end human trafficking) is another group working to raise awareness & fight this blight. Trafficking is "modern-day slavery that involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Millions of men, women, & children are trafficked into forced labor situations & into the sex trade worldwide".

**S.O.A.P.** (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution) founded by author, advocate, & survivor, Theresa Flores is another group attacking this problem. Their mission is to rescue victims, provide victims a number to call for help, educate motel & hotels on the signs of trafficking & mobilize volunteers on an outreach. They are sponsoring a "soaping day" to learn more about human trafficking by labeling bars of soap with the national human trafficking hotline to be distributed to local hotels prior to highly populated events such as the Ann Arbor Art Fair & Woodward Dream Cruise. For more information visit their website at [www.traffickfree.com](http://www.traffickfree.com)

"Nefarious" is a Telly Award winning, American documentary on modern Human Trafficking , specifically sexual slavery, presented from a Christian worldview being shown around town.

If you suspect that a person may be a victim of human trafficking, please call the Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) tip-line 1-866-347-2423. You can also report online at [www.ice.gov/tips](http://www.ice.gov/tips) or call the National Human trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-3737-888

Compiled by Dorothy Grant, AAUW International chair.



# AAUW: WHAT WE DO

## Revisiting Title IX 45 Years Later

“Forty five years ago Rep. Patsy Mink led the charge to Congress to pass Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. With the bill’s passage on June 23, 1972 the nation moved forward in striving to ensure equal opportunity in education for all students regardless of sex. Although Title IX faces challenges as the Trump administration sets its agenda, AAUW continues to advocate full enforcement, implementation, and funding of this comprehensive federal law.” This is the lead paragraph in the latest issue of *Outlook*.

Tremendous progress has been made due to Title IX but challenges still exist to equality in education. Women are still underrepresented in the STEM fields. Pregnant and parenting students are subjected to discriminatory policies that impede their educational goals. Sexual harassment is still an issue for students at all levels. Both women and men continue to be victims of sexual assault on college and university campuses. In 2016 the Office of Civil Rights released guidance to schools on how Title IX protects transgender students. President Trump decided to rescind the federal guidelines related to these students’ civil rights protections. This could leave them vulnerable and raises more questions for schools as how to best comply.

Over the years Title IX has assisted girls and women in making strides in education and sports and also to succeed in areas that were once considered off limits. However, we must remain watchful and aware to make sure that this law is robustly implemented and continues to provide protections for all students.



## Proposed 2017-19 AAUW Public Policy Program

As you ponder your voting choices for the 2017 AAUW National Election, please be sure to peruse the proposed Public Policy Program, which is delineated in the latest issue of the *Outlook*. This program is adopted every two years by every-member vote. It establishes the federal action priorities on which AAUW members across the country focus their advocacy efforts.

Mickey Edell, Public Policy Director



## Behind the Scenes



## Progressive Women's Caucus 2017 Pay Equity Bills

Pay equity is a simple idea. It simply means that two people who have the same background, do the same or similar job and produce the same results should get the same pay. It's a matter of fairness, but for too long, it hasn't been a reality for working women.

Policies that protect equal pay are important for everyone, but wage discrimination disproportionality impacts women in Michigan. According to wage data released by the National Partnership for Women and Families<sup>1</sup>, a typical Michigan woman earns 74 cents for every dollar earned by a typical Michigan man when both have a similar education and experience level. The difference equates to an annual earning deficit of \$12,993 for full-time working women. The gap between men's and women's earnings is even greater for African-American and Hispanic women, who earn 64 cents and 57 cents to each dollar earned by a man, respectively.

In Michigan, nearly 476,000 family households are headed by women and about 33 percent of those families have incomes that fall below the poverty level. Lost income due to wage discrimination means less money for women and their families, less money to spend on goods and services, and less money to save and invest for the future. Pay equity matters not just to women, but to their families and our state's economy as a whole.

To that end the Progressive Women's Caucus has crafted a package of bills intended to combat wage discrimination in Michigan.

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The Progressive Women's Caucus is a nonprofit membership organization that brings together policymakers, individuals, and stakeholders to work on issues of importance to Michigan women and families. Our mission is to encourage greater participation of women in shaping public policy through education and advocacy, and establish a network for sharing information about policies and legislation affecting women in Michigan. Learn more at [miprogressivewomen.com](http://miprogressivewomen.com).



## 2017 Pay Equity Bills

### Introduced April 20, 2017, Michigan House of Representatives

BILL REQUEST NUMBER	SPONSOR	BILL DESCRIPTION
HB4509 of 2017	Love	This bill amends the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to create a commission on pay equity within the Department of Civil Rights. This is a reintroduction of HB 4486.
HB 4510 of 2017	Geiss	This bill amends the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to increase damages for unequal pay and specifies that the statute of limitations starts from the time an employee learns about the disparity in pay.
HB 4511 of 2017	Geiss	The bill amends the Payment of Wages and Fringe Benefits Act to require, upon request from an employee, for an employer to disclose wage information for similarly situated employees. It is a reintroduction of HB 4483.
HB 4512 of 2017	Brinks	This bill amends the Workforce Opportunity Act to expand the prohibition of discriminations to include not only sex, but also religion, race, color, national origin, age, height, weight, or marital status and allows for remedies under the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. The bill is a reintroduction of HB 4491 and HB 4492 combined.
HB 4513 of 2017	Faris	The bill amends the Michigan Penal Code to establish penalties for equal pay non-compliance. It is a reintroduction of HB 4484.
HB 4514 of 2017	Pagan	This bill amends the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to require employers to post and inform employees of equal pay laws as well as establishes a complaint tip line and website reporting and allows for anonymous reporting. This is a reintroduction of HB 4489 and HB 4525 combined.
HB 4515 of 2017	Greig	This bill amends the Bullard-Plawecki Employee Right to Know Act to require employers with more than 5 full-time employees to have job descriptions and include a pay scale, if applicable. It is a reintroduction of HB 4515.
HB 4516 of 2017	Greig	This bill amends the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to prevent an employer from inquiring about past compensation during the application or hiring process.
HB 4517 of 2017	Guerra	This bill amends the Full Employment Planning Act to include an annual report of current and projected pay differentials for similarly employed individuals in both the public and private sectors. This is a reintroduction of HB 4490.
HB 4518 of 2017	Lasinski	The bill creates a new act called the Pay Equity in the Workplace Award Program Act and establishes employer incentive awards programs for equal pay. It is a reintroduction on HB 4485.
HB 4519 of 2017	K. Hertel	This bill amends the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to establish equal pay certificates for state contractors. It is a reintroduction of HB 4488.
HB 4520 of 2017	Love	This bill amends the Employee Protection Act to require an employer provide notice at least 1 pay period or 10 business days, whichever is greater, when an employer is required to deduct wages due to a default judgment. This is a reintroduction of HB 4723.
HR 55	Pagan	A resolution declaring April 4, 2017 as Equal Pay Day in Michigan.

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/workplace-fairness/fair-pay/4-2017-mi-wage-gap.pdf>