American Association of University Women

Catalyst

Plymouth-Canton Branch September 2017

Volume LXV

Issue 4

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

Laurie Kempisty,

Co-Program VP 248-615-1412

Kathy Kish,

Co-Program VP 550-6808

Barbara McKane

Co-Membership VP 359-7229

Dawn Parker

Co-Membership VP 207-5596

Lori Demski

Finance VP 765-8438

Gail Conte,

Recording VP 674-2829

Marie Mack,

Correspondence VP 427-3552

Sept Branch Meeting

7hursday, September 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Please join us for the Branch meeting

This month's guest speaker will be our NCCWSL participant, Kirsten Kempisty.

After her inspiring trip to meet and greet many talented women, she will be here to tell us about her experiences from the bus, to the sessions, and to Washington D.C.

We hope to see you there to hear a MSU junior/psychology major's perspective of our society today!

Also, the board will be providing salads and desserts at this month's meeting. There will be no charge. As always, please bring a friend!

Membershíp renewal:

Did you renew your membership? Please send your check to Lori Demski at 1301 Schuman, Garden City MI 48135. Regular membership is \$71 payable to Plymouth-Canton AAUW.

From the President:

Back in the day, it used to be pretty routine for students returning to school in September to be asked to write on the topic, "How I Spent My Summer Vacation." While I won't bore you with my summer, I will invite you to hear Kirsten Kempisty talk about how she spent part of her summer vacation. The Plymouth-Canton AAUW branch is proud to have sponsored Kristen's attendance at the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders in Washington, DC.



Kirsten is the daughter of member and Program Vice-President Co-Chair Laurie Kempisty, and she will be our featured speaker at the September 21st meeting. Please join us for a light dinner of salads and desserts at 6:30 pm at the BeckRidge Productions to catch-up with friends and hear about Kristen's experience at NCCWSL!

In other great branch news, we have been asked to host the Spring Convention for AAUW Michigan. I am excited to share with you that a site and dates have been selected, and we are ready to move forward with this important event. A group of current and past board members have volunteered to serve on the local committee, and we will be looking for branch members to assist with the many tasks that come with this project. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, April 28, 2018, and look for the invitation to help.

Since the branch recently celebrated its 65th Anniversary, it is not surprising that we have current members who have been active in our group for 50 years. Congratulations to Mary Uhl who was recently recognized by the national AAUW for 50 years of active membership. We look forward to celebrating with Mary at a meeting soon.

One of our major branch events is our children's play. This year, Sue Bellows has taken it upon herself to write a script for *Beauty and the Beast* based on the original French fairy tale. Because this is a new script for us, auditions will be September 19 at 6:30 at Mickey's home. We are excited about the opportunity to present a new production. There are several small parts for those who like to be involved but don't want to be center stage.

The Plymouth-Canton Branch is active and involved. Join us on September 21st to find out how Kirsten spent her summer vacation and to enjoy a lovely evening with fellow members.

Helene



This is the Thank You Note regarding the scholarship to a Garden City High School graduate. Dear Plymouth Canton AAUW;
I cannot thank you enough for the generous scholarship you have provided the with It will surely help a lot with alleviating my college tuition costs!
I am very grateful for the opportunity to have earned this, thank you so much again!
Sincerely, Amber Killingbeck Garden City HS class of 2017

To Plymouth-Canton Branch,

I have been a member of the Plymouth-Canton branch of the American Association of University Women for many years. It has been a great experience and I have made many friends. I don't know what I love most; the plays, the committees, the board meetings, the branch meetings or the conventions. The common string in all of these events is the friendships I made and cherish. I always saw myself as a forever AAUW member enjoying the friendships and activities.



Life has taken a turn I did not anticipate. Joe and I purchased a lake house two years ago. We love the house, the lake and the Lachine, Michigan community. After retiring from my teaching position in Garden City I began a second career at Madonna University. I am retiring from Madonna in August. What a fantastic career I have had. We have decided to make Lachine our permanent residence. Our Livonia house is for sale and we are in the midst of an addition to the Lachine lake house. I couldn't leave without telling all of you how much I have enjoyed being a member of the Plymouth Canton branch of AAUW. Thank you for the opportunities to experience so many unforgettable activities and for the opportunity to meet such wonderful, professional, fun loving women. Diana Wilcox

CHILDREN' PLAY - 2017-2018 PRODUCTION

Do you have the ability to look inside someone, and not just see what's on the surface?

Are you open to new adventures?

If so, I have some exciting news for all Plymouth-Canton branch AAUW members!! We are going to be presenting a BRAND NEW PLAY this year! That's right, you heard me!! We will be premiering "Beauty and the Beast" in February of 2018! I am so excited to be part of this endeavor, and we need your help to make it happen!!



Play auditions will be held on September 19, 2017, at 6:30, at Mickey Edell's house. Since this is a new production we will have roles for just about anyone who would like to take part in the fun! Also, (since it IS a new production) we will be holding a few more read-throughs prior to our actual rehearsals, so make sure to take that into consideration, when thinking about taking on parts.

I can't wait to see all of you who can make it to the tryouts, and am so excited to be able to share this with all of you!

Sue Bellows Smbellows61@gmail.com 734-765-1284

Public Policy Update

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

AAUW is committed to passage and ratification of the ERA. The majority of Americans believe that men and women have equal rights under the constitution. The 14th Amendment of the Constitution explicitly states that men are guaranteed equality under the law but it is poignantly



silent about women. The ERA was first introduced in Congress in 1923 and was reintroduced every year until its passage in 1972. The proposed constitutional amendment required three-fifths of all states to ratify the amendment before fully implementing the ERA. State legislatures were given until 1979 to ratify the amendment, and Congress later extended the ratification deadline to 1982. By the time the final deadline passed in 1982, 35 states approved the ERA, three states short of ratification.

In March 2017 Nevada became the first state to approve the ERA in decades. This is the 7th attempt to ratify the ERA in 55 years. Progress of women's equality is glacially slow in American history. The ratification of the ERA by Nevada is hailed by supporters as an encouraging sign,

Elizabeth Cady Stunton's granddaughter Nora Stanton Blatch in an ironworking class—a course of study unthinkable for young women in her grandmother's day—at New York's Horace Mann High School in 1901

We shall some day be heeded, and . . . everybody will think it was always so, just exactly as many young people think that all the privileges, all the freedom, all the enjoyments which

woman now possesses always were hers. They have no idea of how every single inch of ground that she stands upon today has been gained by the hard work of some little handful of women of the past.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

however slow-paced.
Although Michigan
passed the ERA in 1972,
we still need to be aware
and informed and take
whatever steps needed to
guarantee that all men
and women are truly
equal under the law and
that these rights cannot
be easily abridged.

In the words of Alice Paul, who introduced the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923, "The movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone, and then you get a great mosaic at the end."

Mickey Public Policy Director