

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.

May Branch Meeting

Thursday, May 17

6:30 p.m.

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	591-2597
Dawn Parker Co-Membership VP	20-5596
Lori Demski Finance VP	765-8438
Gail Conte, Recording VP	674-2829
Marie Mack, Correspondence VP	427-3552

We can't wait to welcome our speaker, Krista McKinley to our May 17th. Branch meeting!

Krista graduated from Annapolis and went on to command regiments as a Colonel in the [U.S.MC](#). She is now living in Plymouth with her family and did a fantastic job of speaking at the Plymouth Memorial Ceremony.

May is also the Annual Meeting.
We will elect new officers.

Kathy Kish/Laurie Kempisty, Program V.P.s

Dinner will be provided by Mickey Edell. Menu not finalized yet, but we know it will be delicious!

We ask for a contribution of \$8.00 per person.



From the President:

April will be a busy month for the branch as we are hosting the AAUW of Michigan 96th Annual Meeting and State Convention at the Summit in Canton on April 28th. We are excited to share our leadership with the rest of the AAUW-Michigan members and look forward to showcasing the branch and the area. While we have many members who are attending and supporting the activities of the day, there's always room for more to come and enjoy the day -- and it's right in our own backyard.



Members coming from a distance will be staying at the Sheraton at Metro Airport. Because it is the same weekend as commencement at U-M, rooms in Plymouth and Canton were reserved for that event. On Friday, April 27th, the AAUW-MI State Board will arrive and hold their Board meeting at the Sheraton. Later that evening there's a reception at the Sheraton which includes the viewing and discussion of a movie on equality. There will be cash bar and hors d'oeuvres.

On Saturday, a full day of speakers and discussions at the Summit is planned. The keynote will be delivered by Barbara McQuade, current U-M College of Law professor of practice and former U.S. attorney general for the eastern district of Michigan. Other sessions include a panel discussion on the theme of the convention; #What Now, and another on the gender pay gap; an update from the national association; and, an update on Public Policy and Research. Following lunch there will be a business meeting and awards, along with an update from the Student Advisory Council panel.

Please check <https://www.aauwmi.org/2018-convention-registration> for information on the exact time schedule for Friday night and Saturday and to register. Registration for Saturday is \$120 and the branch will reimburse you one half of that fee (\$60) for up to 20 members who attend. You can also get more information and register using the forms in the state AAUW newsletter that came to your home last week. I have attended these meetings while I have been president and I find them interesting and enjoyable. I always learn something new! Hope to see you there.

In other branch news, please look for information on a fundraising effort for May. This effort will benefit our local scholarships – the most important thing we do! Also, look for information on candidates for office for the 2018-2020 terms. We will vote on those at the May branch meeting.

Please plan to pay your dues if you attend the May meeting. Dues will be \$81 for the upcoming membership year as the national association passed a \$10 increase effective for 2018-2019. If possible, please, please, please get your dues to Lori Demski by June 20th. That will give Lori time to enter everyone in the national database. We often don't get new and renewed members entered in a timely fashion because it is much more cumbersome to do this after June 30th. If you get your dues to Lori by June 20th, she has ten days to get our branch membership accurately entered. Thank you!

Here's hoping spring comes sooner rather than later – *Helene*

What was the first state to give women the vote?



National Conference for College Women Student leaders (nick-whistle)

NCCWSL brings together college women from across the country. The goal is to gain a better understanding of issues and policies affecting them and of AAUW's role in empowering women. Women will have the opportunity to network with not only other college students, but distinguished women across the country that have taken charge of their leadership.

NCCWSL Conference is May 30-June 2 at the University of Maryland-College Park. UM-Dearborn has chartered two buses. Students will depart from UM-Dearborn at approx. 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 30 and arrive at University of Maryland-College Park before 6 p.m. They will depart University of Maryland-College Park on Saturday, June 2 at 1:00 p.m. and arrive back in Dearborn at approx. 11:45 p.m.

Conference expenses will be covered by the Plymouth Canton AAUW. A seat has been reserved on the bus. Some spending will also be provided.

For more information: Visit www.nccwsl.org or www.facebook.com/NCCWSL

Do you know a women college student that might be interested? Contact Shirley Zaetta at szaetta@wowway.com or 734-455-6366

EQUAL PAY DAY

This year Equal Pay Day was commemorated on Tuesday, April 10th. Equal Pay Day symbolizes how far into the year a woman must work on average to earn as much as a man earned the previous year. (Tuesday is the day on which women's wages catch up to men's wages from the previous week.) Because women earn less, on average than men, they must work longer for the same amount of pay. The wage gap is even greater for women of color.

On April 10th the Michigan Equal Pay Day Coalition held a Lobby Training session and a rally on the steps of the Capitol. This group has a number of coalition partners with AAUW being one of the lead organizations. Attendees, dressed in red, also visited the House Committee on Commerce and Trade morning session to strongly send a message that the pay gap must be closed and Michigan pay equity bills must be addressed. We were welcomed but not given a hearing to discuss Michigan's pay equity bills. After that we met with Republican legislators to discuss the wage gap and leave them with packets of information to elucidate them about this outreach. Upon sharing our experiences, we discovered that most of the legislators contacted did not believe that a pay gap exists in Michigan or the United States. These responses were not unexpected but still disheartening. However, at least we made our voices heard. At the rally on the steps of the Capitol we heard rousing speeches from some of our supportive legislators and an inspiring presentation by Deborah Gordon, a premier civil rights attorney in Michigan.



We all must continue our efforts to educate our communities about pay disparity and encourage hearings on the existing bills. At the glacial rate the pay gap is closing thus far, we will not see pay equity until the year 2119. This is not acceptable!!

Mickey, Public Policy Director

Wyoming

Member News:

We are sad to report that Mickey's father passed away March 2. Casey Edell, was 94 years old. He and Mickey's Mom were living in an assisted living facility in Minnesota near some of Mickey's siblings. His body was returned to Kansas for burial.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

The Plymouth-Canton AAUW, through the massive efforts and hard work of a superb cast, was able to bring a new production to our annual stable of plays. Performed February 1-3, 2018, the play was a lovely success, with most, if not all, who attended giving high marks to the fun, the music and the antics of the cast. Never have I been so proud to be part of one of our productions!



It was such a pleasure to work with this group of incredible women in bringing this play to fruition. I am indebted to so many, who worked tirelessly, through **quite** a few rewrites of the script, adding their thoughts and ideas, to bring the initial **VERY** rough draft to reality. I would like to single out a few, though, that were so incredibly helpful: Kay Paupore, Shirley Zaetta, Helene Lusa, Esther Nelson, Sandy Ianucci, Manda Lawrence, Laurie Kempisty, Lisa Gapa and Kaytee Bellows, in no particular order. Through their constant efforts, they managed to talk me off the ledge when I felt that this thing just was not going to get off the ground. So, with all my heart, thank you, ladies! You all are truly some of the finest people I am proud to know!





If the usual schedule of plays holds true, next year's production will be Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. I urge anyone who would like to have a great time, working with incredible people, to become involved in the production. If you don't feel you would like to take on a speaking part, there is always room for walk-ons, backstage help, ticket sales, and so much more that is necessary to be successful. Please consider becoming involved, you won't regret.

Thank you!
Sue Bellows

A Special Opportunity –

The Branch has an opportunity to participate in a fundraiser that is little to no work and that could net the branch some extra money for the local scholarships that are granted each year. As part of this issue of the Catalyst, members can find a flyer for the Large Utility Tote made by Thirty-One Gifts, LLC. An order form is also attached. Members choosing to participate in the fundraiser can follow these simple steps:

1. Review the material and decide if you will purchase for yourself and/or others.
2. Review the information and decide if you want share it with others for their chance to purchase.
3. Fill out the order form and collect money for all purchases. Checks should be made payable to Amanda Lawrence.
4. Get your completed order form and money to Mickey Edell by May 3rd. Mickey's address is 45177 Horseshoe Cr., Canton, MI 48188. See flyer for information on paying via PayPal.
5. Orders should be delivered before Mothers' Day for those interested in purchasing for that day.
6. **Smile – for every tote sold, the branch will receive \$14!**

This is a special opportunity for the Plymouth-Canton branch and does not include other Thirty-One products. Questions? Call Helene or Amanda. (Order Form and Flyer are separate attachments.)

SLATE OF OFFICERS:

CO-VICE-PRESIDENTS: Gail Conte and Kay Paupore

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Sharon Belobraidich

RECORDING SECRETARY: ??????????????

The recording secretary takes minutes at the Board and Branch meetings, types and brings copies for the next meeting. We don't have meetings every month, and if you must miss, there is always someone to do the job. Please consider if this is a way you can assist the branch. It's a well-known fact that Board Members have more fun!