



# Catalyst

Plymouth-Canton Branch  
April 2022

### Board of Directors

**Co-Presidents:**

Gail Conte                    455-5298  
Laurie Kempisty    248-615-1412

**Program VP:**

Marie Mack                    427-3552

**Membership VP:**

Susan Sayers                730-2655

**Finance VP**

MaryBeth Chmielewski    673-0890

**Recording Secretary**

Esther Nelson                981-4938

**Corresponding Secretary**

Helene Lusa                    421-6408

## *April Branch Meeting*

**April 21 at 6:30 pm**

**Plymouth Community Arts Council** (located corner of Sheldon and Junction St.). We will meet from 6:30 - 8:30.



At this special meeting we will celebrate 70 years of our Plymouth-Canton Branch.

Please see the attached flyer for details.

*Please join us as we continue to meet in person.  
Zoom is available if you can't get to the meeting.*



### Election of Officers

Election of new officers will take place at the May meeting.

The Board presents the following names:

Co-Presidents – Mickey Edell and Dawn Parker

Recording Secretary – Esther Nelson

Corresponding Secretary – Monica Nick



# Diversity

At our last board meeting, it was decided we need a new school district to sponsor with supplying books of diversity as we did for Garden City in 2021. So, we have chosen our own school district – Plymouth Canton Schools – as a recipient of our new fundraising campaign for 2022. I am in contact with the Language Arts/Media Consultant in the district, Carrie Fromm, who is very excited to be working with us. She shared that the librarians from all the schools in the district have submitted diversity book titles they want to have in their libraries and have been waiting for the opportunity and the means to order them. This is a great need!

We know that children use books to understand the world around them, searching out characters and stories to which they can relate. As diverse as children are, they are looking for characters that are like them in a variety of ways - skin color, ability, environment, and culture. Finding characters that talk like they do, live in houses like they do, or live in different kinds of family units is not a simple task, but it is possible and meaningful.

Now the work begins, and we will need your help. We are asking our membership to donate any amount you can to this project and to know we will be making a difference with children and teachers alike. One of our members suggested since this is our 70<sup>th</sup> year of Plymouth-Canton AAUW we should have a goal of \$7,000. That would be outstanding! This campaign will have a time limit, so it is important you send in your donations as soon as possible. We will begin in May and run through the summer months.

There are a few ways to donate:

- Make a check out to the Plymouth-Canton AAUW, and earmark it Diversity books. Mail to Becky Copenhaver

1845 Manton Blvd.  
Canton, MI 48187

- Paypal: AAUWplymouthcanton or search our email:  
[aauplymouthcanton@yahoo.com](mailto:aauplymouthcanton@yahoo.com)

Also, be thinking of businesses in our district which you frequent that would also be willing to donate to this great cause. Let me know and I'll be glad to get in touch with them.

Thank you in advance for your help with this meaningful project.

Laurie Kempisty, Dianne Hartman, and Becky Copenhaver (diversity committee)

# Public Policy

**16 Petition Drives in Michigan as of March 10, 2022!**  
**Read the 100-word summary on the petition before signing.**

1. *Unlock Michigan 2\** - limit emergency authority of public health officials
2. *Secure MI Vote\** - reduces access to absentee voting, stricter ID requirements
3. Michigan United\* – restore good time credit for prisoners
4. **Yes on National Popular Vote\*\* (suspended campaign until 2024)**
5. *Let MI Kids Learn A and B\** - public funding of private education with tax credits
6. Michiganders for Fair Lending\* – cap interest rates on payday loans at 36%
7. *Audit Michigan\** – require private “forensic” audit of 2020 and future elections
8. Raise Michigan\* – raise minimum wage to \$15/hour by 2027
9. **Reproductive Freedom for All\*\* - pro-choice, repeal contradictory laws**
10. **Promote the Vote 2022\*\* - voting rights and ballot counting protections. Counteract Secure MI Vote and Audit Michigan.**
11. **MI Right To Vote A and B\*\* initiative petition reform and voting rights**
12. **Voters for Change\*\* - ranked choice voting**
13. Mushroom Decriminalization\* – reduce penalties for psycho-active natural plants
14. **Voters for Transparency and Term Limits\*\* – require financial disclosure from state officeholders and expand term limit to 12 years in one chamber or combination of chambers.**

**These measures endorsed by AAUW of Michigan Board as consistent with AAUW Public Policy Priorities. Please volunteer to circulate petitions for the organizations sponsoring the measures. Sign up through the link.**

<https://raisethewagemi.org/>  
[www.mireproductivefreedom.org](http://www.mireproductivefreedom.org)  
<https://votersnotpoliticians.com/>

***These measures are opposed by AAUW of Michigan Board because they are inconsistent with AAUW Public Policy Priorities. Please do not sign the petitions.***

\* Initiated statute; could be adopted by legislature and not go to the Governor or ballot. Petitions due by June 1.

\*\* **Initiated Constitutional amendment; must go to the ballot. Petitions due by July 11**



## NEWS FROM NATIONAL Gail Conte

By now, you should have received an email from Shannon Wolfe, AAUW Managing Director and Chief of Staff, giving you access to your voting ballot for this year's National Election. The ballot is specific to you and should not be forwarded to any other AAUW member.

Before you vote, please take the time to familiarize yourself with the issues being voted on. By clicking on "National Election page" in the third paragraph, you will be taken to the portion of the website that provides you with the information you need to know before voting. You will find biographies of the four people running for the Board of Directors, and detailed information on two changes to the bylaws, both of which deal with updating the nomination process and ballot administration. Your electronic vote must be received by 5:00 pm ET on Monday, May 16, 2022.

Members who do not have a valid and updated email address on file at National should receive a paper ballot in the mail. We found during last year's election period that the paper ballots were not always received or not always recognized by some members. A paper ballot can be requested by the member by sending a message to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) or by phoning 202-785-7782 weekdays between 10 and 5 ET.

### Important Dates to remember:

Friday, April 15 – last day to request a paper ballot

Friday, April 29 – last day to mail paper ballots (postmarked on this date)

Monday, May 16 – last day for electronic voting

Your voice is important. Please take time to vote!



## BOOK GROUP

The book group will meet on Thursday, April 28, at 5:30 pm at Cyndi Naumoff's to discuss The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Pataki. The May meeting is May 26 at 5:30 at Mickey Edell's. The read is Beautiful Country by Qian Julie Wang. All are welcome!

Helene and Mickey

