



# Catalyst

Plymouth-Canton Branch  
September 2024

## September Branch Meeting

**Thursday, September 19 at 6:30 pm**  
**Plymouth Community Arts Council**

Welcome Back!!! September has the feeling of a new year as we get back to business after the summer break. When you check your calendar, make sure "AAUW meeting" is underlined to show its importance.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Paula Bowman has served as co-president of the League of Women Voters of Michigan for the past three years. She has been a member of the League in Northwest Wayne County for nearly forty years and served as board president for 14 years. Paula also serves on the Board of Directors of Promote the Vote, the non-profit organization that like the League, works to promote voting rights in Michigan. She is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a degree in French Language and Literature, which she did not use one bit during her working career or her work with non-profits. Paula lives in Plymouth with her husband, has two adult children and two grandchildren (which is not enough.) She will address new voting rights in 2023-24 and how to identify and handle mis- and dis-information.

### **Board of Directors**

**Co-Presidents:**

Mickey Edell            716-1833  
Dawn Parker            658-0844

**Program VP:**

Marie Mack            427-3552

**Membership VP:**

Susan Sayers            730-2655

**Finance VP**

Gail Conte            674-2829

**Recording Secretary**

Dianne Hartman    248-229-3884

**Corresponding Secretary**

Meredith Conte    614-270-6846

We will have a light supper of salads, desserts, and beverages, which will be provided by board members.

Please plan to pay \$10.

Money collected will go toward paying the building rent for the evening.

**We hope you will join us to meet this very interesting speaker and reconnect with friends.**

## *From the Presidents ...*



Welcome back! We are honored to be serving as co-presidents of our Plymouth-Canton AAUW branch this year. We hope your summer months were filled with relaxation and time spent with family and friends.

Spread the word about AAUW! As we begin the 2024-25 year together, we will continue to support our mission of equity for all women and girls, including the importance of protecting voting rights and voter education and to create a more equitable society with paid family leave, childcare, Title IX, the ERA, lowering student debt, as well as other issues facing women.

We urge all members to stay informed with the AAUW Election Resources and Voter Guides found on the website (AAUW.org). AAUW members have been staunch advocates for policies that improve the lives of girls and women and their families. Help us achieve these goals by voting in the November 5th Presidential Election. Together we can make a difference!

A continuing goal this year is to increase our membership. We need to reach out to potential members. Please ask a friend to join us at our first meeting on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Plymouth Arts Council, beginning at 6:30 PM. We'll enjoy dinner together (friendship, food and fun!), listen to an informative program and hold a branch meeting to discuss the events coming your way in this 2024-25 year.

We hope to see you soon.

*Dawn and Mickey*

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### Beauty and the Beast Play Tryouts: Wed., Oct. 25

Hello AAUW members and friends of members!

We are bringing you news of this year's play!! (We know, you are secretly cheering!) This year we are bringing BEAUTY AND THE BEAST back to the stage! We just know you all want to be a part of this fun-filled production. Even if you don't feel comfortable being onstage, we can use your expertise in other ways.

Play tryouts will be at Mickey Edell's home on **Wednesday, September 25th, at 6:00 pm**. Mickey's address is: 47927 Vistas Circle Drive S, Canton.

If you can't make it that evening, please call/text either of us to let us know how you want to be part of this team.

We are VERY excited to get started on this wonderful production and need YOU to help us be successful.

Your giddy directors,  
Sue Bellows and Lisa Gapa  
734-765-1284 734-223-4444



# Promoting Public Policy

Mickey Edell, Public Policy Director

## AUGUST 26 TH : WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

As you know, Women's Equality Day celebrates the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which gave women the right vote. On Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, AAUW of Michigan and a number of other supporting organizations gathered to honor our foremothers and their sacrifices and also to review the status of the ERA. In addition, a panel of women, including Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy, the first woman president of Wayne State University, and two of her colleagues engaged us with their personal journeys in the world of academia. An ardent and life-long supporter of the ERA, Laura Callow, known as the Susan B. Anthony of Michigan, was honored by all ninety attendees. Patricia Rayl, AAUW Jackson, updated us on the state of the ERA. Several Plymouth-Canton members were in attendance.

The Equal Rights Amendment, first proposed in 1923, is an amendment to the U.S. constitution that guarantees equality of rights under the law for all persons regardless of sex. As of January 2020, the ERA satisfied all requirements for ratification. Leading constitutional scholars agree that the ERA is now part of the Constitution. However, the Archivist of the United States has not yet taken the final step in terms of certifying the ratification of the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Attention now turns to the Senate and moving S.J. Res 1 to the floor for a vote that will remove the time limit, thus making the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment part of our Constitution. It has been over a hundred years, and that is unacceptable!! Please contact the White House and let them know that it is time that equal rights for women should be solidified in the Constitution.

Call the White House Comments: 202-456-1111 Switchboard: 202-456-1414

Email: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Write: 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20500

### Because equity is still an issue!



It is a pleasure to welcome new member Jan Shanahan to the branch. She is Kathy Kish's sister-in-law. Jan attended the spring luncheon and was eager to join us this year.

As of April 1, 2024 dues are \$97 (\$72 for national, \$15 for state, and \$10 for our branch). Sue Sayers, Membership Chair

## BOOK GROUP

Our Book Group will meet on Thursday, September 26 at 5:30 pm at Esther Nelson's home to discuss The Briar Club by Kate Quinn. All are welcome.

If you are on the book group email list and wish to be removed or not on the list and wish to be added, please let Helene know.

Take care all -- Helene and Mickey

