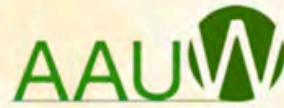


AAUW Birmingham MI Branch

September 2025 Newsletter

Birmingham-mi.aauw.net

Volume 53 Issue 1



Birmingham (MI) Branch

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

FALL MEMBERSHIP GATHERING



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN
22055 W 14 MILE RD, BEVERLY HILLS, MI 48025



10:00: DOORS OPEN

10:30: GENERAL MEETING

Learn more about the AAUW-Birmingham Branch:

What we've done ~ and will do!

Monthly luncheon programs for the year

Volunteer opportunities

Fall Fundraising to support our increased scholarship efforts

DONATIONS FOR THE DAY: ITEMS FOR EBAY!

LOOK FOR KATIE W. IN THE PARKING LOT FOR DROP-OFF

PLUS

THE 50/50 RAFFLE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[HTTPS://BIRMINGHAM-MI.AAUW.NET/](https://birmingham-mi.aauw.net/)



**AAUW – BIRMINGHAM BRANCH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026***

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – OFFICERS

President	Cindi Hopkins
VP – Program	Kathy Rice
VP – Membership	Christine Dagenais
Recording Secretary	Linda Barclay
Corresponding Secretary	Michele Wogaman
Treasurer	Vacant

STANDING COMMITTEES – APPOINTED

AAUW Funds	Sally Doty
Bulletin	Patty Orlowski and Kathy Stasys
Bylaws and Policy	Lucy Benham
Comm. Outreach/Volunteers	Kathleen Norton and Patty Beaujon
Dues Treasurer	Sharon McKenna
Electronic Communications	Sharon McKenna
Historian	Sue Winowiecki
Hospitality	Christine Dagenais, Maureen Jenkins and Nancy O'Connor
Public Policy	Sally Doty
Social media	vacant
Study/Interest Groups	Sharon McKenna and Linda Kervorkian
Website	Katie Wiese

ADDITIONAL APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS – Non-Voting

Diversity Representative	vacant
Education Equity	vacant
International Relations	Linda Schnorbus
Parliamentarian	vacant

Appointed by the Branch to serve on the Foundation Board:

Scholarship Coordinator	Maureen Jenkins
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*Emails and phone numbers can be found on our website,
Birmingham-mi.aauw.net.



President's Message September 2025

Wow – it's September. I hope to see many of you at the Fall Membership Gathering on the 17th. Details are in the bulletin. I encourage each of you to bring friends to learn about our Branch - our mission, vision and work.

I am honored to be your Branch President. Jean did such a great job the last four years; remember to thank her when you see her. The year ahead has fallen into place – programs are set, donation and volunteer opportunities detailed, the budget determined, and most importantly, the Fall Fundraiser is taking shape.

We have committed to paying out \$25,000 dollars in scholarships this year, as well as supporting young ladies in the Pontiac Promise Zone and providing for those that will attend next year's NCCWSL conference. An article about this conference was in the summer issue; if you have not read it, look. The three attendees could not say enough about the benefit of the conference and their visit to Washington, DC.

I was able to go to the Women's Equality Day Luncheon in Livonia last Saturday, with three other members from our Branch. Anne Brown, Deputy State Director, Office of U.S. Senator Elissa Slotkin was the keynote speaker. She challenged us to wake up each day and share the story with three other women! Pattie Rayl, AAUW-Jackson branch also spoke about the importance of supporting the ERA amendment #28, as it is being challenged in lawsuits right now. Don't hesitate to go to Sign4ERA.org and add your name to the petition of supporters.

I encourage you to ramp up your commitment to AAUW – come to luncheons with charity donations in hand, participate in Study and Interest Groups, volunteer for activities that appeal to you, give from your heart when you donate to Count Me In! - as you pay gratitude by thanking a woman who made a difference in your life.

The Branch has existed for over 100 years but would not be where it is without the support given by both AAUW MI (the state organization) and AAUW (the national organization). You will hear more about the State's Public Policies and the National's Strategic Plan at our first meeting. Catch up with friends, bring items to donate for sale on eBay, and munch on some good coffee cake too!

Branch News

AAUW Birmingham Branch Board Meeting

Highlights for August 20, 2025

The first Birmingham Branch Board meeting of the 2025-26 year was held with our new President, Cindi Hopkins, presiding. President Hopkins announced some changes in Board positions and personnel. Christine Dagenais will take over VP Membership for the 2025-26 year and Maureen Jenkins has agreed to serve as Chair of the Scholarship Committee. The Board approved the elimination of the Menus and Venues positions as these functions have been taken over under other positions. The Board now has 18 officer and Standing Committee positions. Voting will follow positions with each voting position having one vote.

The bulk of the meeting addressed upcoming activities and events in the new year; Kathy Rice, VP Programs, presented the new line-up for monthly programs. Kathy Norton, Chair of the Community Outreach committee, reviewed the monthly line-up for charitable donation recipients. Kathy Norton and Patty Beaujon will be providing information on volunteer opportunities for members each month. As agreed last year, the Board reviewed the monthly donation recipients/volunteer opportunities for their compliance with AAUW goals. Michele Wogaman provided an update about the Pontiac Promise Zone project. AAUW members attended orientation and training during the summer. Once school starts, they hope to begin working with program participants.

Katie Wiese reviewed the Fall Fundraiser information she will be presenting at the Fall Member Gathering. More will follow!

Lucy Benham presented revisions to the Branch policies and Procedures which the Board members worked on over the summer. The Board voted to approve these revised Branch Policies and Procedures.

It was a busy meeting with lots of energy! Hope to see everyone at the Fall Gathering September 17th at Northbrook Presbyterian Church when we begin a new year.

Linda Barclay, Recording Secretary





Help Wanted: Five Positions Open for Reliable Women

A prestigious organization (Birmingham AAUW) is seeking five interested women to actively participate in the Branch. Applicants need no previous experience, but a strong sense of comradery and empathy is helpful.

Job Descriptions:

Treasurer is a member of the Branch Executive Board. Most of the math is done by others. The Treasurer must be able to put numbers in a spread sheet and report them to the Board. Even an English major can do this job.

Diversity Chair is a member of the program committee, organizes the nomination for the Diversity champion through the Birmingham-Bloomfield Race Relations Task Force, and submits information about diversity and equity issues. Important position.

Parliamentarian Chair assists the president and membership in the execution of Robert's Rules of Order and assists with the interpretation of bylaws and policies at board meetings. Sorry, no gavel is included with the position.

Education and Equity Chair is a member of the program committee and submits information about local, state and national issues on education to the Branch membership. Local school board happenings can also be monitored. An important position these days.

Social Media Chair is responsible for the AAUW-Birmingham Branch Facebook page which includes posting upcoming events, including donation details, volunteer opportunities, and pictures. Other social media (Instagram, Snapshot, etc.) should also be considered. Fun position! Impress your grandchildren!

Salary: Cookies at Board meetings. Non-negotiable.

Applicants should contact Cindi Hopkins, President.

International Relations



AAUW has alliances with international organizations such as the Women First International Fund and the United Nations. The AAUW United Nations Youth Representatives hosted an in-person event at NGOCSW69 (the 69th session of Non-government Organizations on the Commission on the Status of Women) that showcased the vital role of policy and advocacy in promoting equality in governance and peacebuilding. Attendees engaged in meaningful discussions on the importance of women's leadership in peace processes, the challenges they face in negotiations and strategies for overcoming barriers such as cultural resistance and political inertia. The event highlighted how AAUW's advocacy and training initiatives continue to empower women to shape sustainable peace and foster equitable governance worldwide.

Linda Schnorbus - Chair



*thinking
of you*

The following correspondence was sent to our membership:

Sue Longstreet - condolences for loss of her mother, Elizabeth Flury

Joan Hanpeter - condolences for loss of her husband, Edward Hanpeter

Cochran family - condolences for the loss of Barbara Cochran

Cam Takach – a thinking of you card

Linda Kevorkian - a thinking of you card

Patricia Duff - a thinking of you card

Please contact our Corresponding Secretary, Michele Wogaman, if a note should be sent to a Branch member at director@boundtogetherpontiac.org or calling/ texting her at 248-875-5768.

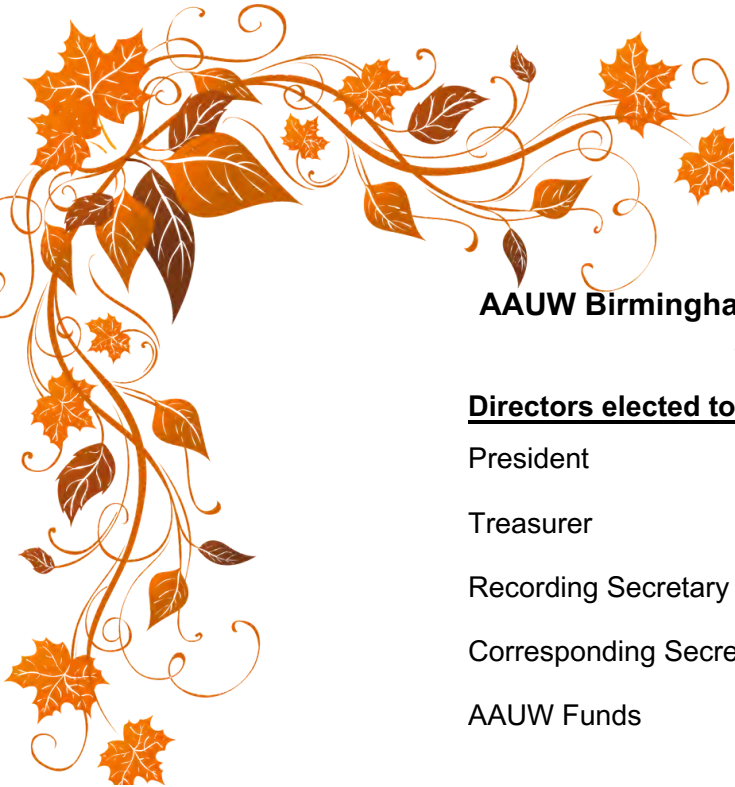
Foundation News



In loving memory...

The Foundation Board, Katie Wiese, Julie Blair, Cindi Hopkins, Sharon McKenna, Patty Orlowski, Sally Doty, Jodi Kuhn, and Jean Ivory, and the Potpourri Book Club donated over \$500 to the Endowment Fund and Scholarship Fund in memory of Ed Hanpeter, husband of Board member Joan Hanpeter.

The family request was to honor Ed's memory by cherishing your loved ones, speaking up for truth and justice, and planting the seeds of kindness wherever you can. This gift certainly will plant the seeds for a future of kindness for the young women we support.



AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation Board 2025-2026*

Directors elected to office:

President	Katie Wiese
Treasurer	Cindi Hopkins
Recording Secretary	Julie Blair
Corresponding Secretary	Christine Dagenais
AAUW Funds	Sally Doty

Ex-Officio Directors

AAUW Branch President	Cindi Hopkins
AAUW Funds	Sally Doty

Appointed Directors:

Director	Jody Kuhn
Director	Michele Wogaman
Fundraising Consultant	Joan Hanpeter

Non-Voting:

Communications	Sharon McKenna
Communications	Patty Orlowski

Scholarship Representatives

High Schools

Birmingham SCHOLAR	Cathy Hurley
Bloomfield HillsScholarship	Patty Beaujon
PontiacScholarship	Patty Beaujon

Colleges (OCC, LTU & Walsh)	Maureen Jenkins
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*Emails and phone numbers can be found on our website,
Birmingham-mi.aauw.net.

Count me in! It's Who We ARE....

For decades our Birmingham Branch has financially supported women seeking higher education. We are now providing scholarship grants to more than 10 women attending seven Michigan public universities: Ferris State, Lawrence Tech, Michigan State, Oakland University, U of M, Walsh College and Oakland Community College. In recent years we have added a scholarship to a student from Pontiac High School and continued our support into her second year of college. We are proud of these accomplishments. We are proud of the academic achievements of the scholars that we are supporting.

This month we launch our 2025 scholarship fundraising campaign with an ambitious goal of raising \$27,000. We have done it before. We can do it again. Every gift is valued. Every gift can make a difference. If you make a scholarship donation at the September Fall Gathering, we will not ask again. If you can't be at this event, watch for a scholarship fund raiser yellow envelope coming in the US mail in October.

Education of Women—that's our mission.

WE ARE the American Association of University Women!



BIRMINGHAM BRANCH



Why a Fall Fundraiser

Over the last two years, the Birmingham Branch Foundation has worked hard to develop a long-term strategic plan that supports the mission of AAUW. We believe that aligning what we do with our mission is important. As part of the strategic plan, we set some ambitious goals.

- We focused on having more impact on the lives of women and girls in our local community. Because of this, we expanded the scholarships for high school girls to four years instead of two. We also looked at how to better support these students, so they achieve a college degree, hence the Pontiac Promise Zone collaboration.
- We created a consistent, limited fundraising plan. We committed to doing the only fundraiser for our scholarships and mission-based programs in the Fall. In addition, we designated March as the month that we support AAUW National programs.
- We created a long-range financial plan, including the establishment of an endowment fund, so we could continue to support our mission-based programs for the next generation.

Because of our fundraising plan, we did not have a fundraiser last year. Since the previous fundraiser was in the Spring, we needed to skip a year instead of asking for money twice in one year. To do this, we dipped into our financial reserves.

You have supported us in the past; we are counting on your continued support this Fall.

Katie Wiese
President
AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation



Ebay donations – Bring to Fall Membership Gathering



As summer winds down, it is time to declutter your living space and bring items to our Fall Membership Gathering.

We all know the feeling-- I have too many things, but they are too good to just throw in the trash. My children don't want my stuff.

What do I do next? Pack your giveaways in a box and add a list WITH YOUR NAME ON IT of what you are donating. We will collect them in the parking lot at the Fall Membership Gathering on Sept. 17. Trunks will be up!

What can you bring? Anything – but here are preferred items that sell well:

- Any smaller collectible items that would sell for over \$50
- Designer purses
- Collectible figurines including Hummel, Anri, Lladro, Andrea by Sadek, Royal Doulton, Herend, Royal Copenhagen and Armani
- Graded trading cards, sterling silver items, antiques, newer electronics, collectible toys, signed art work, and sports memorabilia.

You will get a charitable donation and the satisfaction of giving to a mission you believe in - the education of women. Money will go to scholarships and other mission-base endeavors uplifting women and girls. Everyone wins!

Think how good it will feel to clean up your home and help with scholarship funding at the same time!

Encouraging our Pontiac Promise Zone scholars as the Fall Semester begins! Snacks, a post it note pad, highlighters, and a phone card holder for your student-id.



GETTING OFF TO A GREAT START!

A new semester, maybe your first at college - lots to figure out, and sometimes it's a lot in general! The **American Association of University Women** is a group of women who have been there - the studying, the exams, the syllabus (!) and who want to share their time, support and, if you need it, those pointers (like, "go to office hours") - or just to be there with a friendly text or email during finals week.



WE'RE HERE TO:

- ✓ Listen to your questions (and there are no bad questions.)
- ✓ Help you find resources - and figure out the best way to use them.
- ✓ Be your cheerleader - and also your gentle nudge, if you want it.
- ✓ Be there for **you**.

INTERESTED? REACH OUT AT:

cmoulder@pontiacpromisezone.org OR director@boundtogetherpontiac.org



Study Group Calendar - September 2025

SOCIAL ISSUES

Community Outreach **No Program Planned**
Contact: Kathy Norton, kathleennorton45@yahoo.com
Patty Beaujon, geobeaujon@sbcglobal.net

International Relations **No Program Planned**
Hostess: Cheryl Van Zetten, cvanzetten@comcast.net

Public Policy **2:00pm, Thurs, Sep 18**
Topic: TBD
Bloomfield Township Public Library
Contact: Carol Pyke, cpyke@comcast.net
Sally Doty, sallyaauw@gmail.com

The Breakfast Bunch **10:00am, Tues, Sep 23**
Topic: TBD
Kerby's, 43061 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills
Contact: Patty Orlowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net
Sally Doty, sallyaauw@gmail.com

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Modern Art **Time TBD, Thurs, Sep 11**
Tour: "Beyond Survival: Work on Paper by Incarcerated MI Artists", Flint Institute of Arts
Contact: Jackie Werner, jwerner951@gmail.com

BOOK CLUBS

Belles Lettres **1:00pm, Tues, Sep 16**
Topic: James, Percival Everett
Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain (optional)
Hostess: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

Beyond Adelante **1:00pm, Tues, Sep 2**
Topic: The Loves of Theodore Roosevelt: The Women Who Created a President, Edward F. O'Keefe
Hostess: Lucy Benham, lbenham@comcast.net

Contemporary Books **12:30pm, Mon, Sep 15**
Topic: TBD
Contact: Sandy Dickerson, sandradickerson@comcast.net

Morning After Readers **10:00am, Mon, Sep 8**
Topic: The Women, Kristin Hannah
Hostess: Kathy Sherman, klsherman27000@gmail.com

Mystery Book Club **1:00pm, Wed, Sep 24**
Topic: The Housemaid, Frieda McFadden
Contact: Joan Birnie, jb03bps@gmail.com

Potpourri **1:00pm, Wed, Sep 24**
Topic: Remarkably Bright Creatures, Shelby Van Pelt
Hostess: Lynda Ronie, lynda.ronie@gmail.com

Thurs. Morning Readers **10:00am, Thurs, Sep 18**
Topic: The Secret Book of Flora Lea, Patti Callahan Henry
Hostess: Kathy Stasys, kstasys@hotmail.com

HOME & GARDEN

Green Thumb. **TBD**
Topic: TBD
Contact: Kathy Conner, katconn@hotmail.com

Needleworks **11:00am, Wed, Sep 3**
Hostess: Patty Orlowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net

ON THE TOWN

Opera Divas **No Program Planned**
Contact: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

Theater Goers **No Program Planned**
Contact: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

Two Thumbs Up **TBD, Fri, Sep 5**
Contact: Judy Allie, jallie2@gmail.com

Canasta **1:00pm, every Monday**
Contact: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

Mah Jongg **2:00pm, every Wednesday**
Bloomfield Township Library. Beginners are welcome.
Contact: Janet Brown, janet.brown@wayne.edu

Bridge
2nd Friday: **10:30am, Sep 12, The Village Club**
Hostess: Marge Thomas, 248-626-6098
4th Friday: **10:30am, Sep 26, The Village Club**
Hostess: Carol Cummings, 248-540-2178



Please submit calendar changes by the 20th of the month.

Contact:

Sharon McKenna 313.570.2013
sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com

Linda Kevorkian 248.219.1915
kevorkianlk@gmail.com

