

# LIVONIA BRANCH

## BRIEF HISTORY

The first organizational meeting to establish a Livonia Branch of AAUW was held at the home of **Barbara Medwedeff** on January 25, 1971 at the urging and support of her Farmington Branch members. Barbara was active in AAUW in Delaware before moving to the Livonia area and joined the Farmington Branch because there was no branch in Livonia. At the time of the organizational meeting Barbara was Vice President of the Farmington Branch. Twelve ladies present voted to support a Livonia Branch. The recommendation to the national AAUW board was submitted by Mrs. George Timmons; State President and President of the Ann Arbor Branch, who was the speaker for the evening,

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on February 16 at Karen Young's home, it was announced that the national AAUW board had approved the recommendation. Temporary officers and chairs were elected, including Bylaws, Publicity and Nominating Committee chairs.

A 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting was held on March 16 at Betty Crick's home to review the AAUW Constitution and to distribute membership applications.

At the 4<sup>th</sup> and final organizational meeting on April 20 at the home of Joyce Fellows the bylaws were accepted, member applications completed, dues collected, and officers elected. The application to form the Livonia Branch was completed and submitted, along with the 33 member applications and dues, to national on April 27, 1971. It was received and approved on April 29, 1971, making Livonia an official branch of AAUW.

At the April 30 – May 1, 1971 AAUW Michigan State Convention held at Oakland University in Rochester Michigan. Mrs. Timmons announced the new Livonia Branch and presented a gavel to our first President, Mary Lodge.

## CHARTER MEMBERS

Jane Barbieri	<b>*Mary Lodge,</b>
Dorothy Barnier	<b>President</b>
Lynda Broome	Barbara Mansfield
Dorothy Burke	<b>*Ellen Marsh,</b>
Irene Cameron	<b>Treasurer</b>
Ruth Clemens	Cora Marshall
Betty Crick	<b>*Barbara Medwedeff</b>
Priscilla (Penny) de Stigter	Trudy Pinto
Dorothy Eubank	Meta Rauchenstein
<b>Virginia Farmer,</b>	<b>*Donna Salisbury</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	June Slobodian
<b>*Joyce Fellows</b>	Viva Steiber
Elaine Gingrich	<b>*Joan Sudman</b>
<b>*Gwen Grinager</b>	Darlene Ursel
<b>*Sara Haas</b>	<b>*Lynn van der Harst</b>
<b>*Elizabeth Hickman</b>	<b>Marilyn Von Wald,</b>
Pat Hudspeth	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>
Jean Jenkins	<b>*Karen Young</b>
<b>*Mary Laskowski,</b>	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	

\*Attended the first organizational meeting



**American Association of University Women – Livonia Branch**

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Susan Rakay, Public Information**  
**AAUW – Livonia Branch**  
734-464-7915  
Email: [sprakay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sprakay@sbcglobal.net)

**AAUW – Livonia Branch Celebrate 35 Years**

As the National American Association of University Women (AAUW) celebrates its 125th year, the Livonia Branch also has something to celebrate - its 35th anniversary. For this celebration, Livonia's Mayor Jack Engebretson honored the Livonia Branch of the American University Women by presenting them with a Commendation from the Mayor and Council.

Receiving the commendation at their November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, were current President Joanne Wachob and Barb Medwedeff the charter member whose efforts are mostly responsible for the formation of the branch in Livonia in 1971. Many of the 33 Charter Members were also present for the commendation.

The AAUW promotes excellence in academia for women, strives to open doors for women and girls and to influence public debate on critical social issues such as education, civil rights, and workplace equality. The AAUW, an organization of 149 women from the City and its neighboring communities have many cultural and educational programs for their members and have a legacy of leadership on behalf of women and girls in the City of Livonia. Together with Schoolcraft College, the Conrad Foundation and Livonia Public Schools, they developed the Women on the Way (W.O.W.) program in October 2005 to provide programming that assists High School juniors in making informed decisions about life after high school focusing on each individual knowing herself as the starting point for making decisions for the future.

The Mayor concluded the presentation with a thank you to the women of Livonia's AAUW for the valuable service they provide to the women and girls of the Livonia community.

Any graduate holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate or higher degree from a qualified educational institution is eligible for AAUW membership.

END

**COMMENDATION  
OFFICES OF THE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS,** the American Association of University Women is one of the oldest existing organizations dedicated to promoting education and equity for women and girls. The American Association of University Women will be celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year on November 28, 2006; and

**WHEREAS,** the American Association of University Women strive to open doors for women and girls and influence public debate on critical social issues such as education, civil rights, and workplace equality; and

**WHEREAS,** the American Association of University Women promotes excellence in academia for women through the improvement of schools, communities, and fields of work for the benefit of all; and

**WHEREAS,** the American Association of University Women – Livonia Branch celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, advancing the American Association of University Women’s legacy of leadership on behalf of women and girls in the City of Livonia; and

**WHEREAS,** the Livonia Branch of the American Association of University Women brainstormed for ways in which their organization could support girls in the community. Together with Schoolcraft College and Livonia Public Schools, they developed the Women on the Way (W.O.W.) program in October 2005; and

**WHEREAS,** the W.O.W. program provides programming to assist girls to make informed decisions about life after high school focusing on each individual knowing herself as the starting point for making decisions for the future. The Livonia Branch of AAUW provides at least 15 adult members to participate and act as mentors; Schoolcraft College provides the resources for lunches for all participants; Livonia Public Schools provides the professional staff time and the busses for transporting the participants from Franklin High School to Schoolcraft College; Women’s Resource Center at Schoolcraft College oversees the program planning and coordinates the campus activities, and administrative staff and the student Ambassadors from Schoolcraft College would also participate bringing the total for this program to 60 participants,

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Jack Engebretson, Mayor of the City of Livonia, County of Wayne, State of Michigan do hereby take this means to join with the Livonia City Council to congratulate and commend the American Association of University Women – Livonia Branch on its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and bestow upon them our sincere appreciation for the valuable service they provide to the women and girls of our community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Office of Mayor to be affixed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Engebretson, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
James McCann, Council President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Knapp, Council Vice-President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry A. Godfroid-Marecki, Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Laura, Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Meakin, Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Robinson, Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald Taylor, Councilmember