

AAUW of Michigan



Volume 33, Number 1

Fall 2009

AAUW Member 2009 Hall of Fame Inductee

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A AUW of Michigan is proud to announce that Bettie Kay Givens McGowan, Ph.D., a member of the Wyandotte/Downriver Branch, and recipient of their "Woman of Achievement Award," has been selected as one of the 2009 inductees into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. She will receive the Life Achievement Award presented by the Michigan Women's Studies Association.

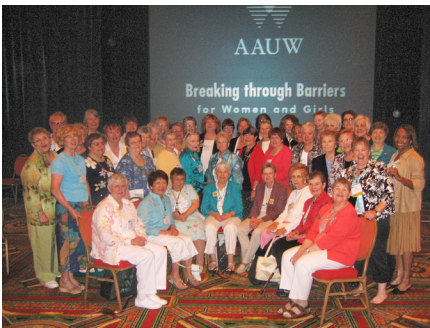


Bettie Kay Givens McGowan, Ph.D.

Dr. McGowan's accomplishments are extensive. She has been a life-long student, has worked full time during her adult years, been married for over 35 years and raised five children, while continuing to pursue her commitment to social change. From 1973 to 1984, she worked as director and registered lobbyist with the Michigan Citizens Lobby, a consumer advocacy organization. Through her activism efforts a number of projects, programs and initiatives were implemented.

In 1994, Kay was awarded a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology at Wayne State University. She has been a Professor of Anthropology, Native American Studies and Women's Studies since 1988. She has taught at and received awards from the University of Toledo, Wayne State University, Marygrove College and Eastern Michigan University. She currently teaches at EMU and Marygrove College.

(Read more about Bettie Kay on our website, www.aauwmi.org)



AAUW of Michigan Delegation to the St. Louis Convention

Districts 4, 7 & 8 Fall Conference

Saturday, 8/31/09

Four Points, Ann Arbor

Contact: Gloria Conn, (313) 381-4891

What's Going to Happen to Our Branch Bylaws...

now that AAUW convention delegates voted changes in AAUW bylaws? In mid-July a notice came forward outlining the mandatory changes to be made in branch bylaws. The good news is that branch members do not need to vote on these

amendments, delegates to convention already voted. Someone—branch president or designee—does need to review the bylaws, make the additions and subtractions, and send a clean copy of branch bylaws to state bylaws chair by October 31, 2009.

What needs to change?

1. Replace the words "Association" and "Foundation" wherever they appear, with "AAUW".
2. All references to "Charter" should be deleted; AAUW is now organized under articles of incorporation rather than a charter.
3. The new purpose/mission statement must replace what is currently in bylaws (and in all your

(see BYLAWS page 4)

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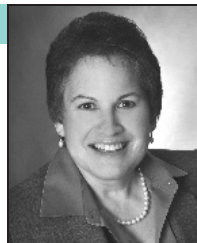
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear AAUW of MI members,

Welcome to a brand new program year. We had an eventful 2008-09 and this year will certainly be no different.

Those of us who attended the convention in St. Louis had a delightful time and we came back refreshed and with lots of new ideas of how to move the mission forward.

Technology-wise, our own Janet Watkins was part of a panel that described some of the newest ways to stay tuned into each other as well as the association. Deb Ensign from Battle Creek had the opportunity to show off a branch project, *Girls Take Charge* that helps girls learn technology skills as well as leadership and teamwork. The convention was an opportunity to learn, share and meet many new people. I met a young, energetic woman from Cleveland in the registration line and then saw her several times throughout the weekend...we're email pals now; I met a member from Florida at lunch and we debated the membership bylaw, civilly; I talked with Lilly Ledbetter about her work for Pay Equity; I learned about the Jane Addams celebration this fall in Illinois; I had the opportunity to learn about negotiating skills that we can make available to young women about to embark on their careers; I was extremely proud to see the results of our Michigan members' contributions that put us in the top 10 in three important categories... EF, LAF and total contributions! Now *that's* dedication to the mission! Over 50 AAUW of Michigan members made the trip to St. Louis and I heard over and over again that it was the best convention they'd attended.

Janet Watkins works tirelessly to make AAUW of Michigan website easy to navigate and filled with great information from the forms you may need for governance to branch newsletters. If you have any questions about the website, email or call Janet and she will gladly help make your experience fun and informative.

AAUW of Michigan sent 13 young college women to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in College Town, Maryland in June, 2009. Thank you for supporting this important project.

We have our work cut out for us this year...we need to mentor our continuing members as well as recruit new members to AAUW. Our Bylaws committee is hard at work reviewing our current bylaws to find ways to streamline them and make changes that make sense for AAUW of Michigan. You are encouraged to do the same at the branch level...read more about bylaws from Betty Chenoweth.

We also need to continue the work of Pay Equity. We must be vigilant in educating our fellow members and the general public. Pay Equity is an issue that touches all families and communities, especially when the economy is hurting as it is in Michigan. Learn more about it; talk to your friends; write letters to the editor; call your state representative and talk to her/him. Make a promise to your granddaughter that you will do what you can to ensure pay equity for her.

The association is developing ideas to help re-energize branches around the country. They believe in the branches of AAUW and how important healthy branches are to a healthy AAUW. If you have success stories in your branch will you share them? You can contact me via email, USPS or by phone. I want to hear success stories and share them. Sometimes we don't realize how successful a project or idea is until we share it with others...so please share your successes!

Here's to another successful year for all the branches of AAUW of Michigan...and, oh by the way, **Thank You** for a great 2008-09!

Kathy Shaw
AAUW of MI President

PROGRAM VP

Our local branch Program Vice Presidents and committees are responsible for programming for our branch meetings, but we all need to be responsible for mission-based thinking and planning. Let us renew our passion and use the power of our programs and projects to assure a fair chance for all women.

“Bridge Awards”: Ideas for Your Branch Programs and/or Projects

Branch Bridge Awards are presented at the Spring Annual convention. The programs and projects that are awarded are published and put into book form for our convention folder. Every convention participant is given a folder containing a copy of the Bridge awards. Each “Bridge” is described as to “how they did it”. So don’t leave that manuscript in your folder – get it out and see what might be a program/project that would appeal to your branch or be a fit for your community. Some of the programs included: Brains Rule!! A project in collaboration with U-M for girls and boys—Ann Arbor branch; Girls’ Dream Fair done in cooperation with the Center for Women In Transition for 8th grade girls—Holland; HELPS—a booklet of available scholarships for prospective college students—Midland; More Than Just A Book Sale, a donation of books to schools through its Patron Donor Fund—Birmingham; “Remember the Ladies”, providing women’s biographies for school libraries—Northville-Novis; National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Candidate Sponsor—Wyandotte/Downriver. I have just highlighted a few of the awards. Twenty-one Bridge Awards were given in 2009 so be sure to take a look.

PROGRAMS ON A PAGE (POP)

These are short programs put together by AAUW of Michigan and developed to familiarize our members with vital issues that we support because of our mission: Advancing equity and education for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. “We hope that branch members will provide the creativity to incorporate these mini programs into the already planned programs”, Mickey Edell, AAUW of MI Initiatives Chair. These programs may be found by going to our state website, www.aauwmi.org and clicking on programs. Take a look. There are over 20 POP’s.

PROGRAM IN A BOX (PIAB)

AAUW has created new online resource called “Program in a Box” to help members consider and choose program activities for their branches. Each Program in a Box outlines an activity that could be chosen for your branch, with the “what, why, and how” to implement that program. These PIABs focus on a wide range of AAUW activities, including education, advocacy, communications, membership, fundraising, etc. and are available on our state website, www.aauwmi.org under “programs” or on the association website, www.aauw.org.

Another Program Idea

State Board Members are available to speak at your branch meeting. They can be a valuable resource for AAUW information and inspiration. There is a “Request for Speaker” form in the president’s packet so use it to your advantage (or call or email).

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

J. Emery, Program VP

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Would you like to be a convention/conference host branch?

Host branches are needed for the one-day fall conference in 2010 and for the two-day spring conference, 2011. Your president receives information in your "President's Pack" for volunteering for this opportunity. Talk it over and see if this might be something you could do, talk to those who have done it—Midland hosted the 2009 convention, and fill out and send in your form.

Next year, our 88th State Convention will be hosted by the Livonia Branch at the VisTaTech facility at Schoolcraft College. The date is Saturday, May 8, 2010. Plan to attend and put that date on your AAUW calendar now.

Program Chair's P.S. to the summer issue—for all you proud Albion College graduates-- Dr. Donna Randall, our fantastic keynote speaker at our May Convention, is President of Albion College. I failed to make note of that in my summer newsletter article. My apologies! *J. Emery*

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Communications = Marketing + Increased Visibility

Meet Janet Watkins, the AAUWMI Technology/Website Director on This past year she and Kathy Shaw worked together to develop a new website for AAUWMI members. And what a website! Janet's work drew the attention of Association leaders who invited her to join a group of webmasters in presenting a workshop at our Association Convention in St. Louis. She is responsible for maintaining the AAUWMI website, blog, and social networking sites like the AAUWMI Facebook page.

Where did she acquire such high tech skills? Find out on our website!
www.aauwmi.org

(from *BYLAWS* page 1)

publications where the mission statement might appear). It is: "The purpose of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research."

4. The "Use of Name" section is shortened. The first 2 sections are retained: **Section 1.** The policies and program of the AAUW and the state shall be binding on all members and branches, and no member or branch shall use the name of AAUW to oppose such policies or program. Established channels may be used to change a policy or program.

Section 2. The freedom of speech of the individual member to speak a personal opinion in the member's own name is not abridged.

Added is: "Section 3 Violations. Violation of the Use of Name policy shall result in action taken in accordance with AAUW policy".

5. Delete any references to regions and regional directors.
6. A branch with fewer than 15 members may continue; loss of branch recognition will be governed by Article XI Section 3 of AAUW Bylaws.
7. Delete references to delegates for AAUW convention. Now every member has a vote.

What hasn't changed?

1. AAUW membership requirement remains an associate or equivalent degree, or higher.
2. Branches are still the basic unit of AAUW.

(see *BYLAWS* page 6)

AAUW OF MICHIGAN CALENDAR

2009-2010

District Meetings

DISTRICT 3 JULY 11, 2009
DISTRICTS 4, 7 & 8 OCTOBER 31, 2009
DISTRICTS 5 & 6 NOVEMBER 6, 2009

State Annual Convention:

May 8, 2010

VIS TA TECH CENTER, SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE
18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI 48152

Annual Reports & Convention Book Deadline:
April 10, 2010

State Convention Voting Delegate Deadline:
April 16, 2010

Nominations, Resolutions & Bylaws Deadline:

December 1, 2009

Forms available on the website

State Board Meetings:

July 18-19, 2009	Miller Manor Battle Creek
October 30, 2009	Place TBA SE MI
January 30, 2010	Place TBA Lansing
May 7, 2010	Marriot Livonia
July 17-18, 2010	TBA SE MI

MEMBERSHIP VP

The lifeblood of AAUW is our members for it gives us collective strength.

At the 2009 AAUW convention members engaged in discussions concerning the requirement changes for membership. **After the vote the membership requirement remains the same. The criteria for individual membership is “a graduate holding an associate or equivalent degree, baccalaureate or higher degree from a qualified educational institution”.** Students pursuing a degree may qualify for student affiliate membership, and if they are a part of a college or university AAUW partner, they are automatically entitled to an e-student affiliate membership. In addition, colleges and universities may become AAUW members at rates dependent upon their student enrollment. **A bonus beginning this year is that \$46 of the national AAUW membership dues is tax deductible.** State and branch dues are not deductible. Another selling point for university communities is that AAUW members are able to apply for the Educational Foundation Fellowships.

Recruiting new members should take place all year. AAUW of Michigan has much to be proud of in terms of membership. Check the AAUW website, there are several branches in Michigan that have increased their membership. The Hall of Fame on the aauw.org website includes 22 branches and 112 members recognized from Michigan. ‘High fives’ for recruiting five or more new members are:

Harriet Sawyer and Connie Vincent, Northville-Novis branch

Vida Sisco, Lansing branch

Kathleen Bennett and Susan Hampton, Escanaba branch

Beth Young, Saginaw branch

AAUW Keys to the Future: “One-Member–Get-A-Member” campaign continues. Watch for your name/branch on the Hall of Fame at aauw.org after December 31, 2009. Keep a record of new members. **A personal invitation to join AAUW is the most effective.** Be proud of what we represent: our legacy of breaking barriers and advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, research and philanthropy. **Check the list of Members at Large** in your zip code and community leaders as possible candidates for membership. **Plan an event** that targets a specific group of potential members, perhaps holding it at a community college or university nearby. Use one of college women who attended this year’s **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**. **Read about Generation X** and plan projects that might interest them. **Give a gift of membership** to someone to join AAUW. **Give a recent grad a gift membership** at no cost to you or her. **Shape the Future Membership Campaign** uses AAUW sponsored activities to recruit new or lapsed members. Those who join on the spot are offered reduced membership rates. **For every two new members**, national dues are one half and there is a limit to three free memberships a year. **Send an email or e-card** to a friend encouraging them to join AAUW.

Our AAUW branches are much like our gardens. If they are nurtured and given the proper care, they continue to grow. Without proper attention and some adaptability to change there are problems. What can we do to maintain our base and grow?

These are just a few ideas to try in 2009-2010. If you would like to contact me, please feel free to email at j.lombard@sbcglobal.net or phone 734-663-7244. I send my best wishes to all Michigan branches for a great year in AAUW.

AAUW Mission Statement:

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW Vision Statement:

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

Jennie Lombard, Vice President, Membership

PUBLIC POLICY

BY GOLLY! I THINK THEY'VE GOT IT!

I was reminded of the 5th grade first day back to school writing assignment “What Was Your Best Summer Vacation Experience” when President Shaw told the AAUW of MI Board our fall newsletter assignment was to write about successes. I toyed with writing a short piece about the confirmation of Sonia Sotomayor to Supreme Court, but I let go of that idea because I know you are as up to date on the news as I am.

And then it struck me. I decided to share with you what I feel is a tremendous Association success. I believe the Association has outdone themselves with an updated AAUW Issues Page on its website. Gone are the frustrations of needing information on an AAUW Public Policy Issue and going from Association website section to section and clicking on everything imaginable without getting where we need to be or finding what we need to have.

That’s right! Kudos to the Association! We can now key in one URL and access great information on important Public Policy Issues. All we have to do is key in or paste in www.aauw.org/advocacy/issues_advocacy/actionpages and voila. An attractive, well spaced, and easily readable page titled AAUW Issues comes up. The page has an informative introduction section and clearly positioned subject headings. A bulleted list of position papers appears under each heading. The bullets are clickable and the information is printable and easily copied. It’s the easiest road to AAUW Issues information I’ve found. And, of course, there are related clickable headings on the page. The Headings are:

CIVIL RIGHTS

AAUW advocates equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

AAUW advocates for all women to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

EDUCATION

AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity.

TITLE IX

AAUW supports vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education.

I encourage each of you to visit the page. You’ll find it a wonderfully easy way to be “up to speed” on our issues and to access “ready to use” information.

Jean Jokipii, Public Policy Director

(from BYLAWS page 4)

3. No branch or state must change its current leadership structure if this works well and meets the needs of the branch or state.
4. States remain but they are optional structures; flexibility is given for state’s governance structure. The state may decide whether they want to join in a multi-state structure or other configuration.

What optional changes might a branch consider?

So long as a branch fulfills two requirements to maintain connection to AAUW, i.e. (1) a person designated as administrative contact to receive communications (mail, emails, etc.) related to branch activities and other AAUW programs and (2) a person designated as financial contact to receive membership, dues and donation information, it remains a viable branch. In the fall you may expect the AAUW website to provide suggestions for alternate structures of organization as a springboard for branch brainstorming. Model Branch Bylaws will also be available in the fall. Branches now have the flexibility to determine the governance structure that best suits their needs and size. Keeping your current structure is still a viable option.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if/when you have questions about bylaws. Remember that bylaws are your “rules of operation”, with the emphasis on “your”.

Betty Chenoweth, Bylaws & Policy Director

EF/LAF

EF AND LAF NOW PART OF AAUW FUNDS

With the adoption of the new bylaws at the AAUW convention in St. Louis, the organization is now part of two funds: AAUW Action Funds and AAUW Funds. The Action Funds support all the 501 (c)(4) activities such as legislative activities and association business; and the AAUW Funds support all the 501(c)(3) activities such as grants, fellowships, leadership forums and advocacy. Three dollars of your Association dues goes to support the Action Funds (not tax deductible); and since the rest supports the AAUW funds you are able to deduct that amount on your income taxes if you file a long form.

What does that mean for the branch EF and LAF chairs? Nothing changes except that the contribution form is different. I have sent this information to all the EF and LAF chairs that I have on file, but if you did not receive this material, it can be found on the AAUW website (aauw.org) under *forms*. All the code numbers for the various fellowships and grants are the same. The difference is that you use one form for all contributions instead of separate forms for EF and LAF.

Please congratulate your members on the outstanding support given last year to EF and LAF. Michigan branches were third in the nation in EF support and sixth in the nation in LAF support. That is absolutely outstanding! Let's try to continue that great accomplishment.

Change is confusing, but eventually we learn to adjust! We can do this!!

Carol Pyke, EF/LAF State Director

INITIATIVE DIRECTOR

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is a two-and-a half-day conference held to encourage students to hone leadership skills for their work on campus and in their communities. What better way to “break through barriers” than fostering these skills and encouraging young women to attend this outstanding program. This June 2009, the conference was held at the University of Maryland. Many of our Michigan branches sponsored candidates or contributed funds to help secure scholarships for women in need of financial assistance. On the Association website you can view video clips of some of the attendees, who highly touted their experience. During the conference attendees had the opportunity to choose from fifty dynamic workshops and presentations and took advantage of dialogue and networking opportunities. One of the highlights was keynote speaker Nontombi Naomi Tutu, daughter of Archbishop Tutu and human rights activist. She challenged these young women to “find out how to use their gifts to make the world a better place.” Candidates involved in this conference testified to the powerful impact it has had on their lives and their leadership skills.

This past year the following Michigan branches supported candidates or contributed money for scholarships: Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Livonia, Birmingham, Plymouth-Canton, Traverse City, Wyandotte, Midland, Saginaw, Rochester, and Romeo. Holland has budgeted money to sponsor a candidate in 2010. Thanks and accolades to all of you for your generosity. I encourage all of you to “jump on this bandwagon.” Supporting NCCWSL is an outstanding project for all our branches to adopt. If branches do not wish to sponsor a candidate, monetary contributions in any amount would be utilized to support the scholarship fund for young women that cannot afford the registration fee. Our ultimate goal is participation from all of our branches.

Together let us continue to “break through barriers” by supporting the leadership skills of our young women, who will continue our quest for equity.

**26th Annual
Michigan Women's
Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony
&
Dinner**

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

**Kellogg Hotel
& Conference Center
East Lansing**

Tickets \$125/person

www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org

517-484-1880 ext. 203

*Mickey Edell
Initiative Director*



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Districts 4, 7 & 8 Fall Conference
October 31, 2009
www.aauwmi.org