



AAUW

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

TRAVERSE CITY AREA BRANCH

Member Handbook & Directory

2025-2026

The mission of AAUW-TC is to advance equity for women and girls in the Grand Traverse Bay Area by offering scholarships for educational opportunities, workshops, and leadership training.

AAUW-Traverse City Area Branch, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity Organization. Contributions may be tax deductible.

The Traverse City Area Branch was organized March 17, 1954, and was granted its charter from National AAUW on September 21, 1954.

AAUW... because equity is still an issue

PO Box 1142 – Traverse City – Michigan 49685
aauwtc@gmail.com – www.aauwtc.org

Branch Inclement Weather Policy

Branch policy specifies that Branch activities are cancelled when Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) cancels school due to inclement weather. TCAPS makes their decision by 6 a.m.

If TCAPS is in session and weather deteriorates during the day, a member of the AAUW-TC Board or an Interest Group chair will send an email to Branch members regarding cancellation.

Make safety your first consideration.

AAUW Contact Information

AAUW Association Headquarters

Website: www.aauw.org
1310 L Street, N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005.
Phone 202-785-7700; 800-326-2289
(Mon.–Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET)
email: connect@aauw.org

AAUW Michigan

President: Amy Shamroe
Email: aauwamy@gmail.com
Website: www.aauwmi.org

AAUW Traverse City Area Branch

PO Box 1142, Traverse City, MI 49685
President: Jean Zerges
Email: aauwtc@gmail.com
Website: www.aauwtc.org password: tcwomenrock
Facebook: AAUWTC

What is AAUW?

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day—educational, social, economic, and political. AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881.

AAUW is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that has more than 170,000 members and supporters, 1,000 branches, and 800 college and university partners in all fifty states, District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

Our Mission. *Gender Equity and Economic Security.* Women, on average, receive just 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man but black and native American women receive less.

Our Values. Intersectional. Inclusive.

Intergenerational. Empowering. Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral. We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles. We advocate for federal, state, and local laws and policies to ensure equity and for ending discrimination.

WHAT AAUW in TC DOES WELL

Hospitality, welcoming

Strong Board Members

Local Scholarships

Excellent Monthly Programs

Diverse & Effective Interest Groups

Books for Schools

Website, Facebook, Newsletter, Blasts

Book Sales & Literacy

Partners with NMC and LWVGT

No Guilt Membership

Focus & Action on Women's Issues

AAUW is one of the largest sources of funding for graduate women. As of 2025, we've given more than 146 million dollars to over 14,000 recipients, both individuals and non-profits. The recipients pursue academic work and

Our Focus

- **Security.** Economic security for women is non-negotiable. We've been working to narrow the gender pay gap, which greets women as soon as they enter the workforce and widens throughout their working lives. Unequal wages stand in the way of a woman's ability to pay off student debt, build wealth, and save for a Removing bias from **Economic** secure retirement.
- **Education:** We champion equal opportunities in education. Though more than 60 percent of college graduates are women, they face barriers and biases throughout their schooling. From preschool to graduate, schoolgirls and women are unconsciously steered into certain fields of study and away from the more lucrative ones, such as in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).
- **Advocacy:** Our members, supporters and staff work on local, state and federal levels to support laws and policies that enable women's success. Our work in helped pass hundreds of pieces of statehouses and the U.S. Capital has legislation. Our legal advocacy team supports plaintiffs in gender-equity legal cases.

Vision. Our vision is equity for all.

Priorities. Our priorities are:

- Education
- Fighting for fair pay and economic equity
- Advancing women in leadership.

Diversity Statement. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization based on age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

What have we done lately on behalf of all women and girls?

lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls.

Grant Opportunities Available in 2025-2026 grant year. Applications are evaluated by commitment to the advancement of women and girls. See our national website for specific requirements and details: aauw.org.

- **American Fellowships** are for women pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations or conduct postdoctoral research, or to those preparing research for publication for eight consecutive weeks.
- **Career Development Grants:** Available to women pursuing a certificate or degree to advance their careers, change careers, or reenter the workforce in education, health and medical sciences, or social sciences and whose bachelor's degree was received at least eight years before the award period.
- **Community Action Grant:** Designed for individuals, AAUW branches and states, and nonprofit organizations that fund innovative programs or promote education and equity through projects focused on encouraging girls to select physical sciences or engineering as a career before entering college.
- **International Fellowships:** For women pursuing full-time graduate or postdoctoral study in the United States who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
- **International Project Grants:** For alumnae of AAUW's International Fellowship program who are living in their home countries and pursuing community-based projects to improve the social advancement and economic empowerment of women and girls.
- **Research Publication Grant in Engineering, Medicine and Science:** For women conducting basic research in engineering, medicine or the physical or biological sciences and who have a doctorate degree in one of those fields

- **Selected Professions Fellowships:** For women pursuing full-time study in a master's or professional degree program in which women are under-represented, including STEM, law, business, and medicine.

The AAUW Action Fund provides GOTV (Get Out the Vote) and voter education resources.

The AAUW LOBBY CORPS gives AAUW a voice and a face on Capitol Hill for issues affecting women and girls, such as education, civil rights, reproductive rights and economic security. When Congress is in session, lobbying takes place weekly by volunteer members and college student interns.

START SMART for college age women, and WORK SMART for working women are free in-person and online workshops which teach participants how to advance their careers.

Economic Security and the Gender Pay Gap

We've been working to narrow the gender pay gap which greets women as soon as they enter the workforce and widens throughout their working lives. It occurs across almost all occupations and industries and varies substantially from state to state. Although women have significantly outpaced men in degree attainment, it hasn't translated into top compensation. Unequal wages stand in the way of a woman's ability to pay off student debt, build wealth, and save for a secure retirement.

Organization

AAUW includes both a section 501(c)(3) public charity, the primary membership organization, and the AAUW Action Fund, a smaller section 501(c)(4) social welfare organization that may engage in limited activities related to member activism and voter education.

AAUW Funds

- **AAUW Greatest Need.** The AAUW Fund has been renamed the AAUW Greatest Need Fund but its purpose is unchanged. This fund allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges and to use your gift where it is needed most.
 - **Education and Training Fund.** Champions equal access to education and ensures that education at every level is free from sex discrimination. The fund will focus on STEM, Title IX, and Pathways to Jobs. Programs will include Fellowships Alumni Initiatives, Fellowships and Grants, Public Policy and Research. The former Education Opportunities Fund, Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, and Public Policy Fund have been absorbed into this fund.
 - **Economic Security Fund.** This fund aims to ensure livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiations, and deepening women's retirement security and quality of life. Programs in this fund will focus on Start Smart and Work Smart. The previous Legal Advocacy Fund also will be incorporated.
 - **Leadership Fund.** This fund will support efforts to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations. Campus Action Projects, Empowerment Programs, and the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) attendees will be included.
- Contributions to AAUW Funds are tax deductible.**
- AAUW has rebranded the AAUW Fund designations as part of their bold strategic vision for the future. The seven funds that you've been familiar with have become four.

Membership Requirements

AAUW is open to all graduates who hold a two-year associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from an accredited institution. In Michigan, people in the community can become members of a local branch without a college degree if their branch wishes to include them and they support the AAUW mission.

AAUW's 2021 election had a record voter turnout with 23% of all members casting a ballot. The ballot Initiative to eliminate the membership requirement got 63% of the vote, which was just below the two-thirds majority needed to enact a bylaw change.

Membership is open to both women and men.

Membership year is July 1–June 30. There are several types of AAUW membership and dues rates.

Association members. Members of national AAUW Association only.

Regular members. Members of Branch, State and national AAUW Association. Branch and State AAUW members must join the national AAUW Association. New members may qualify for a special “Save the Future” national membership rate for the first year. Returning AAUW members may also qualify for the special national membership rate if they have been away from AAUW for at least three membership years. Branch members must be members of the State and national AAUW Association.

Dual members. Members of more than one AAUW branch. They hold State and national Association membership in their primary branch. If their primary branch is ‘out of state,’ they pay our branch dues in addition to AAUW of Michigan dues.

Paid Life Membership. Members can purchase an AAUW Life membership by paying twenty years’ worth of national dues, regardless of how long the individual has been an AAUW member. They continue to pay branch and state dues annually.

50-year Honorary Life Membership. Members who have been a dues-paying member of the national AAUW Association for fifty years. After receiving this recognition, they pay only branch dues.

Community Members

These are individuals who are not eligible for AAUW membership but support the AAUW mission and would like to participate in Branch activities and interest groups. They pay only Branch dues. They may not vote or hold an elected or appointed office.

College/University Representatives.

Members who are employees of Northwestern Michigan College who have been invited by the branch to serve as a liaison between their students and AAUW. NMC is an

E-student memberships.

Since NMC is an AAUW college/university member institution, all NMC students have access to free AAUW National E- student memberships.

A portion of national Association dues and all AAUW-TC Branch dues may be tax-deductible if you itemize your tax return. Check with your tax advisor.

AAUW of MICHIGAN

AAUW of Michigan, organized on February 24, 1922, is a non-partisan, non-profit, 501(c)(4) organization and has nearly 2,700 members in 32 branches located in the state's lower and upper peninsulas. AAUW of Detroit Branch, Inc., established in 1889, is the oldest branch and the oldest continuously active women's organization in Michigan.

66 Years of Past Presidents Traverse City Area Branch

Jean Jewel	1954–1954
Kitty Hagen	1954–1956
Lois Geist	1956–1958
Anne Linsley Robinson	1958–1960
Aurelia Winsemius	1960–1962
Margaret Knowles	1962–1964
Maxine Ryckman	1964–1966
Eleanor Shaw	1966–1968
Irene Brown	1968–1970
Dawn Cooper	1970–1972
Lynn Larson	1972–1974
Karen Strom	1974–1976
Holly Goff Payne	1976–1978
Pat Lewallen	1978–1980
Sally Reed	1980–1982
Susan Stepnitz (Wagner)	1982–1984
Suzanne Williams	1984–1986
Margaret Jones	1986–1990
Linda Poindexter	1990–1992
Ann Laurimore	1992–1994
Judy Leaman	1994–1996
Margaret Jones	1996–2000
Bonnie Willings	2000–2002
Beth Rowell	2002–2004
Eleanor Tacke	2004–2008
Shirley Murray	2008–2010
Laurie Gabel	2010–2014
Deb Jackson	2014–2016
Amy Shamroe	2016–2018
Ann Marie Love	2018–2020
Leanne Baumeler/Amy Shamroe	2020–2024
Jean Zerges	2024–

Branch Board 2025-2026

Elected Board

President 231-421-9440	Jean Zerges Jean.zerges44@gmail.com
President-Elect 630-632-5950	Lauren Johnson lmjconsulting@comcast.net
Program VP 231-938-2405	Carol Evans anybodyce@gmail.com

Membership VP's
904-318-6785

Cathy Wallach
530-308-3544

Finance Officer
515-229-7062

Secretary
231-421-3069

Diane Jones
calculuslady@gmail.com

clwallach@charter.net

Laura Higgins
ohiowami@gmail.com

Christine Walter
chris9709@sbcglobal.net

Appointed Board

Public Policy
616-247-6536

Vickie Craig
mvcraig@att.net

AAUW Funds

open

College/University Liason **Alison Thornton**
231-995-1044 athornton@nmc.edu

Communications
662-202-5692

Amy Gibson
aemark1@gmail.com

Hospitality
231- 271–3575

Darlene Garland
BGarland@centurylink.net

Branch Committees

Some board members, appointed board members, and appointed chairs have a committee to support their office.

Program

Carol Evans

Plans Branch meetings, which includes inviting speakers, planning special programs, e.g., holiday party, determines venue, themes, and sets the programs for each meeting.

Scholarships

Marlene Smith

Responsible for soliciting, reviewing, and awarding applications for the AAUW Minnie Votruba Moore and other Branch scholarships.

Fundraising

Branch Board

Organizes activities to raise money for scholarships, projects, and Branch activities.

Corresponding Secretary **Pat Lewallen**

Is the liaison for all members with each other. Members ensure that those in the Branch who are ill, experiencing a loss, or have a need are contacted and offered help.

Hospitality

Darlene Garland

Makes our meetings more fun. Members may prepare or serve food, decorate our meeting room, or otherwise make our members—old and new—feel welcome.

Books for Schools

Suzanne Sorkin

Selects and distributes a book each year featuring girls and women as the major subject to regional elementary schools and libraries.

Bylaws

open

Proposes, tracks and updates the bylaws of the branch and keeps them in compliance with State and National Bylaws.

Newsletter and Website

Amy Gibson

aauwtcnewsletter@gmail.com

aauwtcwebsite@gmail.com

Amy updates and maintains the Branch website and also sends a newsletter monthly via e mail.

All articles are welcome as well as photos taken at Branch events. Members can send ideas and pictures to aauwtc@gmail.com. The newsletter also is posted in the Members Only section of the website.

The Branch website, aauwtc.org, is the go-to site for up-to-date information about Branch activities. The homepage includes Branch meeting information. Other sections include information about interest groups, scholarships, and officer information. The Members Only section requires a password, which is [tcwomenrock](http://tcwomenrock.com). In the Members Only section are our newsletters, bylaws, annual reports, and other helpful information.

Branch Meetings

Branch Meetings are held monthly from September through June. Speaker meetings are held on Monday evenings in the Janis Room of NMC's Dennon Museum. Special events take place during the day on Saturdays in the Bethlehem Lutheran Community Room. We conduct an annual business meeting and have a December holiday party with a silent auction. Consult our website for details: **aauwtc.org**

Conferences

Our Branch also supports various conferences in collaboration with Northwestern Michigan College.

Please Note

AAUW of Michigan Bylaws state: Individual, State Board and Branch members will not use State and/or Branch stationery or membership lists to promote any action that has not had State or Branch approval.

Branch Interest Groups

Our Branch has several interest groups. All welcome new members. Three or more members can decide to pursue a common interest and form a group. Contact the group leader directly if you have questions about joining.

Monday Evening Book Study

Chair: Bonnie Willings 231- 929-3026

bkwillings@yahoo.com

Meets on the second Monday, September through June. Contact Chair to join.

Night Readers

Chairs: Judy Bell 231-218-3902 jabell1998@gmail.com

Jeanette Thompson 231-357-1355

jthompson525@gmail.com

Meets on the third Tuesday, September through June, at 6 pm online. Contact chair to join.

Verna Mae Daytime Book Group

Chair: Joyce Jasinski 760-212-2431

jjasinski46@gmail.com

Meets at the Woodmere Branch of TADL the last Wednesday of each month from 10:15 am–noon. Contact Chair to join. We don't meet in December or July.

Bridge & Lunch

Chair: Shirley Murray 231-943-4663

sgibsonmurray@gmail.com

Meets for lunch and bridge on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at the Traverse City Golf & Country Club. Contact Chair to join.

Living Well With Cancer

Sandy Seppala-Gyr 703-597-7925

sansep19@gmail.com

Meets on the last Monday of each month at various locations. We share experiences and tips to help and support one another. It's not all about cancer; it's also about making friends. Join us to talk together. Please contact Sandy.

Lunchin' Around

Pat Lewallen, Chair

231-946-3746

bandplew@chartermi.net

If you'd enjoy getting to know our members while enjoying an interesting restaurant around town, then Lunchin' Around is for you. We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Contact Chair to join. Deadline to reserve for lunch is 2 days prior to the meeting. To get the discussion started, we start with a Question of the Month. We choose the next restaurants at previous ones, so bring suggestions of your favorites.

Poetry Group

Chair: Shirley Murray

231-943-4663 sgibsonmurray@gmail.com

Meets on the third Friday at noon. We discuss poets, poetry, and the art of writing poetry.

Needles Up

231-735-5954

Chair: Mary Lou Deutsch

loudan@charter.net

Meets 1-3 p.m. first Thursday. Designed primarily for knitters and crocheters, we welcome all needleworkers and crafters for sharing, learning and working together. Knitting lessons are available. Contact Mary Lou for this, or to join.

Public Policy

Chair: Vickie Craig 616-247-6536 mvcraig@att.net

We stay informed on public policy issues, especially as they affect women and girls. Contact Chair to join.

STEM group

Chair: Laura Higgins

515-229-7062

ohiowami@gmail.com

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Traverse Area District Library. Our goal is to advance STEM opportunities for women and girls.

Scholarships

AAUW-TC—Minnie Votruba Moore Scholarship

Established in 1975, this scholarship was funded by a bequest from Minnie Votruba Moore, a branch member, to recognize and assist women in furthering their education, enhancing their personal and/or career opportunities. In May 2016, the scholarship funds were transferred to the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation endowing the scholarship in perpetuity for women in the five-county Grand Traverse region.

AAUW-TC also offers several branch scholarships. Instructions and applications are available at <http://www.aauwtc.org>. Recipients will be selected from the Votruba Moore application pool.

Murray Fund

This fund, established in 2013 by Shirley Murray, provides financial assistance to members of our Branch so they can attend State and/or National AAUW conventions. Branch members may also apply for registration reimbursement when attending any conference in the Traverse City area that would benefit the Branch. The application form is available on the AAUW-TC website in the "Members Only" section.

Sponsorships

Our Branch sponsors programs and activities that support women and girls in the community.

Fundraisers

Our branch holds fundraisers throughout the year to fund our scholarships, to contribute to AAUW Funds, and for the operation of our Branch.

Book Sales at the Mercato

Books donated by members are sold at mini book sales from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first Saturdays of each month November- April at the ***Mercato*** in Building 50 at Grand Traverse Commons. Able-bodied volunteers are needed to set up and take down each sale. Our Annual Book Sale takes place the first weekend in May, also at the ***Mercato***. Contact the Chairs below to volunteer assistance.

Amy Gibson aemark1@gmail.com

Shirley Murray: sgibsonmurray@gmail.com

Directory

Key: P: telephone/landline; C: cellphone

Sandra Al Shamma

3183 Scenic Hills Dr.
Williamsburg, MI 49690
P: 938-2089 sandra.alshamma@gmail.com
C: 633-3183
Knox College, B.A.; Michigan State University, M.S.

Leanne Baumeler

14985 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
C: 499-1025 L.Baumeler@nmc.edu
Ferris State University, B.S.W., Lansing Community College, A.D.A.

Judy Bell

5861 Dover Lane
Traverse City, MI 49685
C: 218-3902 jabell1998@gmail.com
Michigan State University, B.S.; Grand Valley State University, MSW.

Irene Brown (*Fifty-Year Member*)

4354 Mount Hope Rd. #1116
Williamsburg, MI 49690
231-938-1336 irenebrown1717@gmail.com
Michigan State University, B.A.

Beverly Cox (*Community Member*)

3165 Scenic Hills Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49690
C: 231-313-8457 bccox00@yahoo.com

Vickie Craig

8799 Dawn Circle
Traverse City, MI 49686 mvcraig@att.net
C: 616-247-6536
University of Virginia, B.A.

Mary Lou Deutsch

4324 Hearthside Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49684
C: 231-735-5954 loudan@charter.net
Valparaiso University, B.A.

Nadine Dolan

1311 Elk Court
Traverse City, MI 49696
C: 231-944-9698 nadinedolan@charter.net
Kansas State University, B.S.; Spring Arbor University, B.A.

Lee Ann Elston

2441 Tonawanda Lake Rd
Grawn, MI 49637 lee.elston4@gmail.com
C: 231-883-1987
Barry University, (FL) B.S.N.;
Nova Southeastern University, MHL

Diane Emling

1910 Arrowhead Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-642-0550 dkcemling@gmail.com
Michigan State University, B.A., M.A., Ph.D

Carol Evans

1259 Terra Rd. Traverse City, 49686
P: 231-938-2405 C: 231-632-1927
anybodyce@gmail.com
Michigan State University, B.A., M.A.; Wayne State University

Ann Freeman

381 S. Nanagosa Trail
Sutton's Bay, MI 49682
734-673-7806 ambartos@yahoo.com
University of Michigan, B.A., University of Detroit, M.B.A.

Darlene Garland

P.O. Box 402
Suttons Bay, MI 49682
P: 271-3575 BGarland@centurylink.net
Michigan State University, B.S.

Amy Gibson

1001 Lincoln St.
Traverse City, MI 49686
C: 662-202-5692 aemark1@gmail.com
Kalamazoo College: B.A., University of Wisconsin: MLIS,
University of Mississippi: Ph.D

Heather Gruenberg-Seger (*Life Member*)

928
Kelley Street Traverse
City, MI 496 C:
944-0376 britajax@gmail.com
Carleton College, B.A.

Ginger Hinchcliff

1714 Timberlane, Traverse City 49686
231-534-4806 ginger.hinchcliff@gmail.com
Penn State, B.S.; Gulf Coast University, M.A.

Nancy (Nan) Horstman (*Life Member*)

3731 Creekside Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49684
C: 492-7490 nan.horstman@gmail.com
Albion College, B.A.; Indiana University, M.S.; Michigan State University

Laura Sue Higgins

1682 Wayne St.
Traverse City, MI 49684
515-229-7062 ohiowami@gmail.com
Ohio State, B.S., Iowa State, M.S.
University of Nebraska, Ph.D

Katherine Homminga

2724 Blue Ridge Lane
Traverse City, MI, 49685
254-319-4380 katielane13@hotmail.com

C:

Central Texas College: A.A., Texas A. & M: B.A.,
Central Texas College: M.Ed.

Susan E. Hughes

9268 Larchwood Lane
Interlochen, MI 49643
C: 357-7050 snoozer1971@yahoo.com
University of Michigan, B.S.N.; Central Michigan
University, M.S.A.

Cindy Hull

421 Washington St.
Traverse City, MI 49686
C: 349-1757 hullc@gvsu.edu
Grand Valley State University, B.A.; Wayne State
University, M.A. Ph.D

Joyce Jasinski

444 E. State Street
Traverse City, MI 49686
C: 760-212-2431 jjasinski46@gmail.com
University of Hawaii, B.A., M.S.W.

Lauren Johnson

10889 Pine Bluff Dr. Unit A
Traverse City 49686 C: 630-632-5950
LMJconsulting@comcast.net
DePauw University, B.S.

Diane Jones

807 Westminster Rd.
Traverse City, MI 49686 calculuslady@gmail.com C
:904-318-6785
Florida Central University B.S.

Ruth Jones

3863 Sandia Place
Traverse City 49684 tcgrannynanny@yahoo.com
C: 231-645-1761
Central Michigan University, B.A.; Southern Methodist
University, M.A.

Polly Karle

3635 Courtney Place
Traverse City, MI 49684
P: 935-3847 pkarle3847@charter.net
University of Michigan, B.A.

Deanna Kelly

538 Washington St. Traverse City 49686 C:
499-2312 dkelly538@gmail.com
Western Michigan University B.S., Central Michigan
University, M.S.A.

Andrea (Andi) Kramer

2136 Hammond Place Center

Traverse City, MI 49686

C: 517-898-1908 andrea.osgood128@gmail.com
Olivet College, B.A. Wayne State University, M.Ed.

Pat Lewallen

4725 Sunrise Lane Traverse City 49684
P: 231-946-3746 C:
231-944-9601bandplew@chartermi.net
Olivet College, B.S.; Central Michigan University, M.A.;
Ed. Spec.

Betty Lien

8589 East Beach Trail Rd.
Traverse City, MI 49686
P: 943-1617 C: 231-590-5107
themanorhouuselakedrive@gmail.com
Northern Michigan College, A.A.; Ferris State University,
B.A., Central Michigan University, M.A.

Ann Marie Love

4092 Summerhill Rd.,
Traverse City, 49684 annmarie.love@icloud.com C:
360-8307 Central
Michigan University, B.S.; Ball State University, M.A., Ph.D.

Lorah W. MacIntosh

PO Box 383 Acme, MI 49610
P: 231-938-1369 C: 231-590-1003
lorah.w.mac@gmail.com
Wittenberg University, B.A.; Michigan State University,
D.O.

Anne Magoun

8514 S. Dunns Farm Road
Maple City, MI 49664
C: 632-6233 annemagoun@gmail.com
Yale University, B.A.; Pennsylvania State University M.P.A.

Barb Melichar

5235 Hazelnut Ct.
Traverse City, MI 49685
C: 706-476-4015 melicharbarb5@gmail.com
University of Montana, B.A.; University of Georgia–
Athens, M.Ed., Ed. D.

Mary K. Monteith

8710 Stratford
Interlochen, MI 49643
P: 276-6842 beachwkr00@aol.com
University of Illinois, B.A., M.A.

Betsy Moore

330 W. Tenth St.
Traverse City, MI 49684
C: 574-276-8923 emoore9706@gmail.com
Mount Holyoke College, B.A.; University of Florida–
Gainesville, M.Ed. Ph.D.

Shirley Gibson Murray

600 Cottageview Dr. #150

Traverse City, MI 49684

P: 231-943-4663

sgibsonmurray@gmail.com

Bowling Green State University, B.S.; Oakland University, M.A.

C: 248-761-9780

amelia@cherryrepublic.com

Miami University, B.A.

Karen Segal

620 Sixth Street

Traverse City, MI 49684

231-715-6064 karenpsegal@gmail.com

Hope

C:

College, B.A.; Georgetown University, M.A.

Sandy Seppala-Gyr (Fifty-Year Member)

12047 S. Elk Run, apt. 106

Traverse City, MI 49684

C: 703-597-7925

sansep19@gmail.com

Wayne State University, B.S.

Beverly Neville

7400-62 Lakeview Dr. Charlevoix, MI 49720

P: 622-8820

C: 941-730-2669

bjneville17@gmail.com

Eastern Michigan College, B.S., English, Business Management

Mary Ann Niesen

18880 Whisperwood Ct.

Lake Ann, MI 49650 mag314@gmail.com

C: 317-209-5964

Pharm-D Purdue University

Holly Payne

78 Wildwood Meadow Drive

Traverse City 49686

P: 231-947-1842 C: 231-392-3282

Summer: hpayne@chartermi.netWinter: hpayne12@comcast.net

Western Michigan University, B.S.

Fran Perkett

335 High Lake Rd.

Traverse City, MI 49686

C: 231-392-4408 fperkettlake@gmail.com

NMC: A.A., Madonna University: B.A., St. John's

Provincial Seminary: M.T.S.

Amy Shamroe

511 Depot View Drive, #20

Traverse City, MI 49686

:517-930-9999

aauwamy@gmail.com

Michigan State University, B.A.

C

Eleanor Shaw (Fifty-Year Member)

6463 Mission Ridge

Traverse City, MI 49686

P: 946-2181

shawfish0619@gmail.com

Michigan State University, B.S.

Marlene Smith

208 Boardman Ave.

Traverse City, MI 49684

C: 703-967-1753

marlene.smith8@gmail.com

University of Michigan, B.S., University of Miami, Florida M.Ed.

Suzanne Sorkin

800 Cottageview Dr., #411

Traverse City, MI 49684

P: 231-421-3940 C: 231-944-3394

sorkin@msu.edu

Wellesley

College: B.A., University of Pittsburgh: M.D.

Etta Rajkovich

111 Wenonah St

Traverse City, MI 49686

P: 947-5178

fredcat@charter.net

University of Michigan, B.S.N.

Constance Reinhard*Winter*

954 Ridge Rd.

6557 Henschen Circle

Beulah, MI 49617

Westerville, OH 43082

C: 630-292-6031

reinhardcw@gmail.com

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, B.A.;

Ohio State University, JD

Jane Rodgers

217 Belvedere Terrace Dr. #10

Charlevoix, MI 49720

C: 248-298-6234

j_rodgers1967@yahoo.com

Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA, B.A.; University of Michigan, M.A.

Bonnie Spanier

510 Monroe Street

Traverse City, MI 49684

P: 922-0289 C: 709-5981

bspanier@albany.edu

Bryn Mawr College, B.A.; Harvard University, Ph.D.

Shelley Spencer

301 W. Front St., apt.201

Traverse City, MI 49684

917-284-0339 Shelley.Spencer09@gmail.com

Boston College, B.S.; Pace University, M.B.A.

C:

Jeanie Stanton

3445 Silver Farms Lane

Traverse City, MI 49684

616-402-9328

msuautocracy@gmail.com

B.A.

California State University at Long Beach

Ruth Stow (Life Member)

402 Washington Street

Amelia Sargent

6805 Windtree Lane

Lake Ann, MI 49650

Traverse City, MI 49686
P: 231-883-8806 ruthastow@charter.net
Western Michigan University, B.B.A.

Joan Sullivan
528 Fifth St., Traverse City, 49684
C: 231-392-4597 jsulli8887@aol.com
Ferris State University, B.A.

Jeanette Thompson
525 W. Oak Ridge Dr. Traverse City 49685 C:
231-357-1355 jthompson525@gmail.com
Michigan State University, BSW; Grand Valley State University, MSW

Alison Thornton
1701 E. Front St.
Traverse City, MI 49686
P: 231-995-1044 athornton@nmc.edu

Barbara Wallace (*Community Member*)
3699 Eastview Ave.
Traverse City, MI 49684
P: 231-929-4954 C: 231-620-3261
barbwall30@yahoo.com

Cathy Wallach (*Community Member*)
4269 Long Wood Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49685
C: 530-308-3544 clwallach@charter.net

Christine (Chris) Walter
607 Arbutus Trail
Traverse City, MI 49696 C:
989-430-4776 chris9709@sbcglobal.net
Pennsylvania State University, B.S.; Michigan State University, M.A.

Janet Ward
940 S. Ridgeview Trail
Sutton's Bay, MI 4968
231-492-3038 janet.ward49@yahoo.com
University of Saskatchewan: B.A., M.S., B.S.

Judith Weaver
7072 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-944-6458 weavmusic@aol.com
New England Conservatory: B.M. Indiana University: M.S.

Pauline Welburn (*Fifty Year member*)
3950 Sumac Dr. #119
Traverse City, MI 49684
C: 735-6068 dpwelburn@gmail.com
Western Michigan University, B.S.

S. Kay Whale
3911 Scenic Ridge Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49684 tkwhale61@gmail.com
P: 269-370-8286

Michigan State University, B.A.; Oakland Univ. MAT

Bonnie Willings
1111 Lake Ridge Dr. #305
Traverse City, MI 49684 bkwillings@yahoo.com
P: 231-645-0578
Eastern Michigan University, B.A.; Central Michigan University, M.S.A.

Jean Zerges 265 Red Fox Ridge Traverse City 49686 H: 421-9440 C: 513-478-9468	Mid-May to late Sept. P.O. Box 353 Oden, MI 49764 H: 348-2582 Jean.zerges44@gmail.com Centenary College, Hackettstown, N.J. Associate Degree
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