

AAUW TC Board meeting
September 22, 2025
Start time 9:00 AM End Time: 10:30 AM
Traverse City Golf and Country Club
Card Room - lower level

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.

APPROVED MINUTES October 27, 2025 Board Meeting

Attending: Name and Position

Jean Zerges, President; **Diane Jones**, Co-Membership VP; **Carol Evans**, Program VP; **Chris Walter**, Recording Secretary; **Pat Lewallen**, Corresponding Secretary; **Amy Gibson**, Communications; **Lauren Johnson**, Athena Event/ President-Elect; **Darlene Garland**, Hospitality

Absent: **Laura Higgins**, Finance Officer; **Cathy Wallach**, Co-Membership VP; **Vickie Craig**, Public Policy; **Suzanne Sorkin**, Books for Schools; **Shirley Murray**, Nominating; **Marlene Smith**, Scholarships; **Alison Thornton**, College Liaison/NMC

Guest: **Susan Hughes**, Former Finance Officer

Approval of Agenda: Are there any additions to the agenda? – Agenda Accepted

Recording Secretary - Chris Walter

Approval of DRAFT Minutes August 25, 2025 – Approved with the correction by Carol Evans of changing Zoom general meetings to just January and February 2026, not March.

Finance Officer - Laura Higgins

Receipt of August 2025 Financial Report sent to all in advance

Membership VP - Diane Jones reported that she will meet with Cathy and Laura after they return.

Program VP - Carol Evans

Committee met and has a sketch for the year.

- **TJ Andrews**, Grand Traverse County Commissioner will speak **October 20**, Janis Room at Dennon Museum, and Bridge Group will provide refreshments.
- **November 17** members and guests will hear **Laura Glenn**, COO Munson Healthcare, PLUS Branch hosts the annual Chili Cook Off.
- **December 13 Holiday Party** Carol suggested the Dulcimer group might be featured, *(adjusted at Board meeting 10/27/25)*, who love to play “in background”, the Sweets & Treats, pre-priced, PLUS Baskets, Bags, Boxes, pre-priced, ready as Gifts. This Holiday Party serves as a Branch fundraiser and an opportunity for guests to get acquainted with members. The Team will be prepared for any Silent Auction items, but if BBB quality, they will be placed there. Last year the branch gained 4 new members. Two drawings for Gift Certificates, for Guests and people who brought a guest will be offered.
- **Potential Jan - March Ideas** – Overview of AI; Amy Reynolds, Horizon Books; TCAPS Curriculum Director; and Stephanie Wittala, S2S owner, for April Annual Meeting.

Hospitality - Darlene Garland

Beverages, Napkins, paper plates, Decorations will be provided at all in-person meetings. Darlene was commended for the always thoughtful and fun décor.

Communications - Amy Gibson

Newsletter, Ticker, Record-Eagle promotions for all events; Longtime member Marge Eckert Obituary information will be shared & “**Getting To Know**” feature will be new member Diane Jones. Send Newsletter material to Amy before end of the month.

Corresponding Secretary - Pat Lewallen

Will continue to send notes for Joys, Concerns and Thank Yous.

Athena Awards - Lauren Johnson

Difficulty finding people to lead 3 Groups - Sponsors, Event, Nominations; Bonnie Willings agreed to lead Publicity. Branch members are very busy, and/or don't understand Branch connection to Athena.

Susan Hughes spoke about the fact that Athena may not be our Mission. It is more Business focused rather than Education focused. And she stressed the need for an honest, verifiable selection process (numerically, not a consensus; juried means interviewing). The membership needs to give it 150% and we don't have that at this point, since we don't have leadership.

Further discussion followed:

- This year's event only made about \$2,000, which was barely enough for one scholarship.
- Athena may not be the only way or event to raise funds. What about a Scholarship fund-raising or Scholarship Bash to include Networking with other women.
- Athena's costs = \$1000 for the Athena license, \$645 for the trophy. What does corporation do with collected funds?

Amy moved that the Branch suspend the Athena Award Event at least until the 2027 program year. Darlene second. Motion was approved by all.

Additional discussion ensued focused on other fundraising ideas that would also include networking with women. Ideas from other branches were mentioned, and other ideas can be gleaned from National. The focus would be on our Mission, which is furthering education and equity for women and girls.

Amy moved that the Branch sponsor a fundraising event that aligns with the AAUW mission of raising funds for scholarships. Chris second. Motion was approved by all.

A brainstorm committee will be formed. Jean and Lauren will convene the group.

Events with NMC – Carol will connect with Alison Thornton, and Board could meet at NMC. Allison is interested in engaging more people at NMC to be involved with AAUW.

Motion to Adjourn at 10:25 AM was made by Diane, Carol Second.

Next Board Meeting: October 27, 9 AM is what is currently scheduled, but Stay tuned for any changes in date, time and location.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Walter, Recording Secretary