

AAUW-TC  
**Board meeting**  
**October 27, 2025**

Start time 4:00 pm End time 5:30 pm  
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 Nov 20, 2025 Board Meeting**

**Attending: Name and Position**

**Jean Zerges**, President; **Darlene Garland**, Hospitality; **Laura Higgins**, Finance Officer; **Cathy Wallach**, Co-Membership VP; **Carol Evans**, Program VP; **Amy Gibson**, Communications; **Lauren Johnson**, President-Elect; **Diane Jones**, Co-Membership VP; **Vickie Craig**, Public Policy; **Chris Walter**, Recording Secretary

**Absent:** **Pat Lewallen**, Corresponding Secretary (ill); **Alison Thornton**, Univ/College Liaison; **Susanne Sorkin**, Books for Schools, **Marlene Smith**, Scholarships; **Shirley Murray**, Nominating

**Guests:** None

**Approval of Agenda:** Are there any additions to the Agenda? Jean added Vickie Craig, Public Policy to the Agenda. Adjusted Agenda approved.

**President** - Jean Zerges

Topics for discussion:

**AAUW Convention and Annual meeting 2026** – This would occur close to our Annual Meeting. After a brief discussion, Board members agreed not to volunteer to host at this time.

**Handbook** – Amy Gibson shared that next year's Handbook will be handled internally as cost-saving.

Proposed amendment to the Bylaws – Article XIII. Financial Administration Section 1. Administration. Add following section:

**d. Ensure an annual branch financial review is conducted by a Financial Review Committee at the end of the Fiscal Year.** The Financial Review Committee should be comprised of 2-4 branch members, ideally including a past AAUW Finance Officer/Treasurer and a current sitting AAUW-TC Board member. Relatives of the current Finance Officer or anyone with a conflict of interest (for example a business partner or

spouse) should not serve on the Financial Review Committee. The current finance officer should not be a member of the review team but should be available to assist with the review and answer questions.

Laura read the amendment and endorsed its inclusion in our Bylaws as good financial practice. Darlene Garland moved that these statements be added to our Bylaws, Amy Second. All in favor, none opposed. Amy will ensure this amendment gets added to our Bylaws.

President's Topics for Discussion continued. -

Suggestions for a Fundraiser – To be discussed later in the meeting.

### **Reports:**

**Recording Secretary** - Chris Walter

Approval of September 22, 2025 Minutes – Carol Evans stated that because she has not actually called and booked the dulcimer group for our holiday function, the Minutes should state it was suggested to invite the group. Darlene Garland made the motion, Carol Second, All in favor, none opposed. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Meeting Motion Form – Would be helpful to Chris in order to accurately record details.

**Finance Officer** - Laura Higgins

Acceptance of September Financial Report – as sent in advance

Laura reviewed some **October** payments and income that included an Athena Table payment, Directory expense of \$97.10, \$25 donation to Marge Eckert to Community Foundation. Jean shared information re: meeting room at Presbyterian Church that is lovely but more costly than Janis Room at Dennos. Laura will deal with GoFundMe unclaimed site, and have it Removed (suggested by National). We can all alert other nonprofits to check on this action that was done unauthorized by GFM.

**Membership VP** - Diane Jones and Cathy Wallach

Catching up on new Name Tags and welcoming two new members Arlene Weismantel and Amelia Sargent (Cherry Republic) who took advantage of Young Pro discount.

**Program VP** - Carol Evans

In person meetings are scheduled, continuing the theme Women Matter:

- March – Jessie Houghton, Curriculum, TCAPS
- April – Annual Meeting, Election of Officers – Stephanie Wiitala owner of restaurant S2S
- May - Amy Reynold, Horizon Book Store

Still working on Zoom meetings. Jan or Feb – would be AI, but no speaker yet; Laura suggested STEM topic – Critical Thinking.

**November 17 General Meeting** – Darlene has 4 Chili Cook-Off donors so far, and they will bring their own toppings/additions; Vickie and Amy will bring Cornbread. Speaker is Laura Glenn, COO Munson Healthcare

**December 13, 1 – 3 pm Holiday Gathering** – Baskets, Boxes and Bags, pre-priced by membership, with knowledge the price might be adjusted by Program Committee. Sweets & Treats also pre-priced.

**Details:**

- Darlene suggested a timeline: Provide time to arrive/bring stuff & Look; Eat first, then time for Shopping. Encourage bringing a guest with prizes - 2 - \$25 TC Bucks as last year.
- Food – Members bring Sweet & Savory Appetizers, Jean's Swamp Soup + Amy's Punch. Darlene provides Coffee, Water.
- Ask for RSVP if attending to assist Darlene's request for number of tables/chairs in Bethlehem Lutheran Community Room.
- Jean will design a card with her daughter to be hand-delivered at November meeting, others mailed.
- Carol will speak with Ali about engaging NMC faculty.

**Hospitality** - Darlene Garland

Things are in place for November Chili and December Holiday party. Darlene has ample and wonderful supplies that enhance our meetings.

**Communication** - Amy Gibson

Still looking for a person to take over the Website. It was suggested that Amy ask one of our new members.

**Public Policy** – Vickie Craig

Vickie spoke with past Public Policy members, Nadine said she would help. She will work with STEM and Scholarship groups. Vickie will provide a Focus at each General Meeting and would like to participate in Friday Night Live 2026. Ahead will be 2026 Elections, Ballot initiatives – **One Example:** Getting \$ out of politics focused on PACS (Betsy Coffia does not have one). Idea is that if an organization or business has State contracts, can't contribute to PACs.

**Corresponding Secretary** - Pat Lewallen, unable to attend

Let Pat know if any members need a card.

**President Elect** - Lauren Johnson

- For a Fundraiser to benefit Scholarships the Branch must find something we can sustain, and become well known in community
- Lunchin' Around suggested a "Scholarship Tea"; Peter Bergman pianist; Bonnie Willings suggested Ann McKinney? who does "Teas"
- Continue to do Research

- Need a committee to come up with Costs, Location, Entertainment, Time of Year, Sponsors
- Committee 5 people; All can recruit at November and December meetings

Meeting adjourned 5:25 pm

**Next Board Mtg – TBD, Thurs Nov 20, 3 pm – 4:30 pm, NMC 104/106 Innovation Ctr**