



## INDEPENDENCE BRANCH

Empowering women since 1940

Vol. 77 No. 9

May 2017

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

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's Spring and the flowers are blooming, the grass is green, the birds are singing and everything is growing! AAUW Independence is also blooming, singing and growing!

We have had a tremendous amount of activity, events and volunteer hours credited to our branch over the past nine months. I couldn't begin to thank each one of you individually, but I want to say a HUGE Group THANK YOU to each of you who have been involved this year, and to those who have worked behind the scenes to make things run smoothly.

Our additional rewards will come in the months ahead as we gain new members, expand our partnership with Blue River Community College and start a new partnership with the KC League of Women Voters. The opportunities are endless as we look to expand the world around us and Change the Climate for Women and Girls.

In the next six weeks or so, I will be reaching out to many of you to assemble our Board for 2017-18. Please be thinking about what your role might be in helping to make the flowers bloom for the Independence Branch.



**Sue Shineman,  
President**

### SPRING BRUNCH



Make your reservation for the  
May 20 Brunch

Gather at 9:00, brunch served at 9:15

Speakers: Kyle Palmer, KCUR newscaster  
and reporter, Jenna Akrajsek:

"Journey to India: Experiences in Culture  
and Education"

Installation of Officers and  
Woman of Achievement Award Presentation

Menu: Egg casserole with ham

Yogurt and granola

Assorted sweet breads

Juice, coffee and tea

Cost--\$13.00

Reservations due by **Sat. May 13** to:

Lois Domsch (3349 S. Scott Ave.,  
Independence 64052-2720)

*Please park in the law office parking lot  
across the street on the east side. But if  
you need handicapped parking please use  
the church lot.*

## ADELANTE BOOK CLUB



May 9 at 9:30 AM at Barnes and Noble on 39<sup>th</sup> Street. Book *RE: JANE* by Patricia Park, led by Jane White.

## UPCOMING EVENT Central Library, 14 W 10<sup>th</sup> Street

**Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**

Condoleezza Rice, former national security advisor and Secretary of State, will discuss her new book, “, the global struggle for freedom and why our country must remain its strongest proponent. This event is co-sponsored by the Kansas City Public Library and the Women’s Foundation of Greater KC. RSVP [kclibrary.org](http://kclibrary.org) or 816-701-3407.

## AAUW ANNUAL DUES

Dues are due for 2017-2018.  
Association \$49, State \$10, Branch \$16\*

**TOTAL \$75.**

Please respond by **credit card** when the notice comes from national\*\*OR Mail **check** payable to AAUW by June 1 to Lois Domsch, 3349 S Scott, Independence MO 64052 OR pay at the brunch.

\*The \$6 increase in branch dues was approved by the membership at the September 2016 meeting.

\*\*DO NOT go to the website to renew; you will receive a renewal notice through a secured email link in the next couple of weeks.

## AWARD HONOREES 2017

### 7<sup>th</sup> graders

Alyssa Garciano – Pioneer Ridge  
Evan Neubauer – Bingham  
Maia Blankenship – Nowlin

### 8<sup>th</sup> graders

Katherine Ameku – Pioneer Ridge  
Barivure Yorke – Bingham  
Cheyenne Atkinson – Nowlin  
Katie Hulme – Nowlin

### High School Scholarship Winners

Savannah Hawley – Truman  
Miranda Holthe – Van Horn  
Lacey Harris – William Chrisman

### High School Leadership Award Winner

Rachel Gonzalez – William Chrisman



*Evan Neubauer, Maia Blankenship, Mirinda Holthe, Lacey Harris, Katherine Ameku, Barivure Yorke*

## PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

### AAUW’s Public Policy Program

Every two years, a policy program is established that prioritizes the federal actions which AAUW members across the country focus their advocacy efforts on. National priorities set the tone for state and

local actions. These issues are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contributions or leadership. The spring, 2017 issue of OUTLOOK spells out the proposed public policy. I encourage all of us to read the article.

### **Age Tax**

According to the AARP Bulletin, legislation that would allow insurance companies to increase premiums for older people is being debated. Under current law, insurance companies can charge older people ages 50 to 64 no more than three times what they charge younger people for the same coverage. The current proposal would allow them to charge five times as much.

### **Five of the Many**

Five of the many examples of how women are still treated unequally:

- Domestic violence is the most common cause of injury for women between the ages of 18-44.
- The gender pay gap could cost women more the \$430,000 throughout the course of their careers. For women with college degrees the losses can be much higher.
- Women college athletes receive \$176 million less in scholarships annually that what their male counterparts receive.
- Women hold 19% of the seats in the U.S. Congress (104 out of 535).
- After becoming fathers, men see a 6% increase in earnings while

mothers see a 4% decrease per child, even after considering factors such as hours worked and marital status.

**Jolene Cerveny**  
**Public Policy Chair**

## **MINUTES**

AAUW Independence Branch  
Monthly Meeting April 25, 2017  
Hostesses: Judy Austin, Jan Horner and Karen Earnest

President Sue Shineman opened the meeting at 7:06pm with a welcome to members and to recipients of awards and their families. She introduced the program with a description of what AAUW stands for and the background of the middle school awards and high school senior scholarship programs.

Carol Kelley recognized Carol Brown, long time AAUW member who began the awards and scholarship program years ago and mentored Carol Kelley to continue the program. Carol Kelley introduced the recipients of the awards, asking each recipient to talk about their experience in school and their plans for the future. Each recipient introduced her accompanying family and guests. Middle school students received a Certificate, AAUW tee-shirt and a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card. High School scholarship winners received a certificate and a \$500 scholarship.

Recipients were:

**7<sup>th</sup> Graders**

Alyssa Garciano – Pioneer Ridge; Evan Neubauer – Bingham; Maia Blankenship – Nowlin

**8<sup>th</sup> Graders**

Katherine Ameku – Pioneer Ridge; Barivure Yorke – Bingham; Cheyenne Atkinson – Nowlin; Katie Hulme – Nowlin

**High School Scholarships**

Savannah Hawley – Truman; Mirinda Holthe – Van Horn; Lacey Harris – William Chrisman

**High School Leadership Award**

Rachel Gonzalez – William Chrisman

AAUW Awards Committee members were Carol Kelley, Kathy Keeton, Nancy Comtois and Kathy Vest.

A hospitality break followed; families and friends were able to take pictures.

The business portion of the meeting began at 8:05pm.

**Reports given:**

**Program:** Karol Palmer. The May 20 program speakers are Kyle Palmer and Jenna Akrajsel, who will talk about their teaching experiences in India. Program time has been moved forward to gathering at 9am, meeting at 9:15 in order to accommodate a funeral later in the day. We are asked to enter by the East door and park in the law office parking lot across the street to the east. There will be installation of 2017-2018 officers and the Woman of Achievement honored.

Kathy Keeton took reservations and checks for the meal (\$13) Reservation deadline is May 13.

**Membership:** Mary & Edwina. 22 members and two guests present (not counting awardees and their guests.)

**Recording Secretary:** Sue Raymond: March 28 minutes approved as printed in Newsletter.

Financial Report printed in Newsletter will be filed for audit.

Dues are due. They are \$75. (\$49 for National, \$10 for State, and \$16 for Branch)

**AAUW Fund:** Patt Braley. Thank you to those who contributed to the scholarship for Rachael Gonzales. These donations are tax deductible.

**College/University Team:** Sue Shineman. Initially the anticipation for building a partnership at BRCC was directed toward faculty and administrators. It turns out that the students are leading the charge and are very interested in AAUW. On Equal Pay Day Rally Day 8 students signed up for student affiliate memberships.

April 26, we will participate in their Sexual Assault Awareness event at BRCC, 11:00 – 1:00 This is National Denim Day! (Denim Day has been internationally celebrated since 1999 in protest of an Italian High Court ruling that overturned a rape conviction because the victim was wearing tight jeans. Enraged by the verdict, women of the Italian Legislature protested the decision by wearing jeans to work. As news of the decision spread, so did the protest.)

**Newsletter:** Jan Horner. Deadline is May 1.

Public Policy: Jolene Cerveney. Encouraged us to read the Public Policy section in the AAUW Outlook for pertinent items of interest.

Re-Entry Scholarship Brunch: Kathy Vest. Independence Branch was represented by 6 members and John Thornton. (Kathy Vest, Patt Braley, Lois Domsch, Jane Campbell, Jan Horner, Sue Shineman)

### New Business

Jane Campbell introduced her sister Penny and prospective new member, Debra Powell.

Sue Shineman, reported that she spoke with Anitra & Charlie Steele, of the Kansas City League of Women Voters, about working on a partnership between them and AAUW; hoping to make AAUW more visible in the community and work jointly on Candidate and Issue Forums.

We will also participate in the Women's Equality Week the last full week of August with KC LWV. AAUW National encourages us to partner with like-minded organizations in our efforts to Change the Climate for Women and Girls.

Please check your email for the link to vote on National Bylaws changes and National Officers. Please be sure to cast your vote by the June 15<sup>th</sup> 9 pm EDT deadline. (Sue

encouraged us to vote for Sue Barley of St. Louis, running for Director).

### Announcements

April 26 – Denim Day Event at BRCC

May 5-6 – MO State AAUW Convention – Attending are Alyse Stoll, Patt Braley and Sue Shineman

May 20 – Annual Meeting 9:00 a.m.

June 14–18 AAUW National Convention in Washington DC

June 21 – Board Meeting – incoming and outgoing officers and committee chairpersons 1 p.m.

Adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

**Sue L. Raymond**  
**Recording Secretary**



## AAUW Financial Report – CHECKING ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 3/31/2017 \$364.33

**RECEIPTS**

4/11	Transfer funds from savings for expenses	\$3000.00
4/18	Deposit 3 memberships for 2017-2018	\$ 225.00
4/18	Deposit 2 May Brunch Reservations	\$ 26.00
4/18	Deposit Leadership Scholarship Donations	\$ 120.00
4/18	Deposit IOUs from Book Fair	\$ 20.00
4/27	Direct deposit AAUW 1 new mbrshp	\$ 16.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$3407.00

**DISBURSEMENTS**

4/11	ISDF 3 HS Scholarships	\$1500.00
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$1500.00

**BALANCE 04/30/2017 \$2271.33**

### SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 3/31/2017 \$9826.28

**TOTAL RECEIPTS**

5/01	Dividend for April	\$ .32
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**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS**

4/11	Transfer funds to checking for expenses	\$3000.00
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**BALANCE 04/30/2017 \$6826.60**

### TOTAL ASSETS

**COMBINED ACCOUNTS**

Checking Account	\$2271.33
Savings Account	\$6826.60

**BALANCE 04/30/2017 \$9097.93**

### Independence School District Foundation Scholarship Fund Report

	12/31/16	03/31/2017	Quarterly Change
AAUW Fund Balance	\$11,275.14	\$12,097.81	\$822.67