

# Missouri in Motion



**Our Mission:** AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, advocacy and education.  
**Our Vision:** Equality for all. **Our Values:** Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

## Voting Challenges in 2020: A Conversation with Brianna L. Lennon, Boone County Clerk and AAUW MO Columbia Branch Member



Brianna Lennon served as a panel member of the June webinar "Voter Protection and Missouri's New Election Law in the Age of COVID-19." ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=33OBqU\\_lhts](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33OBqU_lhts)). AAUW MO reached out to her to continue the conversation about voting during the COVID-19 challenge. Brianna Lennon was elected as Boone County clerk in November, 2018 and sworn into office on December 31, 2018.

The county clerk is a county-wide official, elected to a four-year term, and is responsible for keeping accurate records of the orders, rules, and proceedings of the Boone County Commission. In addition, the county clerk is responsible for inspecting and reviewing all voter precinct boundaries within the county and conducting elections, maintaining payroll files, administering employee benefits, administering the records management budget, and procuring adequate insurance and bonding for the county's assets and elected officials.

**AAUW MO:** This election year is marked with challenges and confusion. For example, what is the difference between an absentee ballot and a mail-in ballot?

**Brianna:** The expansion of being able to vote absentee is related to if you are in an at-risk category for contracting or transmitting COVID-19. You do not have to provide documentation. If you meet qualification two or seven, no notarization is required. The absentee ballot option is being heavily utilized (particularly in Boone County and St. Louis County) because that's what people understand, and it is being promoted in both counties with sample ballot mailings. People are seeking the applications from the secretary of state's website, and AARP ran an application. In addition, an absentee ballot may be mailed or presented in person to your local election board office. If you don't want to state an excuse, there is a mail-in category. You don't state an excuse, but it must be notarized and mailed. The secretary of state's office has compiled a list of volunteer notaries (see page 3). There are some associated frustrations: a Boone County clerk will come curbside to notarize your ballot but cannot accept it there. The ballot must be mailed.

**AAUW MO:** What are the challenges that you're seeing as people attempt to participate in elections during COVID?

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[aauw-mo.aauw.net](http://aauw-mo.aauw.net)

## From the President

Sue Shineman, AAUW MO

**ZOOM** – my new favorite word! It is my go-to means of communication with family, church, and AAUW. What a blessing it is that Eric Yuan, founder and CEO of Zoom, started his video conferencing business in 2011. The idea grew out of a 1980s ‘need’ to be able to see and communicate with his girlfriend who lived several hours and multiple train rides away in China.

I, too, tire of hearing the phrase “we are in uncharted times,” but I believe that AAUW has charted new and exciting times with the use of Zoom Conferencing. We do not hide in the face of adversity. We continue our Mission. Since June 10, the Public Policy, College & University,



and Inclusion & Equity Committees have been formulating plans for our future. By the time you read this, we will have had 15 calls—all because we can Zoom!

Maybe I have had too much time to contemplate ideas for the future of AAUW Missouri, but many of you are jumping on board (literally) leading to new possibilities. Thirteen of the 17 Missouri branches are represented on the state board and/or committees. We stand strong together, even as we are apart. We have found a new rhythm because of the pandemic – and it has made us look differently at how we build our extended community to change the world for women and girls.

I encourage you to let me know how you would like to be involved.

## To branch members:

Three words will be intertwined and the focus of my two years leading the AAUW MO—communication, transparency, and inclusion.

My goal of visiting each branch before the end of June 2021 and getting feedback to share with all branches is still in place. Although challenged by Covid-19 and slowed a little, I will make this happen. Some of the visits will need to happen via Zoom. I have visited Boonville, St. Louis, Kansas City, Kansas City Northland, Parkville, and Independence. Nevada, Jefferson City, and Joplin are scheduled.

There will be monthly Focus Group Zoom calls with branch presidents (and other branch board members) to share AAUW focus areas, i.e. program, membership, AAUW Fund and fundraising, public policy, star award, incentive grants, inclusion & equity, cyber security, and social media.

Presentations and discussion will be led by AAUW MO officers. These calls will let us share ideas between branches and learn about important opportunities, programs, and ideas offered by State and National. The first call was July 28 with Marianne Fues, Membership VP, and Sue Barley, AAUW Fund Chair. If you have a specific topic you would like to know more about, please let me know.

There will also be a monthly challenge for branches. The August Challenge is to contact the mayor of your city and have them recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RATIFICATION OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT and proclaim that August 26, 2020, is recognized as the “Centennial of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Celebration Day.” If possible, get a picture of the signing with AAUW members and your mayor. Send your pictures and a short article to Mary Jermak, newsletter editor, to be included in the next issue of *Missouri in Motion*. Please see Ellen Iron’s article, page 8, on the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment for links on how to make this happen!

I am available and eager to visit with you about your branch and offer any assistance I can. Send me an email, text, or call me. I look forward to working with each of you to advocate for women and girls.

## A Conversation with Brianna L. Lennon: continued

**Brianna:** Apprehension. People need reassurance of how to navigate the process with absentee and mail-in voting. A concern is that the number of voting places and poll workers have been reduced. At any given time, if a polling place is located in a private property, they can decline usage by election officials. If sample ballots have already gone out, it results in confusion for voters when their polling place is changed.

**AAUW MO:** What are the challenges of using schools as polling places?

**Brianna:** There are many challenges. In the April primary (held June 4) and the August primary, school was not in session. However, November is unknown. Then there is the matter of building access for sanitation. How many days can buildings be shut down to allow for pre- and post-voting sanitation?

**AAUW MO:** What words of advice can you share with AAUW branch members to help them be comfortable and be aware for upcoming elections?

**Brianna:** The first is that if you decide to vote by mail, request your ballot sooner rather than later. October will be too late; September is better to make the request. County clerk offices are swamped with limited staff, and they cannot process thousands of applications two weeks before the election. Absentee ballots are best processed if they arrived over time. Absentee voting opens up for the November 3 election on September 22.

**AAUW MO:** How long before an election day must your ballot be mailed to be received by the election deadline?

**Brianna:** There's no official recommendation for a mail-in deadline, but it must be received by 7 p.m. on election day. The post office recommends 10 days. You can also walk into your election board office and request an absentee ballot to vote on the spot. For safety, there are plexiglas screens; cleaning and sanitizing are constant.

The second recommendation is IF people feel comfortable, poll workers are needed. Protective equipment is provided, such as masks, hand sanitizers, and gloves. Poll workers are a very dedicated group, but additional workers are needed.

**AAUW MO:** What was your initial connection with AAUW?

**Brianna:** Holly Burgess introduced me when I was in law school in 2010 or 2011. Holly brought me to a textile tour at Stevens College. I have been going to annual meetings and a public policy forum in Holly Burgess' name. In 2019, I also spoke about upcoming election changes with new voting equipment.

**AAUW MO:** Would you be willing to do a Zoom presentation with branches across the state? We hope to collaborate with the League of Women Voters for a viewing of *Rigged*. We'd love you to join us for a post-viewing discussion.

**Brianna:** Yes! I have seen *Rigged* and would love to participate after the August primary. September is National Voting Registration month!

**AAUW MO:** We will work to make this happen!  
Sue Shineman and Mary Jermak

## Missouri Election Information

November 3, 2020, General Election

- Register by October 7
- Request Absentee ballot by October 21



### Missouri Secretary of State Election Links

Missouri Secretary of State

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/>

Find your polling place

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/pollingplacelookup>

If you're not registered to vote or need to update your address, register online

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/govotemissouri/register>.

### Protecting the Right to Vote In Missouri Amid the Covid-19 Crisis

Missouri Voter Protection Coalition [Measures to Ensure Voting in Missouri Amid the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

League of Women Voters

<https://lwvmissouri.org/>

Missouri Jobs with Justice Voter Action

<https://mojwj.org/missouri-jobs-with-justice-voter-action/>

Vote411 <https://www.vote411.org/missouri>

ACLU <https://www.aclu-mo.org/en/voting-rights-during-covid-19>

AAUW <https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-guides/>

## Free Mail-in and Absentee Ballot Notary Information

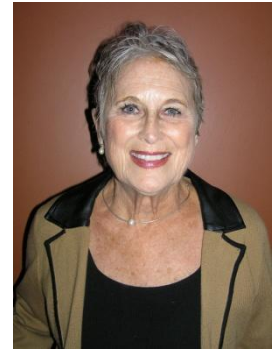
State law requires absentee ballots to be notarized for free. However, SB 631 did not authorize free notarization for mail-in ballots. As a result, the Secretary of State's Office is compiling a list of notaries who have volunteered to assist Missouri voters in getting their mail-in or absentee ballot envelopes notarized at no charge. The 2020 Notary List will be updated as additional notaries are added.

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/mailinnotary>

## Equal Rights Amendment Is Alive and Moving

### Alice Kitchen, AAUW Kansas City Branch and ERA Coalition

As we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of women getting the vote, we are experiencing a resurgence of attention to the fact that 38 states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. Were it not for the question of the deadline, women would be in the Constitution. In fact, over half of the population doesn't realize that the ERA is not in the Constitution. Currently the U.S. House of Representatives passed to the Senate the bill called SJ Resolution 6 removing the *deadline for ratification of the equal rights amendment*, introduced by Senators Ben Cardin & Lisa Murkowski, [eracoalition.salsalabs.org/senatevote](http://eracoalition.salsalabs.org/senatevote).



Alice Kitchen

The ERA Coalition has been the force behind this momentum. The coalition designed a multilayered strategy: securing the needed number of states ratifying the ERA; getting the House of Representatives to pass the bill to eliminate the deadline for moving the ERA; securing sponsors in the Senate to bring it to a Hearing in the Judiciary Committee; and, lastly discussing an end round in the Senate to bring it to the floor for a vote.

Parallel to these steps on the ground, attorneys general in several states (Alabama, South Dakota and Louisiana) filed lawsuits in the National Archives (holder of the records) to preserve the deadline. A countersuit was filed July 15 by attorneys general of Illinois, Virginia and Nevada to present the case as to why the deadline is not enshrined in the process as the opposition suggests.

AAUW and 52 national organizations and our local Women's Equality Coalition are signees of the amicus brief that was just filed. Locally, AAUW MO President Sue Shineman and members of our Women's Equality Coalition met with Missouri Senator Josh Hawley's chief of staff, Elizabeth Johnson, to discuss the ERA. Our purpose was to provide her with information to share with the senator and to encourage him to study this and to support its passage. What we accomplished was a relationship with Ms. Johnson and an open door to continue our dialogue.

## AAUW MO Board Meeting

On July 11 the AAUW MO Board conducted a busy 3-Hour meeting to start the new AAUW Year!

The next meeting of the state board will be Saturday, October 24, 2020.





## AAUW MO Membership

Marianne Cole Fues, Missouri Vice President for Membership

### EACH 1, Call 1 Membership Campaign

In this time of pandemic, we are all especially aware of our surroundings and of our time away from friends and family. It is time to call our fellow AAUW members, to check on them, to see what they need, to see how they are fairing. It is time to work with your branch membership vice president as we all contact each member to let them know how valuable they are to the branch. Let them know how much the organization means to you, and society, as we touch mainstream issues for all. Make this personal by calling so you can hear each other's voices and thank them for their continued membership and support of AAUW.

Our branch meetings this year will take various forms: conference calls, Zoom, social distancing in a parking lot, webinars, small interest groups, large groups. Each member is encouraged to call another member to make sure they renew their membership and encourage them to participate in your branch activities. Does anyone need a lesson about accessing Zoom or a conference call? Does anyone need a ride?

**EACH 1, Bring 1 to a meeting.** Invite a friend, colleague, relative, member of your bridge group, or next door neighbor to your meetings. Give them some information about AAUW. Plan your elevator speech. Let them know how important AAUW is to you. Check the newsletters on [aauw-mo.aauw.net](http://aauw-mo.aauw.net) to get reacquainted with all the great projects that have been accomplished! No matter whether your meeting is on Zoom or in a parking lot, BRING/INVITE them! They will be glad to see everyone!

EACH 1, Call 1 for AAUW



EACH 1, Bring 1 for AAUW

[aauw-mo.aauw.net](http://aauw-mo.aauw.net)

[aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

Update:

### 2021 AAUW MO Meeting and Regional Convention

Lynne Roney, Program Vice President

The AAUW MO Board will evaluate the situation at the October, 2020 board meeting and decide whether to proceed with an in-person or an online state meeting in the spring of 2021.

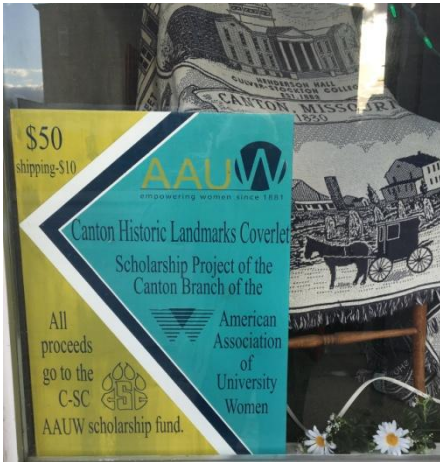
Similarly, the multistate planning committee for an AAUW Regional Convention is continuing to discuss options for some form of meeting. Future conference calls are planned.

### 2020 AAUW of Missouri Calendar of Upcoming Events

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| August 26   | Women's Right to Vote Anniversary   |
| September 8 | 6–8:30 p.m. "Rigged—the Voter Suppression Playbook" via Zoom Webinar. Co-sponsored by AAUW, LWV, and other like-minded organizations. |

#### AAUW of Missouri Board Meetings

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| October 24       | 10 a.m.–noon via Zoom  |
| January 23, 2021 | 10 a.m. –noon via Zoom                                       |
| April 30, 2021   | 2–4 p.m. (location to be determined)                         |
| May 1, 2021      | AAUW of Missouri Annual Meeting; (location to be determined) |



The Canton Branch had a drawing for an historic places coverlet. Proceeds fund a scholarship and essay prizes.

## Missouri 10-Star Award Application Now Available Online Lynne Roney, Program Vice President

The updated application form for the AAUW Missouri 10-Star Award is now available on the state website, [aauw-mo.aauw.net/membership/forms/](http://aauw-mo.aauw.net/membership/forms/). The form will also be included in the AAUW Missouri State Directory.

Most of the criteria remain the same as last year, with some tweaks to accommodate the online, Zoom, conference call, and other changes necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The goals have been slightly reorganized and labeled to align with the application for the National Star Awards. Missouri's goals all along have coincided with National's, and this format makes it a bit easier to see that. We have added a few additional goals to give branches more opportunity to be recognized for their work.

I was so impressed by the submissions last year. Even small branches have accomplished much and sometimes meet goals that larger ones cannot. Congratulations to the 11 branches that submitted applications and received awards. I would also encourage those who complete the forms not to hesitate to ask me whether an activity might qualify or to ask any other questions.

## The Good News and the Not-So-Good News Sue Barley, AAUW Funds

For 130 years, AAUW members were asked to designate their donations to AAUW. Generous members contributed to fellowships, grants, the Legal Advocacy Fund, public policy, and research, carefully directing their donations to the areas they wanted to support. These restricted donations were used and invested as the donor intended. Today, AAUW has over \$120 million in restricted funds which is sufficient to support fellows and grantees for the next 50 years. This is good news!

The AAUW annual budget has been tightened and cut. The budget includes over \$4 million for fellows and grantees that comes from investments of restricted funds, but there is more to AAUW. Support is needed for staff, travel, rent, technology, electricity, programs such as Work Smart and Start Smart, training, board meetings, supplies, etc. Where will dollars come from to support these necessary expenses to help AAUW and our mission? It is time to give and to not restrict our donations.

AAUW needs donations to support our budget and to ensure AAUW's continued visibility and relevance. We need to respond rapidly in our communications and advocacy to critical issues that affect women as they emerge, as the national dialogue shifts. Members continuing to restrict their donations make not-so-good news for AAUW. Please mark your donations for *AAUW Greatest Needs Fund*.

**Help keep AAUW vital!**



### Amazon Smile

Your everyday purchases on Amazon.com can benefit AAUW with Amazon Smile.

Visit [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) to learn more. Click on American Association of University Women, Washington D.C., to receive a charitable donation equaling 0.5% of your total purchase price—at no cost to you! Make a positive impact on AAUW, while your shopping experience stays exactly the same.

## AAUW MO Leaders Serve at National Level



AAUW members from Missouri have been chosen to serve at the AAUW national level during 2020–21. They are available for your questions and concerns in their area of expertise.

Sue Barley, member of AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch and AAUW St. Louis Branch, is serving on the AAUW Nominating Committee and National Legacy Circle Team, [barley702@gmail.com](mailto:barley702@gmail.com), 314.361.2920.

Karen Francis, member of AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch and AAUW Ferguson-Florissant Branch, is serving as AAUW Public Policy Committee chair, [karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com](mailto:karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com), 314.223.4235.

Jeanie Latz, National Member from Kansas City, is serving on the AAUW Board of Directors, [jeanie.latz@gmail.com](mailto:jeanie.latz@gmail.com), 816.797.7411.

## Newsletter & Website Security Tip

Patricia Bishop, Web Manager



To protect the personal information of members, consider locking PDF documents with a password. This is an especially good idea for newsletters and documents posted on branch websites. Plus, it's free & easy!

No special software is necessary. Password protected documents block "scraper" programs from stealing the phone numbers and email addresses of our members. Here is a link to step-by-step instructions for locking PDF documents: [www.isumsoft.com/pdf/create-a-password-secured-pdf-file-without-adobe-reader.html](http://www.isumsoft.com/pdf/create-a-password-secured-pdf-file-without-adobe-reader.html)



## Your Branch Will Become Rich

Well, maybe not rich—but it can enrich its coffers by applying for an Incentive Grant to promote AAUW's mission. Grant requests are accepted year round. Funds come from two sources—the Peg Witt Fund and AAUW Missouri Reserves.

A committee, consisting of Shirley Breeze, Teri Brecht, and Pam Kulp, will review your applications. Get details from the AAUW state website, [www.aauw-mo-aauw.net](http://www.aauw-mo-aauw.net). Then go to Search and the Incentive Grants.

## Benefits of Planning in Times of Change



During the COVID-19 pandemic, many AAUW members have been thinking about their legacy and their desire to include AAUW in their plans. Putting a plan in place, or ensuring that your plan is current, can provide peace of mind during times of change. Whether you are thinking about legacy giving for the first time or want to revisit your current plan, AAUW and the AAUW Legacy Circle Team are here to help.

The top three motivations that AAUW donors cite for making a planned gift are the importance of AAUW's mission, the belief that AAUW makes a significant impact, and the ability to make a larger gift through an estate gift than is normally possible during the donor's lifetime.

There are many creative and flexible giving options to help you achieve your vision. Popular options include a bequest through your will or trust; naming AAUW a beneficiary of your IRA (which may provide tax benefits while benefitting AAUW); and naming AAUW as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or a bank account. There are also planned giving options that provide income to you for life and give you an immediate charitable tax deduction for the present value of the gift in the year the gift is made.

If you would like to learn more about the benefits of planned giving, please contact Heather Miller, AAUW Advancement Director, [millerh@aauw.org](mailto:millerh@aauw.org). Sue Barley, [barley702@gmail.com](mailto:barley702@gmail.com), of the AAUW Legacy Circle Team is also available to assist you. You can also find more information on AAUW's website: [www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/](http://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/). We would be delighted to welcome you to the Legacy Circle—AAUW's recognition society for our beloved visionaries who are committed to advancing equity for women and girls long into the future.

## 2020 Centennial of the 19th Amendment Celebration Project Latest Updates

Ellen Irons, Public Policy Committee

The "2020 Centennial of the 19th Amendment Celebration Project/Task Force" is continuing under the new AAUW MO board, and we have **decided to extend the project and celebration through 2021!** We will work as an AAUW MO Task Force as well as coordinate with the AAUW MO Public Policy Committee.

### Things You and Your Branch Can Do Right Now Before Anniversary Day – August 26

Create a Proclamation. It's not too late to have your city's mayor or city council make a proclamation to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Pat Shores, [apatriciashores@att.net](mailto:apatriciashores@att.net), has offered to be the contact person for any branch wanting help with the process. These resources can be found on the AAUW MO website/Centennial Resources:

[aauw-mo.aauw.net/files/2020/07/StepsForWritingProclamation.pdf](https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/files/2020/07/StepsForWritingProclamation.pdf),  
[aauw-mo.aauw.net/files/2020/07/SampleCoverLetterToCityMayor.pdf](https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/files/2020/07/SampleCoverLetterToCityMayor.pdf)  
[aauw-mo.aauw.net/files/2020/07/SampleProclamationLanguage.pdf](https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/files/2020/07/SampleProclamationLanguage.pdf)

If you can't make the August 26 deadline, it is OK to change the language to "2020 is the year of celebration...."

Print and Put up Yard Signs. Be creative and do your own; or the Kirkwood Webster Groves branch has initiated a project to print and distribute celebration yard signs (at right). Contact the branch at [kwgaauw@gmail.com](mailto:kwgaauw@gmail.com) to order one of the signs. They are already being printed.

### Plan for Actions to Happen on "The Day of – August 26"

- Contact building owners to **light up their facilities in purple and gold** – the official colors of suffrage. This is part of a project led by the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission's nationwide "Forward Into Light Campaign", named in honor of the historic suffrage slogan, "Forward through the Darkness, Forward into Light." You can become an official partner in the project or get more information from <https://www.womensvote100.org/forwardintolight>. Jean Dugan of the League of Women Voters St. Louis Metro has shared, "The St. Louis Wheel has .. agreed to use purple, gold and white lights on August 26 to recognize the centennial of women's suffrage."
- Arrange for churches to ring their bells at noon on August 26. Anyone can suggest this to your area churches if it feels appropriate. In St. Louis, this effort is also being organized by the League of Women Voters.

### Things You and Your Branch Can Do in the Next Months – Education and Outreach

- Watch "The Vote." PBS' two-part program "The Vote" is available to stream from their website. It is terrific and covers the history of the fight for the 19th amendment very thoroughly! Your branch can organize a "view at home-then-discuss" via Zoom or other type of virtual program, <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/vote/>.
- Convert any programs to Zoom. Anything you were planning previously can likely convert to Zoom or other virtual platform. Yes, it's not the same as in-person, but many of us have discovered there's a way to do crisp panel forums, cool interactive discussion sessions, and other formats that can be successful. Let me know if you need support on how to do this.

Please share your plans and area events with us. We will publish state-wide 19th Amendment 100 year celebration events on our AAUW MO Facebook page, on the state celebration website (<https://womensvotecentennial.info/>), and via email. Send any items of interest to post to Ellen Irons, [ironnew@msn.com](mailto:ironnew@msn.com).

**One of our main messages is that we will continue through the coming year; so keep on planning and celebrating, and share with us what you are doing!**



Proclamation signing for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment.  
 Pictured: Pat Shores, Mayor of Chesterfield Bob Nation, Sage Taber and Jan Horner, co-presidents Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch.

## LET'S CELEBRATE!

**★ THANK YOU ★  
SUFFRAGISTS**  
 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT  
 CELEBRATE WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE!

Display a yard sign at your home! Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch is selling these non-partisan, non-political yard signs to AAUW branches and other organizations that support women. Contact your branch president to order yours!

Each sign is 18" x 24" and is printed on both sides.  
 Cost is \$3 with a stand and \$2.20 per sign without a stand.



## Keep Up with AAUW

Karen Francis, National Liaison

We've been through a lot the past months: COVID, citizens protests for racial justice, economic insecurity, and, more. Hopefully, you and your family are healthy and safe; many may not be as fortunate. That is why AAUW is so important to each of us!

1. Go to the AAUW website to read the national statement on racism and Kim Churches' letter to members (page 11) asking us to listen, to learn about systemic racism, and to have discussions regarding injustices, reaction to International students, the SCOTUS decision banning salary history in salary decisions, and LGBTQ rights.
2. Sign up for the Action Network to receive *Action Alerts* and *Washington Updates*.
3. Complete the 2020 Census and remind everyone to do so! Why? The census determines congressional representation, the allocation of hundreds of billions of federal dollars to communities for hospitals, fire department, schools, and lunch programs. It's estimated that every person NOT counted costs local areas \$13,000 in ten years.
4. Register and vote in November election. Know the candidates' positions on issues.
5. Work Smart will soon be connecting with libraries, and a program with University of Nebraska Medical Center. Programs continue in Kansas City.
6. Midwest Regional Conference is postponed. We look forward to hearing more about it in the future.

## AAUW 2020 National Convening Series Sue Shineman

The 2020 Convening Series is replacing National Conventions. Updating our learning opportunities to free online sessions allows for more members across the United States to have a direct connection with AAUW National.

Online webinars presented by national staff, along with guest speakers, offer up- to-date information on AAUW issues and priorities. This is a great learning opportunity. The recorded webinars are available online and could be used as a branch program. You are encouraged to look at the possibilities by visiting 2020 Convening Series:  
[www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/2020-convening/](http://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/2020-convening/)

### Missouri in Motion, the AAUW MO Newsletter

Newsletter items desired: branch news items, announcements, and photographs are welcome. Please submit items and/or corrections to Mary Jermak, editor, [lnystl@gmail.com](mailto:lnystl@gmail.com).

Remember to send a copy of your branch newsletter to State Historian, Jane Biers, [biersj@missouri.edu](mailto:biersj@missouri.edu); Webmanager, Patricia Burroughs-Bishop, [otiosa\\_sedulitas@charter.net](mailto:otiosa_sedulitas@charter.net); and AAUW MO President, Sue Shineman, [sueshineman46@gmail.com](mailto:sueshineman46@gmail.com).

Branch newsletters are now shared across the state on [aauw-mo.aauw.net](http://aauw-mo.aauw.net). *Missouri in Motion* issues are available for download from the website. Advise Patricia Burroughs-Bishop of additions or corrections to the website via the contact form on the website. Please send address and email changes to national office at AAUW Records Office, 1310 L Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005 OR make changes online at [http:// www.aauw.org/](http://www.aauw.org/) click on 'Member Services' then on 'Member Services Database.'

American Association of University Women of Missouri  
[aauw-mo.aauw.net](http://aauw-mo.aauw.net)  
Facebook: search for AAUW-MO

## AAUW Convening Series Webinars

2020 Vision: Marking a Momentous Year  
(Membership)

Exclusive AAUW Interview with Diane Rehm (News)

Membership Matters: A News Hub for Leaders  
(Membership)

AAUW Co-Founder Ellen Swallow Richards (Faces of AAUW)

Host a Workshop  
Help empower women nation-wide to effectively negotiate (Programs)

AAUW & COVID-19: Standing Strong Through Crisis

Initiatives  
AAUW offers several initiatives intended to engage, support and recognize their members.

*Real Change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.*  
Ruth Bader Ginsburg

## AAUW MO State Board For 2020–21

To contact a state officer, use the contact feature on the state website:

<https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/contact-us/>

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|--|--|---|--|
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July 20, 2020

Dear AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield (MO) Branch,

Thank you for your participation in the Five Star Recognition Program. After reviewing your submission, we are pleased to inform you that your branch has received a star for Governance & Sustainability.

Your bold planning for AAUW's sustained impact into the future is a testament to the strength of our shared values and long-standing tradition to empower women and girls. As we move forward together to implement the goals of our ambitious strategic plan, we can feel confident that gender equity is within our reach, and we cannot do this important work without the participation of our states and branches across the country. Congratulations on your success in the Five Star Recognition Program!

Sincerely,



**Kimberly Churches**  
Chief Executive Officer

1310L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20002 | 202.728.7631 | [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)





Dear AAUW member,

During this troubling time in our nation's history, I hope you are being kind to yourself and others. It feels almost unbearable to witness the anger and anguish erupting in our cities as we also endure a relentless pandemic and economic downfall. The murder of George Floyd serves as a tragic reminder of centuries of racism, violence and lack of humanity for Black people. We join the country in mourning his loss as well as the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless other people of color who have been unjustly killed.

But while we are deeply sad, we mustn't feel helpless. Now is the time to fight for justice. Here are some suggestions for how to move forward:

**Listen:** Understand that many Black and Brown people are struggling with enormous pain and despair. Open your hearts to them and listen when they speak — without expecting them to work for the benefit of your learning.

**Learn:** Read our [recent statement](#) highlighting AAUW's stand against racism and the [Washington Post article](#) by 2016–17 AAUW American Fellow alumna Keisha Blain about the problematic history of policing in this country. AAUW will work to advance the systemic changes needed to create a [fairer criminal justice system](#) as a proud member of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

**Speak Up:** People of color often experience discrimination at the ballot box. This comes in the form of voting restrictions implemented under the guise of preventing "voter fraud," which is extremely rare. With a pivotal election ahead, persuading policymakers to [expand voting rights](#) is a powerful way to support marginalized communities. Other issues that disproportionately affect Black women and their families are student-loan debt, pay inequity and the lack of a livable minimum wage — all parts of AAUW's [2020 Gender Agenda](#) you can take action on.

I'd also like to acknowledge that, as an organization, AAUW has its own work to do — and I'm committed to doing it. So I'll be listening, learning and speaking up right alongside you.

In solidarity and strength,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly Churches".

Kimberly Churches  
Chief Executive Officer