

The AAUWMO 2023 CONFERENCE

Summary by Joyce Katz and Mary Jermak

The Conference was held by ZOOM on Saturday, May 6. AAUW MO President Karen Francis presided. Speakers were Malinda Gaul, Vice Chair of AAUW Goals, and Colleen Norman, from the Missouri Library Association. New officers were installed, and branches and individuals honored. The conference was organized by Diane Ludwig.

Malinda Gaul spoke of the need for women to be able to control their own bodies and the trend for states to restrict that control. She emphasized that women and their goals and accomplishments need to increase visibility. She mentioned NCCWSL as instrumental in developing future leadership, and the need for branches to share their programs and accomplishments.

Colleen Norman spoke about the current concern for censorship of library materials. The library is a tax-funded institution, and as such, is vulnerable to the support of the public, or lack thereof. There is wide public support of libraries, evidenced by the outcry that occurred when the Missouri legislature threatened to withdraw funding. The topic of censorship is ongoing.

New officers were installed for 2023–25: Sue Shineman, president-elect, Su Bacon and Diane Ludwig, co-vice president program, and Patty Murray as secretary.

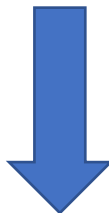
Awards to branches were announced: 10 stars were achieved by Ballwin-Chesterfield, Booneville, Columbia, Ferguson-Florissant, Independence, Kansas City, Kansas City Northland, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Parkville, St. Charles, and St. Louis branches. Nevada Branch earned 8 stars. Canton Branch earned 7 stars. Jefferson City Branch earned 6 stars. Branches earn stars in pursuit of AAUW goals – see the criteria here.

Missouri was listed among the top 10 states in the US by AAUW National for donations to the AAUW Fund. In Missouri, the Kansas City Branch ranked #1, and the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch ranked #2 in the total amounts donated. Ranked for per capita donations were #1, Kansas City; #2, Ferguson Florissant; #3, Kirkwood-Webster Groves; #4, Columbia Branch, and #5, Nevada Branch.

Teri Brecht, of St. Charles Branch, and Marsha Koch, of Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch were named as 2023 Women of Distinction. Mary Jermak of Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, and Debra McArthur of Parkville Branch, were recognized as AAUW MO Outstanding Members. 69 Members were listed in the Century Club (giving \$100 or more) and Century Club Plus (giving \$250 or more). Ardy Pearson, Kansas City Branch, outstanding supporter of the AAUW Fund, was also honored as a sponsor of NCCWSL candidates.

Boonville Branch used an AAUW MO Incentive Grant to hold a commemorative luncheon celebrating the date in 1920 when women achieved the right to vote.

Scroll down for pictures!



Just a few of the ZOOM attendees



Colleen Norman



Debra McArthur



Lois Domsch



Marsha Koch



Mary Jermak



Maryellen McVicker



Malinda Gaul, Speaker



Patty Murray



Sue Shineman



Susan Barley



Teri Brecht