

**History of  
The American Association of University Women  
Missouri  
2010–2020**



**State Historian  
Jane Biers**

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**Equity For All**

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## Preface

The *History of AAUW Missouri, 2010–2020*, is a supplement to the *History of the American Association of University Women Missouri, 1976–2010*, published by Grace Butler, then state historian. This new publication includes a history of AAUW Missouri, followed by accounts from individual branches. Nineteen branches submitted reports, as did the Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council (IBC) and Kansas City Interbranch Council (IBC). In **2010–2011** there were twenty AAUW branches; five disbanded over the decade: Creve Coeur, Maryville, Raytown, Springfield, and Warrensburg. Each branch decided how to present their material. Some chose to describe events and achievements chronologically; others discussed their branch's activities by theme. I did not specify a particular format. I felt that the variety made for a more interesting publication.

Also included in this supplement is an appendix with a list of past state presidents for the decade, the Missouri Woman of Distinction Award recipients, AAUW Missouri Outstanding Member awardees, College University partners in **2020**, and the name of a Student Affiliate Group. A bibliography of previous publications on the history of AAUW Missouri has been added at the end of the volume.

Several AAUW members on the state board helped me in this endeavor. Sue Barley, Shirley Breeze, Marianne Fues, Diane Ludwig, and Joyce Katz lent me past issues of *Missouri in Motion*. They, Patt Braley, Sue Shineman, and Pat Shores also answered questions and gave advice. I am most grateful for their help. I also wish to thank the members of the individual branches who sent in accounts of their branch's activities during the decade.

Jane Biers  
State Historian

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# **AAUW of Missouri, 2010–2020**

Jane Biers

## **Introduction**

In the decade **2010–2020** AAUW Missouri was actively involved in AAUW’s mission of research, advocacy, and education and continued to include philanthropy as part of its objectives. Members and branches achieved many of their goals, aided by the support of an active board of directors. (The positions and names of all elected and appointed state board members are printed in annual directories.) AAUW Missouri worked tirelessly to promote AAUW National’s public policy and advocacy initiatives.

A major focus during the decade was getting out the vote, enabled by an AAUW Public Policy grant in **2011** and an Impact grant in **2016–2017**. Other aims were to promote ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), to close the gender pay gap, and to protect and enforce Title IX. Members participated in events such as annual legislative retreats, rallies in Jefferson City that called attention to Equal Pay Day, lobbying in Jefferson City, and joining guests at the annual Women’s Equality Day brunch in St. Louis. In Kansas City, Equality Day was celebrated annually with a whole week of activities. Kansas City Branch helped in organizing events throughout the week and in some years provided speakers.

AAUW Missouri members attended and gave presentations in person and online at AAUW state, regional, and national conventions, raised funds for AAUW to advance its mission, and gave prizes at National History Day in Missouri for performances, exhibits, or documentaries on issues that concern women and girls. Several members served on AAUW National committees and boards. Incentive grants from the state’s Peg Witt Incentive Fund (henceforth Peg Witt Fund) and Reserve Fund Branch Incentive Fund (henceforth Reserve Fund) enabled the success of many branch projects, and three endowments were completed. Every two years the AAUW Missouri board approved a strategic plan for the state, based on AAUW National’s, and as National produced research reports the board promoted them to branches and at state meetings. Throughout the decade there was also a focus on College/University (C/U) relations. The C/U officers and committees worked hard to enroll Missouri institutions as AAUW partner members; as many as nineteen joined in **2013**, and ten rejoined in **2020**. The committee also encouraged undergraduate student membership in AAUW and the formation of student affiliate organizations and promoted and financially supported attendance at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

Throughout the state AAUW members strongly advocated for the Work Smart and Start Smart programs, which provided salary negotiation skills for women and girls. Membership in the Legacy Circle increased from four in **2012** to twenty-three in October **2020**, and every year Century Club and Century Club Plus added new members. Toward the end of the decade to celebrate the **2020** centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, a task force was formed to promote and share information about centennial activities around the state. In **2020**, however, the impact of Covid-19 on this celebration and on other events and meetings led to cancellations, postponements, and increased online activities. The postponed celebration of the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment was planned for August **2021**. At the end of the decade, AAUW Missouri joined the Votes For Women Trail Project. The goal of the project was to guide Missouri branches to find and collectively post new sites on the National Votes for Women Trail, a project of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites.

It is clear from the above account that AAUW Missouri has been a force within the state for the decade **2010–2020**. It will continue to be so during the coming years.

### **AAUW of Missouri, 2010–2011**

For the year **2010–2011**, eight AAUW Missouri members served in the following AAUW National positions: major donor steering committee, Susan Barley, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch; C/U relations committee, Jane Biers, Columbia; leadership corps, Shirley Breeze, Ferguson-Florissant, Sandy Camillo, Ballwin-Chesterfield, Kenyatta Thacker (member at large), and Julie Triplett, Ballwin-Chesterfield; fundraising committee, Diane B. Ludwig, St. Louis, and Yvonne Morrison, Ballwin-Chesterfield.

In **2010**, AAUW Missouri achieved fourth place among the top ten researchers to provide understanding of issues important to women and girls through state per capita giving to the AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. Top ten branch and state fundraising awards are among AAUW Missouri's highest branch and state honors.

On Saturday, August 21, **2010**, the twenty-third annual Equality Day brunch, the ninetieth anniversary of women gaining the right to vote, was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Clayton, Missouri. AAUW Missourians from across the state attended. Historian Lisa Fredriksen was the keynote speaker. The honorees were Amy Blouin, Mary Bruemmer, and the Hon. Maida Coleman.

In fall **2010**, the AAUW Missouri State Board developed a strategic plan and policies in light of the changes made at the AAUW National convention held in St. Louis on June 26 to 28, **2009**. The board discontinued the Missouri Ten-Star Award (reinstated in 2013) and established a new AAUW Mission Accomplished! Award for **2010–2011** that reflected the bylaws and organizational changes made at the convention. In the future, branches would be recognized for their success in meeting the goals of AAUW’s mission: advocacy, education, research, and philanthropy. The Missouri State Galaxy Awards and the Century Club continued, and any individual who contributed one hundred dollars or more would be recognized at the State Assembly and in *Missouri in Motion*. The board decided that, beginning in **2011**, the biennial Breaking Through Barriers Award would honor three exemplary branch programs.

In **2010**, contributions to AAUW funds from Missouri branches totaled \$75,008. The top five branches in total giving were Ballwin-Chesterfield, Columbia, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Kansas City, and St. Louis. The top ten branches in per capita giving were Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Fergusson-Florissant, Ballwin-Chesterfield, St. Louis, Maryville, St. Charles, Independence, Kansas City, Creve Coeur, and Columbia. The state of Missouri gave \$92.59 per capita. There were 123 Century Club members.

Women’s Lobby Day convened on Tuesday, March 29, **2011**, at the State Capitol in House Hearing Room 2. A legislative update/briefing was followed by visits with legislators, which provided an opportunity to discover the issues that legislators supported and for AAUW members to express their views on women’s issues, such as pay equity, budgets, health care, civil liberties, public education, the environment, immigration, and voting.

A Catalyst For Change program received an AAUW Campus Action Project (CAP) grant to expose female ninth-grade high school students in St. Louis to the different fields of science, have them meet women in those fields, and encourage the students to enter them. St. Louis Branch sponsored the project, which was conceived by Ashley Brosius, an undergraduate who had attended NCCWSL and there learned about the AAUW report *Why So Few?* This report documented the shortage of women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. The program took place on three Saturdays, March 26, April 2, and April 9, and covered projects such as biotechnology, physical science, and engineering. In **2010** AAUW National awarded AAUW Missouri a Public Policy/Impact grant for getting out the vote in the November election.

National History Day in Missouri was held at the University of Missouri, Columbia, in April **2011**. AAUW Missouri awarded a special prize of one hundred dollars to Jessica Taylor, from Hannibal Middle School, for her exhibit in the junior division entitled “Failure Is Impossible.” The winner in the junior performance

division was Chelsea Henry, from Neosho Junior High School. Her performance, titled “Failed Diplomacy, Civil War Cherokee Nation and the Newtonia Battlefield,” also earned her one hundred dollars.

From April 29 to May 1, **2011**, over sixty AAUW Missouri members assembled at the Tan-Tar-A Resort in Lake Ozark for the AAUW state convention “90 Years of Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls.” The members represented eleven branches. Special guests and speakers were the AAUW president, Carolyn Garfein; Sam Lehman, AAUW grassroots advocacy coordinator; Stacey Newman, Missouri state representative; and AAUW fellow Tanya Roth. Sessions covered topics such as conflict resolution, building branch membership, directions in public policy, understanding AAUW funds, and using state and AAUW National resources. Student affiliates from the University of Missouri, Columbia, conducted a session.

Toni Thornton and Doris Nistler, education and equity co-officers, reported that members contributed \$245 toward a raffle; the Eleanor Roosevelt walk netted \$862; and an additional sum of \$400 was earned for AAUW through a silent auction and other sales by individuals and branches. Three Missouri endowments were still in process: F. Elaine Richardson, Opal Eckert/Maryville Branch, and Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Silver Anniversary Research and Projects grant. Mission Accomplished branch awardees were Ballwin-Chesterfield, Creve Coeur, Independence, Maryville, St. Charles, Kansas City, and Kirkwood-Webster Groves. Galaxy awardees were Ballwin-Chesterfield, Independence, and St. Charles. AAUW Missouri Outstanding Member recipients were Sue Barley, Jane Biers, and Marsha Koch. In this year One Member One Vote began, the change adopted in **2009** at the St. Louis convention.

The AAUW Missouri Incentive grants program awarded \$400 to the Parkville Branch (Peg Witt Fund) for a Start Smart workshop. St. Charles Branch received \$325 from the Reserve Fund for a program to encourage middle school girls to pursue careers in math and science. Also from the Reserve Fund, Kansas City Northland Branch was awarded \$225 for a program to teach girls about bullying and prevention.

In **2011**, Missouri had sixteen AAUW C/U partner members. Each partner was assigned to a branch, and the branches were asked to appoint a board member to act as liaison with the school. The C/U officers promoted NCCWSL, which took place on June 2–4, 2011, at the University of Maryland, College Park. Also in that year, Kam Phillips, one of the founding members of the University of Missouri, Columbia, AAUW Student organization, was one of fifteen finalists in the White House Campus Champions of Change Challenge, an initiative recognizing student-led projects that serve the community. Her project, “Dream Outside the Box,” provided exposure to career and extracurricular activities for children and youth in



Columbia. She was invited to the White House where she met President Obama. She said “the best part was that I got to take one of the Dream Outside the Box children with me. I was also able to connect with AAUW National, and they supported me as much as they could.”

About twenty-five AAUW Missouri members attended the AAUW National convention in Washington, D.C., on June 16–19, **2011**. AAUW Missouri was awarded certificates for generous contributions to AAUW funds, and several Missouri members served on panels and were recognized for their work on committees. Missouri state president Julia Triplett reported that one of the highlights was attendance at Lobby Day when Missouri members joined over six hundred AAUW colleagues on Capitol Hill.

### **AAUW of Missouri, 2011–2012**

In **2011–2012**, six AAUW Missouri members served in AAUW National positions: Susan Barley, Ballwin-Chesterfield and St. Louis Branches, and Shirley Breeze, Ferguson-Florissant, Leadership Corps; Jane Biers, Columbia, C/U relations committee; Sandy Camillo, Ballwin-Chesterfield, director-at-large; and Diane B. Ludwig, St. Louis, and Yvonne Morrison, Ballwin-Chesterfield, fundraising committee.

The twenty-fourth Equality Day brunch was held on Saturday, August 20, **2011**, in St. Louis. The speaker was Betty Dukes, lead plaintiff in the Supreme Court case *Dukes vs. Wal-Mart*. The honorees were Barbara Bennett, the Hon. Joan Bray, and the Hon. Rita Days. Presentations included election and legislative issues, political action, awards, and women’s equity. Kansas City celebrated Equality Day with a week’s worth of discussions, a rally, and a march, among other activities.

The total of all funds from Missouri sent to AAUW in **2011** was \$52,184. The top five branches in total giving were Ballwin-Chesterfield, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Louis, St. Charles, and Kansas City. The top ten branches in per capita giving were St. Louis, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Maryville, Ballwin-Chesterfield, St. Charles, Columbia, Creve Coeur, Ferguson-Florissant, Kansas City, and Independence. Per capita giving from the state totaled \$64.66.

In **2011** AAUW funds provided \$4.3 million in grants and fellowships nationally and abroad, and 129 AAUW Missouri Century Club members contributed one hundred dollars each or more. Three AAUW National Community Action grants were awarded in the St. Louis area: Megabuild project, Bridgeton, created an interaction between high school girls and young college women in STEM fields; Safe Connections expanded counselling and support for women and girls; and “Allies for Inclusion: The Ability Exhibit” emphasized strengths, success, and advocacy for women with disabilities.

On January 6 and 7, **2012**, a women's issues legislative retreat was held at the Rickman Center, Jefferson City. On Friday evening Jan Scott and Shirley Breeze of the Women's Policy Alliance Board discussed the report *Status of Missouri Women 2011*. On Saturday Mary Mosley reviewed the 2011 Missouri legislative session, and Courtney Cole, marketing campaign manager, gave a talk titled "Missouri Women and the 2012 Missouri Election." Before lunch Judith Ancel from the University of Missouri Kansas City Institute for Labor Studies, led a panel on women and Missouri's economy, and Ancel Ceara discussed the Occupy Movement, asking whether it is a sign of the future. Throughout the day, Margot McMillen signed copies of her book *The Golden Lane*.

April 9, **2012**, was Equal Pay Day, and a Missouri Women's Lobby Day was held on April 17 in the State Capitol in Jefferson City. The women heard a legislative update/briefing and then visited legislators.

At National History Day in Missouri on April 21, **2012**, AAUW Missouri awarded two special prizes of one hundred dollars each: to Emma Dillon, North Middle School, Joplin, for her performance "Betty Ford: A Reform on the Title, First Lady"; and to Kylin Grubb, Odessa Middle School, for her exhibit "Title IX: The Reform that Revolutionized Women's Sports."

At the AAUW Missouri Public Policy Training and State Leadership Conference, held in Columbia on May 4 and 5, **2012**, an all-day session on public policy training, provided by AAUW National, was attended on May 4 by more than fifty-five people representing AAUW and members from other politically active groups. Sam Lehman, AAUW grass roots advocacy coordinator, focused on millennial age women (18–31) and getting them to the polls in November. On Saturday, May 5, AAUW National board member Kathleen Cha reported on AAUW's activities on many fronts across the nation, and Dr. Mable Grimes offered leadership training. At the start of the morning's session, a special flag was carried in, one of 130 that were flown in Washington, D.C., on January 14, exactly 130 years after the first meeting of AAUW's founders in Boston on January 14, 1882. Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) luncheon speaker Kathy Bull spoke of the obstacles and unfairness she faced when standing up for women's athletics at Ball State University. At the time of the luncheon the outcome of her case was unknown. A few weeks later it was learned that she had been successful in her suit.

At the end of the day, the annual state meeting was held. Officers were elected and installed, branch achievements were recognized, and Julia Triplett received the **2012** Woman of Distinction Award. Gloria Bandstra, Grace Butler, Carol Davis McDonald, and Betty Takahashi were named AAUW Missouri Outstanding

Members. Named Gift recipients were also honored. Ballwin-Chesterfield announced that the branch had completed its Silver Anniversary Research and Projects grant, and Toni Thornton, AAUW funds officer, suggested that in honor of the 125th Anniversary of AAUW Fellowships and Grants, it would be appropriate to complete two grants still in progress: The F. Elaine Richardson and the Opal Eckert/Maryville Branch.

Alyse Stoll made a poster for display at the meeting with photos of three of the four “Women of Courage” introduced to all sixth-grade math/science classes in the Fort Zumwalt school district in St. Charles County. Pam Kulp (in costume) represented the four women, Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu (nuclear physicist), Rear Admiral Grace Hopper (grandmother of computers), Dr. Eugenia Clark (shark lady), and Dr. Barbara McClintock (genetic scientist). She gave sixty presentations.

Beginning on May 31, **2012**, NCCWSL was held at the University of Maryland, College Park. AAUW Missouri and a Missouri member provided two scholarships for Missouri women students. In addition, a Missouri branch contributed funds toward a scholarship for a student leader. Other branches helped individual students with funds for travel and other expenses. Samantha Williams, the recipient of one of AAUW Missouri’s scholarships, wrote a warm thank you letter, saying, among other statements, “NCCWSL . . . provided the keys to being successful.”

AAUW members from seven Midwest states, including Missouri, attended the Mid-States Regional Conference “AAUW: Stepping Up to the Future,” which was held on June 8–9, **2012**, in Oklahoma City. Executive director Linda Hallman reflected on AAUW’s current initiatives and plans for the future. Mark Elam presented on human trafficking in the Midwest, and AAUW National vice-president Patricia Fae Ho and directors-at-large Sandy Camillo (Missouri) and Kathy Anthon (Texas) also attended. Breakout sessions included AAUW finances and development, coalition building, public policy, energizing your branch, grant writing, using AAUW electronic resources, and the new AAUW research report *Crossing the Line*. On Friday evening the film “Miss Representation” was shown. The film identifies the media areas where women are still portrayed inappropriately and negatively. A silent auction raised almost thirteen hundred dollars for Equity Funds, and an Eleanor Roosevelt Run/Walk/Sleep-In netted almost one thousand dollars.

In **2012**, *History of the American Association of University Women, Missouri 1976–2010* was completed and printed under the leadership of Grace Butler, state historian. Also in this year, Start Smart workshops were organized in St. Louis, and six AAUW members were trained as facilitators.

## AAUW of Missouri, 2012–2013

In **2012–2013**, ten AAUW Missouri members served in leadership roles at the AAUW National level: Susan Barley, Ballwin-Chesterfield and St. Louis, fundraising committee and National Legacy Circle chair; Jane Biers, Columbia, cochair C/U relations committee; Shirley Breeze, Ferguson-Florissant, and Karen Francis, Ballwin-Chesterfield, leadership corps; Sandy Camillo, Ballwin-Chesterfield, director-at-large and secretary for the National Board of Directors; Mary Jermak, Ballwin-Chesterfield, membership committee; Diane B Ludwig, Columbia, and Yvonne Morrison, Ballwin-Chesterfield, fundraising committee; Lynne Roney, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, career development grant selection committee; and Julie Triplett, Ballwin-Chesterfield and St. Charles, nominating committee.

The speakers at the twenty-fifth annual Equality Day brunch in St. Louis on August 25, **2012**, were Kathy Bull, lead plaintiff in *Bull vs. Board of Trustees of Ball State University*, and Lori Flanagan, director of athletics, University of Missouri, St. Louis. Their presentation was titled “Title IX: Fair Play On and Off the Field.” The theme of the brunch was celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the passing of Title IX and the ninety-second anniversary of women getting the vote. Ninety people attended the event. Colleen Coble, the Hon. Margaret Donnelly, AAUW Missouri immediate past president Julie Triplett, and Dr. Dorothy Weatherspoon were honored for their outstanding work on equity issues. Other presentations included election and legislative issues, political action, awards, and women’s equity. The Kansas City Branch helped organize Equality Day week in Kansas City.

The public policy committee (Nancy Hutchins, Joanie Shores, and Holly Burgess) conducted a Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) campaign in fall **2012**. Phase one of AAUW Missouri’s “It’s My Vote, I Will Be Heard” was completed with the registration of over six hundred voters across the state. During phase two, GOTV volunteers called or contacted all registered voters to remind them to vote. Volunteers across the state participated in phone bank parties and contacted young millennium voters, asking them to vote and reminding them of the issues important to women and AAUW. For their voter registration efforts Joanie Shores and Nancy Hutchins congratulated Mary Mosley, Pat Shores, Toni Thornton and the Independence Branch, the Kansas City volunteer committee members, Nicky Stanke and Stephanie Hatfield, and AAUW Fellow Nazgol Bagheri, and the Kansas City Kansas Community College satellite of the Kansas City Branch.

AAUW Missouri raised \$39,430.70 in **2012** for AAUW funds. The top five branches in total giving were Ballwin-Chesterfield, Maryville, St. Charles, Kansas City, and Kansas City Northland. The top ten branches in per capita giving were

Maryville, Ballwin-Chesterfield, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Creve Coeur, St. Charles, St. Louis, Nevada, Kansas City, Independence, and Ferguson Florissant. The AAUW Missouri contribution per capita was \$50.16.

The annual legislative retreat was held on January 11 and 12, **2013**, at the Rickman Center in Jefferson City. The event began with a workshop on the Missouri legislature on Friday evening, followed by a review of the 2122 legislative session on Saturday morning. In the afternoon participants set legislative priorities.

April 9 was Equal Pay Day, and to mark this an Equal Pay Day Rally was held in the State Capitol, Jefferson City, on April 17, **2013**. The rally was sponsored by AAUW Missouri, the League of Women Voters (LWV), and the National Organization of Women (NOW). The speakers were Linda Berube, AAUW Missouri state president; Lois Detrick, LWV president; and Jamie Tomek, NOW state president. Governor Nixon and Mayor James issued proclamations that acknowledged Equal Pay Day, and these were read. Together with LWV and NOW, AAUW Missouri delivered educational packets containing information on pay equity and a special “Payday” candy bar to legislators. Kelsey Saragnese also spoke. Appointed to the ten-member National Student Advisory Council (SAC) and serving as the incoming **2013–2014** president of the AAUW Student Organization at the University of Missouri, she presented a talk titled “We Are Not Worth Less.”

National History Day in Missouri was held on April 20, **2013**, with the theme “Turning Point in History.” AAUW Missouri awarded three special prizes of one hundred dollars each to Emma Andrews, St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Louis, for her entry in junior performance “World War 2: A Turning Point for Women in the Workplace”; to Zoe Honeck, Pembroke Hill School, Kansas City, in senior performance for “Little People Like Us”; and to Ethan Gooch, Kirksville Middle School, Kirksville, in junior documentary for “Sister Kenny: A Turning Point of Polio Treatment in America.” This prize was given in memory of Betty Cook Rottmann, distinguished longtime AAUW member.

Linda Vestal, AAUW Missouri C/U cochair, presented on salary negotiations at a U.S. Department of Labor Women’s Bureau event “Women’s Equal Pay” on April 23, **2013**, in Kansas City.

A total of 143 Missouri members attended a three-day joint Missouri-Illinois State convention on May 3–5, 2013, in St. Louis. The theme of the convention was “AAUW in Action! ILuminating and MOTivating Together.” Linda Hallman, executive director and AAUW’s CEO, shared insights into AAUW’s work at National level and how states and branches are moving AAUW’s mission forward across the country. Breakout sessions focused on membership, programming, fundraising, public policy, the AAUW National website, international women’s

issues, women's health, and women in engineering. The luncheon keynote speaker was Dr. Cathy Pieronek, director of women in engineering at Notre Dame, who provided an enlightening update on Title IX and STEM issues. The banquet speaker was Danielle Hoffman, a Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) plaintiff in military sexual harassment cases, who provided painful insight into the situation.

At the **2013** Missouri State Assembly, held as part of the convention, President Linda Berube showcased Missouri branches and activities, held the election of officers, and presented awards to outstanding members. The following branches won Star Awards for **2013–2014**: Ballwin-Chesterfield, Creve Coeur, Ferguson-Florissant, Independence, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, and St. Charles won ten stars; Columbia won nine stars. Galaxy Awards went to Ballwin-Chesterfield and Independence. AAUW Missouri Outstanding Members in 2013 were Holly Burgess, Ellen Johnson, Joyce Katz, and Pat Shores. Changes to AAUW Missouri's bylaws were passed, effective July 1, **2013**. Elected officers could now serve a term of two years and, except for the president and president elect, could hold office for two consecutive terms. A quorum was set at 5 percent of the members.

Two branches received grants from the Peg Witt Fund in 2013. Columbia Branch was awarded \$113 to transport three fourth-grade classes (forty-four students) from their Partnership Friend, Thomas Hart Benton Elementary School, on a field trip to the University of Missouri Museum of Art and Archaeology. Kansas City Branch received \$250 to provide seed money for six different fundraising activities that would generate a scholarship for a new category "Against All Odds." The following branches received grants from the Reserve Fund for registration for the Illinois-Missouri Joint State Convention in St. Louis: Ferguson-Florissant (\$150), Nevada (\$75), Columbia (\$150), Kansas City (\$150), and St. Charles (\$150).

The AAUW National convention "Leading Across Generations" took place in New Orleans on June 9–12, **2013**. Attended by many AAUW Missouri members, the convention provided workshops, speakers, and other educational features that gave background for work on AAUW's mission and action. The convention offered many opportunities to connect with AAUW National staff and leaders from across the country. Another Public Policy/Impact grant was awarded to AAUW Missouri to work with Illinois on a three-state strategy for ratification of the ERA.

Maryville Branch completed funding for the Opal Eckert/Maryville Branch Research and Project fellowship. The fellowship sponsored a Community Action grant to the Latino STEM Alliance, Jamaica Plains, Mass., one of three Missouri community action grants in **2013**. There were eight recipients of Missouri grants in **2013**: two international and one American fellowship, two career development grants, and the three community actions ones.

## AAUW of Missouri, 2013–2014

Six Missouri members served on AAUW National committees in **2013–2014**: Sue Barley, St. Louis and Ballwin-Chesterfield Branches, on the fundraising committee and legacy circle team; Jane Biers, Columbia Branch, cochair C/U relations; Shirley Breeze, Ferguson-Florissant, public policy; Sandy Camillo, Ballwin-Chesterfield, secretary, executive committee; Mary Jermak, Ballwin-Chesterfield, membership; and Yvonne Morrison, Ballwin-Chesterfield, and Diane B. Ludwig, Columbia, cochair fundraising.

On August 24, **2013**, AAUW Missouri and the Missouri Women’s Network hosted the twenty-sixth annual Equality Day brunch in St. Louis. The program included presentations on election and legislative issues, political action, awards, and women’s equity. Bettina Hager, program director of the National Women’s Political Caucus and cochair of the ERA Task Force of the National Council of Women’s Organizations, was the keynote speaker. Honorees were Margot McMillen, the Hon. Jeanette Mott Oxford, and Patricia Rich. Women’s Equality Week, “Pushing Back/Marching Forward,” was celebrated on August 24–31, **2013**, in Kansas City with a rally, radio programs, and presentations on issues concerning women.

AAUW Missouri continued its ERA blitz, enabled by the AAUW **2013–2014** joint Impact grant. On November 9, **2013**, AAUW Missouri and Illinois state public policy personnel met in Illinois to plan their efforts to work on a three-state strategy to ratify the ERA. Lobbying of the Missouri legislature was planned for January 27 to February 27, **2014**, to get concurrent ERA resolutions passed in the Missouri House and Senate.

Toni Thornton, AAUW Missouri funds officer, announced that Missouri gave \$49,964.05 to AAUW funds in **2013**. The top five branches in total giving were Ballwin-Chesterfield, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, Independence, and Maryville. The top ten branches in per capita giving were Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Maryville, Ballwin-Chesterfield, St. Louis, St. Charles, Creve Coeur, Ferguson-Florissant, Independence, Kansas City Northland, and Nevada. The state of Missouri per capita giving was \$63.57.

On January 11, **2014**, the annual women’s issues legislative retreat, titled “A Day of Friends, Food, and Politics,” was held in Columbia with approximately twenty-five people in attendance. In the morning lobbyist Jenni Purdue reviewed background information on the ERA and suggested how to educate legislators about the amendment. In the afternoon, the group reviewed the 2013 Missouri legislative

session, previewed the 2014 one, set legislative priorities, and planned the ERA Missouri campaign. Tier 1 of legislative priorities was reproductive rights and the ERA; Tier 2 was health, tied with poverty, and labor; and Tier 3 was education, tied with Medicaid expansion, and ethics.

From January 21 through February 27, **2014**, a six-week run, the planned major push was mounted to secure passage of the ERA by the Missouri legislature. A team of constituents visited each representative and senator and made phone calls, sent emails, faxes, letters, and tweets. Karen Francis, public policy chair, reported that AAUW Missouri would be mounting a campaign to register and turn out millennial women voters. “It’s My Vote; I Will Be Heard 2014—Getting Out the Mid-Term Vote” used the slogan “Rock the Mid-Term Vote.”

On April 8, **2014**, a Women’s Equity Day “Rally under the Dome” took place in Jefferson City in the Capitol’s Rotunda. Over 250 people participated. AAUW Missouri coordinated the event, and leaders from many women’s groups spoke to the crowd. Several legislators attended, and six addressed the group. Governor Jay Nixon wrote a proclamation that declared April Equal Pay Month in Missouri.

On April 26, **2014**, AAUW Missouri awarded National History Day in Missouri participants Mackenzie McCance, Zoe Honeck, and Grace Jacobs special prizes of one hundred dollars each. The theme of History Day was “Rights and Responsibilities.” Mackenzie McCance won for her performance in the junior division with “Equality Within Equality: The Legacy of Mary Church Terrell.” Zoe Honeck, who was the previous year’s winner, performed “Developing the Future” in the senior division. Grace Jacobs won for her junior documentary “American Women in World War Two Propaganda.” This prize was given in honor of Liz Bailey, who was instrumental in providing prizes for this special event.

On Saturday, May 3, **2014**, fifty-five members and guests attended the Missouri state leadership conference and annual meeting held in Columbia with AAUW president Patricia Ho as the keynote speaker. She gave an update on the activities of the association. Mindy Mazur followed with a session in which she urged the importance of getting women into positions of leadership. Mollie Lam (LAF staff) and Danielle Hoffman (LAF plaintiff) brought information about the cases that LAF was supporting. Branch and state awards were announced, and new officers elected and installed. The Woman of Distinction Award was presented to Joyce Guard Schuetz, Creve Coeur Branch, and to Betty Takahashi, St. Charles. AAUW Missouri Outstanding Members were Susan Barley, Yvonne Morrison, and Renee Hornsby.

Columbia Branch was awarded one hundred dollars from the Reserve Fund to support the Thomas Hart Benton Elementary School all-girls robotics team, the



Queen Bee Bots. The grant enabled the team to compete in the Lego Robotics Competition. Kansas City Branch received three hundred dollars from the Peg Witt Fund to update the last twenty years of branch history. Ferguson-Florissant and St. Louis received grants from the Reserve Fund to attend the meeting.

Kelsey Saragnese, the **2013–2014** president of the University of Missouri AAUW student organization on the Columbia campus, was appointed to the SAC, a committee of ten students chosen from applicants throughout the country. Dr. Karen Alpers of St. Louis University was awarded an AAUW Community Action grant. The award was given for expansion of “Allies for Inclusion: The Ability Exhibit,” a traveling exhibit designed to spread disability awareness. Dr. Alpers developed a K–12 edition of the exhibit.

On June 5–7, **2014**, NCCWSL was held at the University of Maryland, College Park. Ten Missouri students attended, all with financial assistance. St. Louis Interbranch Council (IBC) supported three students, St. Louis University one student, and five students from the Columbia campus of the University of Missouri also received financial help; Kelsey Saragnese, as a member of the SAC, was fully supported by AAUW.

On June 13 and 14, the **2014** Midwest Regional Conference, “AAUW Advocacy and You,” organized by Shirley Breeze, Ferguson-Florissant Branch, was held at the Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri. Nearly ninety women from all over the Midwest convened to hear keynote speaker Lisa Maatz, AAUW vice president for government relations, who spoke on public policy for **2014–2015**; Cordy Galligan, AAUW vice president/marketing and development whose luncheon talk was titled “Re-energizing Your Branch Brand”; and Malinda Gaul, AAUW director. Jayna Gray, systems administrator for the Missouri Association for Community Action, spoke about women and poverty in the United States. AAUW Missouri members Sue Barley and Yvonne Morrison (both National fundraising committee members) and Diane B. Ludwig (fundraising committee cochair and incoming AAUW Missouri president) also gave presentations.

### **AAUW of Missouri, 2014–2015**

Six Missouri members served on AAUW National committees: Susan Barley, Ballwin-Chesterfield and St. Louis Branches, fundraising committee; Jane Biers, Columbia, C/U relations, cochair; Shirley Breeze, Ferguson-Florissant, public policy and nominating committees; Sandy Camillo, Ballwin-Chesterfield, executive committee, secretary; Mary Jermak, Ballwin-Chesterfield, membership; and Diane Ludwig, Columbia, cochair, fundraising.

The annual Equality Day brunch, organized by IBC St. Louis, was held in St. Louis on August 23, **2014**. The speaker was Barbra Joan Zeitz, who talked about gender in the courts. The honorees were Joyce Best, Peggy Cochran, and Nancy Cross. Kansas City Branch member Jane McClain gave a talk, “Women’s Suffrage on the Prairie,” during Equality Week held in Kansas City.

In **2014**, the AAUW Missouri Leona Beckmann Endowment funded an AAUW **2014–2015** fellowship for Adrienne Anderson at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Anderson’s degree was in electrical engineering. Missouri Endowments funded nine fellowships and grants for **2014–2015**.

On September 10, 2014, a bronze bust of Virginia Louisa Minor was inducted into the Hall of Famous Missourians in the State Capitol. Minor, only the eighth woman to be recognized in the hall, had attempted to register to vote in 1875, only to be turned down. She then filed suit in the Missouri state courts where her claim was rejected. Her case ultimately went to the Supreme Court, where she was also unsuccessful. She spent the rest of her life fighting for women’s suffrage. AAUW Missouri worked with the Missouri Women’s Network to achieve recognition of this pioneer woman and to raise funds for production of the bust.

The AAUW Missouri Incentive grants program awarded funds for two Start Smart workshops, one to Parkville Branch, the other to St. Louis IBC. Grants were also awarded to St. Charles Branch for a program to encourage middle school girls to pursue careers in math and science, and to Kansas City Northland for a program where girls learned about bullying and prevention.

The total of all funds sent to National from Missouri in 2014 was \$38,024.38. The top ten branches in total giving were Ballwin-Chesterfield, St. Charles, Kansas City, Independence, Ferguson-Florissant, Maryville, St. Louis, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Creve Coeur, and Columbia. The top ten branches in per capita giving were Ballwin-Chesterfield, St. Charles, Ferguson-Florissant, Maryville, St. Louis, Independence, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Kansas City, Nevada, and Creve Coeur. Missouri per capita giving was \$49.42.

On January 10, **2015**, the women’s issues legislative retreat “The State of Politics for Women in Missouri” was held in Columbia. Women representing major women’s organizations in Missouri met to establish legislative priorities for the **2015** Missouri legislative session. The day began with an analysis of the November 2014 elections for their impact on women. The Reverend Rebecca Turner was the keynote speaker at the morning session. She addressed issues surrounding the unrest in Ferguson, what was being done to remedy inequities, and the history behind the volatile situation. In establishing priorities for **2015**, the highest was identified as the ERA/pay equity, and reproductive rights. In the second tier were social justice (racism), ethics, and poverty. labor/minimum wage/right to work/discrimination, violence against women, and education. The third tier

consisted of labor/minimum wage/right to work/discrimination, violence against women, and education.

On April 14, **2015**, AAUW Missouri joined with eight other groups at the “Rally Under the Dome” in Jefferson City at the fourth annual Women’s Equity Day rally. Karen Francis, AAUW Missouri public policy chair, organized the event, together with leaders from other participating groups. It was agreed that the fifty-one-year-old Pay Act needed updates. Several Missouri legislators addressed the group; all were supportive of AAUW’s position on fair pay. The groups visited their own legislators and helped to spread the word that equal pay for equal work is vital for a strong and democratic society.

National History Day in Missouri with the theme “Legacy and Leadership in History” took place on April 25, **2015**, on the university campus in Columbia. AAUW Missouri presented three special prizes of one hundred dollar each. The winner for the junior performance was Fiona Burroughs for “Teaching the Unteachable.” The senior performance winner was Lilian Widener. Her title was “Victoria Woodhull.” The junior documentary award was won by Rubina Thomas for her documentary “The Women’s Legacy.” This last prize was given in honor of Grace Butler, who was instrumental in providing prizes for this event.

At the annual state leadership conference at the Holiday Inn in Columbia on May 2, **2015**, twelve of Missouri’s twenty branches were represented by sixty-two members from across the state. Linda Hallman, AAUW CEO, and Erica Stout, training and program manager, joined the meeting from AAUW National. Hallman updated the group on AAUW’s newest endeavors and at lunch discussed the newest AAUW research report, *Solving the Equation*, which relates to the lack of women in the science and engineering fields. Stout provided two workshops: “How to Market Your Branch” and “Spice Up Your Programming.” During the business session, branches were recognized with AAUW Star and Galaxy Awards. For **2014–2015**, Ballwin-Chesterfield, Columbia, Ferguson-Florissant, Independence, St. Charles were awarded ten stars; Kansas City and Kirkwood-Webster Groves were awarded nine stars; Ballwin-Chesterfield, Independence, and St. Louis Branches received Galaxy Awards. Shirley Breeze and Julie Triplett were recognized as AAUW Missouri Outstanding Members. Three branches received grants from the Reserve Fund for four members’ registration to attend the meeting: Creve Coeur (\$50), Kansas City (\$50), and Ferguson-Florissant (\$100).

The AAUW National Convention was held in San Diego on June 18–21, **2015**, with more than one thousand people present. Twelve Missouri members attended.

## AAUW of Missouri, 2015–2016

Six AAUW Missouri members served at National level in **2015–2016**: Susan Barley, Ballwin-Chesterfield and St. Louis Branches, AAUW National board of directors and National legacy circle team; Linda Berube, Kansas City, program resources committee; Shirley Breeze, Ferguson-Florissant, nominating committee (chair) and public policy committee; Karen Francis, Ballwin-Chesterfield and Ferguson-Florissant, chair public policy committee; Yvonne Morrison, Ballwin-Chesterfield, fundraising committee; and Julia Triplett, Ballwin-Chesterfield, legal advocacy fund committee.

On August 22, 2015, the annual Equality Day brunch was held at the St. Louis Crowne Plaza in Clayton, Missouri. The honorees were Dianne Modrell, Judith Parker, and Laura X. Following Cathy Callaway's legacy tributes, Mary Mosley gave a legislative update. The keynote speaker, Caroline Fredrickson, talked about her book *Under the Bus: How Working Women Are Being Run Over*. Kansas City Branch participated in Equality Week in Kansas City.

Fall Focus **2015** was held on October 31 at the Whitmore Country Club, St. Charles. Mark Hopkins, chief strategy officer for AAUW, gave a presentation on AAUW Fund and the eight different programs within it. He also discussed Start Smart and Work Smart in depth and gave an overview of how National AAUW would be rolling out the programs. The goal was to train one hundred thousand women in five years. Thirty-six AAUW Missouri members attended the session.

The total of all funds from Missouri sent to AAUW National Fund in 2015 was \$61,690.88. Top ten branches in total giving for 2015 were Ballwin-Chesterfield, St. Charles, Kansas City, Independence, Ferguson-Florissant, Maryville, St. Louis, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Creve Coeur, and Columbia. The top ten branches in per capita giving were Ferguson-Florissant, Ballwin-Chesterfield, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, Kansas City, St. Louis, Columbia, Kansas City, Maryville, Creve Coeur, and Independence. Missouri per capita giving was \$80.22.

The **2016** annual Missouri Women's Network Legislative Retreat convened in Columbia on January 16. Legislators talked about the expected action in Jefferson City in **2016**, and experts analyzed proposed right-to-work legislation, photo identification for voting, and Medicaid expansion efforts. The priorities for women's issues in the coming legislative session were established: Tier 1, reproductive rights, ERA; Tier 2, voting rights, Medicaid expansion, pay equity, and violence against women; and Tier 3, labor issues (minimum wage, right-to-work) and social justice. Gun issues and education also received a number of votes.

Eighty advocates from eleven organizations around the state spent a productive day in the Capitol in Jefferson City on April 12, **2016**, for Equity Action Day, and thirty more people who could not attend contacted their legislators electronically. Training in how to lobby was held, a number of legislators talked to the assembled people about women's issues, and the members of the group visited more than thirty-five legislators individually. The topics at these talks covered the seven pay equity bills that had been filed, and the teams asked for movement on one of them. They also talked about violence against women, minimum wage, human trafficking, discrimination against the LGBTQ community, voter ID, reproductive rights, and other bills of interest. Some activists also met with Nicole Galloway, state auditor, and observed the debate over the state budget in the Missouri Senate.

The AAUW Missouri state conference was held in Jefferson City on April 30, **2016**. Ten of Missouri's nineteen branches were represented by forty-three members from across the state. Dot McLane, AAUW National board member, updated the group on AAUW's newest endeavors; and during the morning Elizabeth Holden, AAUW grassroots advocacy manager, led a training session "Advocacy as Mission." Later in the day, she worked on preparing the group for GOTV. Rachel Reid, an AAUW American fellow at Washington University in St. Louis, shared her research as a paleoecologist. Her fellowship was funded by the Leona J. Beckmann Fellowship, a Missouri fund; Beckmann was a member of Maryville Branch. AAUW Peg Witt grants were awarded to two branches: St. Louis to help present a legislative forum on sexual assault, Right-to-Work, and a minimum wage event in February **2017**; Kansas City to help present a speed-monitoring event for women engineers (mentors/mentees). Ferguson-Florissant received a grant from the Reserve Fund to enable two members to attend the state conference.

During the business session, branches were recognized for their achievements in support of AAUW's mission. Ballwin-Chesterfield, Columbia, Ferguson-Florissant, Independence, Kansas City, and St. Charles were awarded ten stars; Ballwin-Chesterfield and Independence won Galaxy Awards. Yvonne Morrison, state AAUW Fund chair, distributed a handout naming Missouri Century Club and Century Club Plus members, and Named Gift honorees. Sue Barley, membership vice president, presented the **2016** AAUW Missouri Outstanding Member Award to Linda Berube. Mary Emily Kitterman, Pat Shores, and Maurita Stueck were named **2016** AAUW Missouri Women of Distinction. The conference attendees celebrated the completion of the F. Elaine Richardson Research and Projects Fund. The fund closed out at \$35,617.00.

Also on April 30, **2016**, National History Day in Missouri was held on the university campus in Columbia. The theme was "Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange in History." AAUW presented two special prizes of one hundred dollars

each in honor of Kathy Dains, Columbia Branch. The junior individual performance recipients were Lily Casey, St. Margaret of Scotland School, South St. Louis, for “Rachel Carson: One Woman’s Fight against Pesticides,” and Katie North, St. Clair Junior High School, St. Clair, for “The Explorations and Encounters of Laura Ingalls Wilder.” The young women received certificates, AAUW material, AAUW note cards, and the seventy-cent postcard used for Equity Day.

In **2016**, AAUW Missouri was awarded an AAUW National Impact grant of one thousand dollars for **2016–2017**. In March **2016**, Karen Francis and Pat Shores, AAUW public policy cochairs, sent a sheet of suggestions to every branch president on how to accomplish the four goals of the grant. Goal 1 required each branch to complete one GOTV activity; Goal 2 required each branch to complete one gender pay gap activity; Goal 3 was to establish a Missouri lobby corps, to focus on passage of a pay equity bill; and Goal 4 was to expand the visibility of AAUW through six letters to the editor, nine Facebook postings, and nine Twitter messages.

IBC St. Louis sent two students to NCCWSL in May **2016**: Janet Kagoda, an international student from Uganda studying at the University of Missouri, St. Louis, and Olivia Beres, Washington University. Kagoda reported that over one thousand women attended. She participated in preconference activities that included working with an organization called A Wider Circle, which helps those in poverty by providing basic essentials. She also listened to inspiring speakers such as Hilary Corna, a businesswoman whose theme was “Dare Yourself.” Kagoda was motivated to “dare herself” and began working on a website for an organization called Women Supporting Each Other, which she had started back in Uganda.

Beres recounted that the workshop that made the greatest impact on her was “The Monument Quilt Workshop,” which allowed survivors of sexual assault to make a quilted square about the assault. She found the workshop “breathtaking” because of the many survivors letting go of their guilt and actively fighting back against it. Sue Barley, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch and an AAUW National board director, attended the conference and met Beres and Kaitlyn Wallace, who had been working with Columbia Branch as its intern and would be the next president of the AAUW MU Student Organization.

The forty-fifth AAUW biennial regional conference, organized by Shirley Breeze, was held June 3–4, **2016**, in Kansas City, Kansas. Dr. Catherine Hill, AAUW National research vice president, was the keynote speaker. She addressed the most recent AAUW report, *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership*, which documents how women still hold a small percentage of policy-making offices. Katie Simeon, AAUW National associate director of field

operations, addressed the importance of getting out the vote in **2016** and introduced new materials prepared by National to help branches work on this. Claudia Richards, AAUW National senior branch relations manager, spoke on new approaches for membership recruitment. The luncheon speaker was Paul Thein, an LAF plaintiff, who discussed his case against the Feather River Community College. A wide variety of breakout sessions included public policy issues and information on AAUW activities and procedures.

Karen Francis was one of eleven women chosen as part of the AAUW delegation to the White House's United State of Women Summit held on June 14, **2016**. One thousand women attended, all dedicated to the theme of the summit, "TODAY WE WILL CHANGE TOMORROW!!!" The AAUW delegation represented all elements of AAUW from fellowships and grants, the Younger Women's Task Force, state leaders, public policy, campus leaders, and AAUW's board of directors. President Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, attorney general Loretta Lynch, US secretary of labor Thomas Perez, Lilly Ledbetter, First Lady Michelle Obama, and Oprah Winfrey all spoke to the assembled women.

### **AAUW of Missouri, 2016–2017**

Six AAUW Missouri members continued to serve at the AAUW National level: Susan Barley, Ballwin-Chesterfield and St. Louis Branches, AAUW National board of directors (second-term) and National legacy circle team; Linda Berube, Kansas City, AAUW branch program resources committee; Shirley Breeze, Ferguson-Florissant, AAUW nominating committee chair and AAUW public policy committee; Karen Francis, Ballwin-Chesterfield and Ferguson-Florissant, AAUW public policy committee chair; Yvonne Morrison, Ballwin-Chesterfield, AAUW fundraising committee; and Julia Triplett, Ballwin-Chesterfield, AAUW legal advocacy fund committee.

The Equality Day brunch was held on August 26, **2016**, in St. Louis. Margot McMillen spoke on "Celebrating the Golden Lane." The honorees were Jane Crigler, the Hon. Darleen Green, the Hon. Jeanne Kirkton, and Ann Ross. Equality Week was celebrated in Kansas City on August 21–27.

On September 3, **2016**, a "Celebrate the VOTE Festival" in St. Louis honored the suffragists who worked for women's right to vote. The event re-created the 1916 Golden Lane, when over three thousand suffragists lined the streets of St. Louis during the Democratic National Convention. Dressed in white, wearing yellow sashes, and carrying yellow umbrellas, they asked only for a plank in the party platform in support of women's suffrage. Their objective was met, and the plank was included in the platform. League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis,

the St. Louis Public Library, and the Missouri History Museum organized the event. AAUW and Webster University sponsored it.

AAUW Missouri completed Goal 1 of the AAUW National Impact grant in fall **2016** with all eighteen Missouri branches participating. Among other activities, branches registered voters, sponsored and participated in issue forums, reminded voters to vote, wrote letters to newspaper editors, and held tabling events that featured AAUW issues.

The total giving to AAUW Fund in **2016** by Missouri branches totaled \$47,494.58. Top ten branches in total giving were Ballwin-Chesterfield, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, Kansas City, Columbia, Independence, Maryville, Creve Coeur, St. Louis, and Kansas City Northland. The top ten branches in per capita giving were Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, Ballwin-Chesterfield, Maryville, St. Louis, Ferguson-Florissant, Columbia, Nevada, Kansas City Northland, and Kansas City. State per capita giving was \$67.96.

On January 14, **2017**, the annual legislative retreat was held in Columbia. The theme was “How Will the National Election Results Affect Legislative Efforts in Missouri.”

On January 21, **2017**, a week after President Donald Trump was inaugurated, an estimated crowd of twenty thousand marched to the Arch in St. Louis and rallied between the old Court House and the Arch. AAUW sponsored the march, along with other women’s organizations. A similar march was held in Kansas City.

Missouri Women’s Network Equity Action Day was celebrated on April 4 in Jefferson City, and 120 citizens, representing sixteen groups, heard from senators and representatives. Nicole Galloway reviewed the responsibilities of the office of state auditor. After the presentations, AAUW Missouri women visited their representatives and senators to discuss AAUW issues.

National History Day in Missouri was held in Columbia on April 29, **2017**. The theme was “Taking a Stand in History.” AAUW presented three special prizes of one hundred dollars each, given in honor of Joan Gones, Cape Girardeau Branch and past chair of AAUW History Day in Missouri. Lily Casey, St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Louis, won in the junior performance for “And the Women Rose, Too: Easter Uprising of 1916”; Kylie Harris, Carthage High School, won the senior performance for “Maiden Joan of Ark’s Stand in the Hundred Year’s War”; and Sarah Brightman, St. Raphael the Archangel of St. Louis, won the junior documentary for “The WASPs Women to Do a Man’s Job.”

Over sixty members from eleven of the eighteen branches participated in the AAUW Missouri state conference on May 6, **2017**, in Columbia. The theme was “Changing the Climate for Women and Girls.” Kaitlyn Wallace, president of the



MU Student Organization, welcomed members, and Janet Bunger from AAUW National board announced the latest AAUW research publication, *Deeper in Dept: Women and Student Loans*. The LAF speaker, Aileen Rizo, spoke movingly of her legal suit to remedy the hiring of a new male hire at several thousand dollars above her salary. Contributions to the LAF fund collected at the luncheon totaled \$1,110.00. Gail James, AAUW-KC Branch member and UN delegate to the Commission on the Status of Women, spoke on the UN Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

At the business meeting, Star and Galaxy Awards were given. Ballwin-Chesterfield, Columbia, Ferguson-Florissant, Independence, Kansas City, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, and St. Louis received ten stars; Maryville received eight; and Parkville and Jefferson City seven. The Galaxy Award was bestowed on Ballwin-Chesterfield for their “Mingle Jingle” winter auction, which benefited their operation fund, and on Kansas City for its focus on voter registration. The **2017** AAUW Missouri Outstanding Members were Karen Francis and Pat Shores. Independence Branch was awarded a Research grant of \$177 to enable a partnership with Blue River Community College (BRCC) in Independence for a four-step Over-the-Top-Project aimed at developing a relationship with faculty and staff at BRCC and introducing students to AAUW’s mission. An achieved outcome was an interest in starting a student organization on campus. Missouri Incentive grants also gave an award from the Research Fund to Ferguson-Florissant Branch (\$120) to send two new or returning members to the conference.

IBC St. Louis awarded Jihane Oufattole funds to attend NCCWSL in May **2017** and also gave Lydia Richardson a scholarship to attend the conference.

The AAUW National convention was held on June 14–17, **2017**, in Washington, DC. Eighteen AAUW Missouri members attended. Notable speakers at the convention were Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Judy Woodruff, and Celinda Lake; the new AAUW CEO Kim Churches was welcomed. Missouri delegates lobbied on Capitol Hill on June 15. The messaging focused on two issues: (1) Title IX and funding the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights to ensure that schools comply with civil rights statutes and current regulations and guidance; and (2) helping to curb student debt by supporting, protecting, and strengthening federal financial aid. The Missouri delegation met with representatives in Senator Blunt’s and Senator McCaskill’s offices and also with individual district representatives: Representative Clay (MO-1), Representative Wagner (MO-2), Representative Hartzler (MO-4), and Representative Cleaver (MO-5).

The Missouri Impact grant ended on June 30, **2017**. All four goals were completed, and every single Missouri branch was involved in at least two

statewide activities. Goal 2 required each branch to complete one gender pay-gap activity. Goal 3 was achieved through establishment of a Missouri lobby corps. During the first regular session of Missouri's ninety-ninth General Assembly, the corps shared AAUW's message with thirty-three representatives and thirteen senators. The corps also gave testimony on pay equity. Goal 4 was also completed with expanded visibility of AAUW through six letters to the editor, which appeared in media outlets across Missouri, nine Facebook postings, and nine Twitter messages.

## **AAUW of Missouri, 2017–2018**

Five AAUW Missouri members served at the AAUW National level: Susan Barley, Ballwin-Chesterfield and St. Louis Branches, National board of directors and National legacy circle team; Linda Berube, Kansas City, program resources committee; Karen Francis, Ballwin-Chesterfield and Ferguson-Florissant, public policy chair; Yvonne Morrison, Ballwin-Chesterfield, fundraising; and Julia Triplett, Ballwin-Chesterfield, legal advocacy fund.

On August 26, **2017**, the Equality Day brunch was held at the Clayton Plaza Hotel in St. Louis. The honorees were Kathleen Farrell and Susan Kidder. The title of keynote speaker Janette Dean's talk was "Nevada's Journey to Ratify the ERA and Next National Steps." During Equality Week in Kansas City, also in August, Carol Cowles, Kansas City Branch member, participated in a panel, "Building Coalitions through Courageous Conversations: Lessons from the 60s and 70s."

Funds for AAUW Fund in **2017** totaled \$35,572.00. The top ten branches in total giving were Ballwin-Chesterfield, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, Kansas City, Columbia, Independence, St. Louis, Ferguson-Florissant, Parkville, and Maryville. The top ten branches in per capita giving were Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, Maryville, Columbia, St. Louis, Ballwin-Chesterfield, Parkville, Kansas City, Independence, and Ferguson-Florissant. The state of Missouri gave \$51.70 in per capita giving.

On January 13, **2018**, several AAUW members attended the annual legislative retreat in Columbia. The attendees voted for the **2018** legislative priorities they felt were important. Tier 1: voting rights and ethics/campaign finance reform; Tier 2: education and judges/courts; and Tier 3: labor/pay equity, health care, ERA, and human trafficking.

At Equity Action Day in Jefferson City on April 10, **2018**, AAUW Missouri members and women from other Missouri organizations gathered to inform representatives of their issues and concerns. AAUW members focused on the gender pay gap and asked legislators to support equal pay. Representatives,

senators, and a staff member gave presentations to the group before AAUW women visited their representatives' and senators' offices.

National History Day in Missouri took place on April 28, **2018**, with the theme "Conflict and Compromise in History." AAUW Missouri presented three special prizes of one hundred dollars each: for junior performance to Allison Vallier, Liberty Middle School, for "St. Maria Skobtsova: Defiance in the Face of Death"; for senior performance to Kylie Harris, Carthage High School, for "The Freedom Riders: Compromise and Color Line"; and for senior documentary to Canissa McBride, Richland High School, for "We Mean to Use Every Means to Try and Win the Mississippi Freedom Delegation." Together with the check, the AAUW judges gave each winner a certificate, AAUW note cards, information on AAUW membership, and a copy of *Barriers and Bias*.

On May 4 and 5, **2018**, AAUW Missouri members and guests met in Columbia for the AAUW Missouri state conference and annual state assembly; the theme was "Taking the LEAD." Participants came from fifteen of seventeen Missouri branches, together with AAUW members from Oklahoma and Illinois. Thirty-five members gathered at an informal reception on Friday evening to welcome AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches, the keynote speaker. In her address on Saturday morning, "Beyond Aspirations: AAUW's Future," she stressed that AAUW's mission is to advance equity for all women and girls and to treat people the way they want to be treated, not the way we want to be treated. She emphasized that the goals of AAUW's strategic plan are education and training, governance and sustainability, economic security, and leadership.

A panel of six Missouri students from Missouri State University and the University of Missouri, Columbia, shared some of their experiences as women students and answered questions. Susan Landino, AAUW LAF plaintiff in her case against Yale University (favorably settled), described her experiences of discrimination and eventual firing for her work to help survivors of sexual assault on campus. The Woman of Distinction Awards went to Diane B. Ludwig, Columbia Branch, and Carolyn Gray Thornton, Nevada. Marsha Koch was honored with the AAUW Outstanding Member Award. Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch received a grant from the Reserve Fund of two hundred dollars for tabling at two summer festivals. Ballwin-Chesterfield and Independence Branches were granted Galaxy Awards, the former for a program titled "Expanding Your Horizons in Mathematics and Science," the latter for scholarships for high school and middle school girls.

## AAUW of Missouri, 2018–2019

Five AAUW Missouri members served at the AAUW National level: Susan Barley, Ballwin-Chesterfield and St. Louis Branches, AAUW National board of directors, committee appointments task force chair, and national legacy circle team; Linda Berube, Kansas City, AAUW program resources committee; Karen Francis, Ballwin-Chesterfield and Ferguson-Florissant, AAUW public policy chair; Yvonne Morrison, Ballwin-Chesterfield, AAUW fundraising cochair; and Julia Triplett, Ballwin-Chesterfield, AAUW legal advocacy fund.

On August 1, **2018**, AAUW National unveiled a new strategic plan with four focus areas: education and training, economic security, leadership, and governance and sustainability. AAUW Missouri president Kay Meyer reported that, with a new initiative to close the gender pay gap in Kansas and Missouri announced on August 20, AAUW Missouri was already beginning to put the new strategic plan into action. AAUW CEO Kim Churches, Wendy Doyle, president of the Women’s Foundation, and Kansas City mayor Sly James made the announcement. The joint AAUW initiative with the Women’s Foundation planned to train one million women in Kansas and Missouri on salary negotiation (Work Smart, Start Smart, and the new e-learning module) by August 1, **2019**. Kansas City was the pilot site to begin the five-year initiative.

Approximately ninety-two women gathered to honor women leaders and hear Dr. Martha Jones, legal and cultural historian, at the annual Equality Day brunch in St. Louis on Saturday, August 25, **2018**. Dr. Jones discussed inequalities, gender, and race and highlighted the story of Celia, a slave woman executed in central Missouri in 1855. The gathering honored Ellen Alper, executive director of the National Council of Jewish Women in St. Louis; Sonja Ghoston-Byrd with the Coalition of Labor Union Women; the artist Jane Mudd; and Missouri representative Stacey G. Newman. The Missouri Women’s Network, IBC St. Louis, local area AAUW branches, and local women’s groups sponsored the event. During Equality Week in Kansas City, August 19–26, fourteen different events hosted by a variety of organizations focused attention on the current state of women and equality. Two members of Kansas City Branch, with a US representative, performed an oral history reenactment, “What Is Woman’s Work Worth? The History of the Equal Pay Act of 1963-I.”

Over the years, Missouri individuals, Missouri branches, and AAUW Missouri had established several fellowships. Following is a list of recipients for the **2018–2019** grant cycle: International fellowship Blanche H. Dow sponsored Mal Humidat, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Chloe E. Millikan sponsored Temitayo Ajayi, University of Mississippi. The Leona J. Beckmann fellowship sponsored Sarajane Davis, Ohio State; Dora Johnson/Kansas City (MO) Branch

and Missouri Diamond Jubilee sponsored *Degrees Matter! Women in Nontraditional Careers* (WINC), Greensboro, North Carolina. Several career development grants were awarded: The F. Elaine Richardson/Missouri grant sponsored Ruth Marsilliani, City University of New York, Staten Island; and six grants sponsored Carolyn Moore, Western Governors University, Salt Lake City. The six grants were from Independence, Missouri State Division anniversary, Ferguson Florissant/Shirley Breeze, Ballwin-Chesterfield, Maryville/Opal Eckert, and Ballwin-Chesterfield Silver Anniversary.

In October **2018**, the AAUW Missouri diversity and equity committee celebrated Global Diversity Awareness Month with a book talk with Shane Mullen at Left Bank Books in St. Louis. He discussed new authors and books from a variety of diverse backgrounds. Also in October, the committee showed the new Missouri presentation on diversity and inclusion to Boonville Branch at its general meeting.

Total Missouri giving for all funds in **2018** was \$36,388.25. The top ten branches in total giving were Ballwin-Chesterfield, St. Charles, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Columbia, Independence, Kansas City, Ferguson-Florissant, St. Louis, Maryville, and Parkville. The top ten branches in per capita giving in **2018** were St. Charles, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Columbia, Ballwin-Chesterfield, St. Louis, Maryville, Parkville, Ferguson-Florissant, Independence, and Kansas City. The total for Missouri per capita giving was \$56.49.

The annual legislative retreat, scheduled for January 2019, was cancelled because of the weather.

In late **2018** and **2019** AAUW Missouri's public policy committee focused on encouraging advocacy efforts, providing information, and supporting Missouri branches and members in their activities. The GOTV initiative was very successful, with most branches taking at least one action and sometimes organizing multiple events. AAUW Missouri supported an amendment and a proposition in the state legislative session—Amendment 1: Lobbying, campaign finance, and redistricting initiative; and Proposition B: Raising the minimum wage. Members used a comment period through January 28 concerning protection of Title IX to sign AAUW National's petition against the Department of Education's proposed changes to Title IX. The public policy committee also wrote comments and submitted them to AAUW National for posting on the *Federal Register*.

The focus of AAUW Missouri in **2019** was on closing the gender pay gap. Pay equity-related bills were monitored in the **2019** legislative session; letters were sent to new and incumbent legislators to build partnership relations and invite them to sponsor pay-equity legislation; and they also received a documentary "The Fight for Pay Equity: A Federal Road Map." AAUW Missouri signed onto the "*Paycheck*

*Fairness Act* organizational sign-on letter” prepared by AAUW National. National recognized Missouri’s actions in opposing the two Title IX bills that the committee was tracking. National wrote *In the Statehouse*, “AAUW members are fighting back, with AAUW MO members in particular working hard to stop harmful legislation in their state.” AAUW Missouri members also helped to defeat an anti-union ballot measure by a 2–1 margin. Organizers collected enough signatures to prompt a referendum in the state’s primary election where voters opted to repeal the “right to work” bill legislators passed in 2017. There was no progress in **2019** on pay equity bills, and no Title IX bills were passed.

AAUW Missouri sponsored the St. Louis Women’s March on January 19, **2019**, and participated in the Action Fair. Karen Francis and Jeanne Webdell, St. Louis IBC members, worked in the AAUW booth at the fair.

On April 16, **2019**, citizen lobbyists gathered in the State Capitol, Jefferson City, to participate in the Missouri Women’s Network Equity Action Day. AAUW joined ten other women’s groups in meeting their legislators and lobbying for key equity issues.

At National History Day in Missouri, on April 27, **2019**, AAUW Missouri presented three special prizes of one hundred dollars each in memory of Holly Burgess, Columbia Branch. The theme of History Day this year was “Triumph and Tragedy in History.” The junior performance recipient was Maria Brown, Jefferson City, for “An Insight into Edith Cavell’s Life”; the senior performance winner was Riley Sutherland, Kansas City, for “Divided by Politics, United by Purpose: Anna Maria Lane and Elizabeth Murry”; and the junior documentary award went to Addison Spiller, Columbia, for “Anne Sullivan Macy’s Story.”

The annual AAUW Missouri State Meeting “Closing the Gender Pay Gap One Click at a Time” was held on May 3–4, **2019**, in Columbia. Approximately sixty members and guests attended, representing twelve AAUW Missouri branches. AAUW CEO Kim Churches gave an update on AAUW activities during the past year and stressed the importance of the Work Smart KS-MO project. She requested that members take the Work Smart negotiation course and spread the word about it. She also asked members to advocate for AAUW policy initiatives and support AAUW’s greatest needs fund. Wendy Doyle of the Women’s Foundation in Kansas City, a partner in the Work Smart project, spoke during the luncheon and stressed that she was looking forward to working with AAUW Missouri and Kansas. The foundation is a platform of research, solutions, and results and is thus an ideal partner with AAUW. She introduced attendees to the Appointments Project, which helps get qualified women onto local boards and commissions.

Ballwin-Chesterfield and Independence Branches were awarded Galaxy Awards. Sue Shineman, membership vice president, presented Marianne Fues (Columbia

Branch) with the **2018–2019** AAUW Missouri Outstanding Member Award. Afternoon workshops included detailed planning for the Work Smart KS-MO initiative, negotiating a life skill, and diversity and inclusion. The Work Smart KS-MO task force closed out the day with an update on their plans and a commitment to the goal of registering one hundred thousand people for the Salary Negotiations course by August 1, **2019**.

## **AAUW of Missouri, 2019–2020**

Three AAUW Missouri members served at AAUW National level: Susan Barley, Ballwin-Chesterfield and St. Louis Branches, National legacy circle team and AAUW nominating committee; Karen Francis, Ballwin-Chesterfield and Ferguson-Florissant, public policy chair; and Jeanie Latz, National member from Kansas City, AAUW board of directors.

The thirty-second annual Equality Day brunch on August 24, **2019**, celebrated the ninety-ninth anniversary of women winning the vote. The focus was on voter protection, pay equity, and protection (personal safety) of women and girls. The keynote speaker was Lisa Maatz, speaker and analyst on issues about women and public policy. She had served as vice president of government relations for AAUW. The honorees were Barbara Finch, Jo Mannies, and the Hon. Mary Nichols. Equality Week was celebrated in Kansas City August 18–24.

In October **2019**, the AAUW branches of St. Louis collaborated with the St. Louis County Library to offer free WORK SMART ONLINE (WSO) at four library branches in St. Louis County. The library promoted the two-hour online sessions through their adult programming; all twenty branches of the library were given Work Smart bookmarks and information about the program. The library hosted WSO in their computer labs and provided technical staff to assist with technology questions.

In **2019**, the total of all funds sent from Missouri to AAUW was \$41,648.75. The top ten branches in total giving were Ballwin-Chesterfield, Ferguson-Florissant, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, Columbia, Independence, St. Louis, Kansas City, Nevada, and Parkville. The top ten branches in per capita giving were Ferguson Florissant, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, St. Louis, Columbia, Ballwin-Chesterfield, Nevada, Parkville, Maryville, and Independence. Missouri per capita giving totaled \$69.65.

In the last quarter of **2019**, the public policy committee developed a priorities and action plan for **2019–2020**, based on AAUW National biennial priorities, published in May **2019**. The plan focused on education (Title IX); economic security (pay equity); and equality, individual rights, and social justice (GOTV, **2020** Centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment, and passage of the ERA).

The plan also included a calendar for legislative actions, compiled by Pat Shores, newly appointed legislative action coordinator.

The annual women's legislative retreat scheduled for January **2020** in Columbia was cancelled because of the weather.

The AAUW Missouri inclusion and equity committee attended conferences to gain networking opportunities, to spread the word about AAUW, and to gain knowledge in order to revise the AAUW Missouri Diversity and "Acting" Toolkit. The committee attended a mini conference in March **2020** organized by the St. Louis School Sisters of Notre Dame.

National History Day in Missouri was held online on April 25, **2020**, with the theme "Breaking Barriers in History." AAUW Missouri members were unable to act as judges because of the pandemic but awarded three special prizes: to Louisa Blackmore, Wydown Middle School, for her junior individual performance, "Remarkable Ruby Bradley" (she also won first place in the state); to Addison Vallier, Liberty High School, AAUW first place winner, for her senior performance "Lady of Front Lines, the Indomitable Maggie Higgins" (she also won first place in the state); and to Katherine MacKenzie, Liberty North High School, AAUW second place winner, for her senior performance "Sesame Street, Expanding the Neighborhood" (she also won second place in the state). At National History Day in June, Katherine MacKenzie and Louisa Blackmore, two of the AAUW special prize winners, were recognized as winners.

The AAUW Missouri 2020 annual state conference, "Visions for the Future, Lessons from the Past," scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2020, in Columbia was cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic, but a successful virtual meeting was held by conference call with fifty-seven attendees. Important state business was conducted, election of officers was held, and Missouri Star awardees, donors to AAUW Fund, and outgoing officers were recognized. Ten branches achieved the Ten Star Award: Kansas City, Ballwin-Chesterfield, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Ferguson-Florissant, Columbia, Independence, St. Charles, St. Louis, Kansas City Northland, and Nevada. AAUW Missouri Outstanding Member and Woman of Distinction Awards were postponed until 2021. State officers and committee chairs gave more than seven hundred dollars to AAUW Fund in honor of outgoing state president Kay Meyer, who presided over a difficult year. The Midwest regional and Missouri annual state conference, planned for June 17–20, 2020, in East Moline, Illinois, was also cancelled. The Incentive grants committee announced a \$225 award from the Reserve Fund for Independence Branch. The grant enabled members to participate in parades, work with local schools, educate students on the history of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, and much more.



## AAUW of Missouri, 2020–2021

One AAUW Missouri member served at AAUW National level during **2020–2021**: Susan Barley, Ballwin-Chesterfield and St. Louis Branches, National legacy circle team. Jeanie Latz, National member, Kansas City, served on the AAUW board of directors.

Because of the pandemic, the annual Equality Day, normally scheduled for August, was not celebrated in St. Louis, and Equality Week was cancelled in Kansas City.

To celebrate August 26, 2020, the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, the AAUW Missouri centennial committee members (Ellen Irons, Shirley Breeze, and Jan Scott) promoted and shared information about activities in Missouri around the centennial. The committee sent branch and state leaders an email with goals, strategies, and a twenty-eight-page resources handout. They also instituted a link to the AAUW Missouri website with all the resources listed in the handout. They worked with city leaders in the writing of proclamations celebrating the anniversary. Eight hundred suffragist signs were planted in yards throughout the state, and a resolution was drafted reminding city leaders of the need for action on women's rights. Eleven branches organized sixteen proclamations by mayors and councils. Letters were written to editors, and AAUW Missouri collaborated with sister organizations in promoting the celebration. Radio interviews shared the history of AAUW, the Nineteenth Amendment, and how it relates to the status of women today. A celebration honoring Black women suffragists was held in Greenwood Cemetery, St. Louis, on September 2, **2020**. The cemetery is the final resting place of over fifty thousand African Americans.

In response to racial unrest in the United States, AAUW Missouri established a new committee in **2020**, inclusion and equity (later changed to diversity, equity and inclusion, [DEI]). At the time, Missouri was one of seventeen states to form such a committee.

At the October state board meeting in **2020** members voted to discontinue the Missouri Galaxy Award, after a successful ten-year run. The form for the Missouri Star Awards was updated, and the state Named Gift Honoree program was discontinued; branches were encouraged to continue to honor outstanding members, with criteria to be determined by each branch. The board also voted that the Woman of Distinction Award be given annually.

In the months leading up to the election in November **2020**, AAUW members worked for GOTV and partnered with the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition to host sixty-eight attendees for a poll monitors training. AAUW Missouri also worked with the League of Women Voters (LWV) to present voter education

information to community college students, and many postcards were mailed to lapsed voters, working with Clean Missouri and LWV.

Pat Shores, legislator action coordinator, sent a letter of policy recommendations to Governor Mike Parson and Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft to secure the constitutional right to vote during the Covid-19 pandemic. The letter endorsed adoption of no-excuse absentee voting and elimination of the notary requirement; expansion of options for in-person absentee voting; expansion of voter registration options, particularly online; and modification of polling places to ensure public safety and to protect accessibility for voting populations that have traditionally faced barriers to the ballot.

All funds given to AAUW from Missouri branches in **2020** totaled \$58,072. The top ten branches in total giving were Kansas City, Ballwin-Chesterfield, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Ferguson-Florissant, Columbia, Independence, St. Charles, St. Louis, Kansas City Northland, Nevada. The top ten branches in per capita giving in **2020** were Kansas City, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Ferguson-Florissant, St. Louis, Columbia, St. Charles, Nevada, Parkville, Ballwin-Chesterfield, and Independence. Missouri per capita giving totaled \$108.95.

Sarah Lichstein, Maryville University, St. Louis, received an AAUW Career Development grant for a degree and specialization in MBA and accounting. Andrea Waner, University of Missouri, Columbia, also received a grant. Her degree and specialization were in MPA, public policy, and nonprofit management. Fourteen endowments set up at AAUW National in the name of AAUW Missouri enabled sponsorship of seven fellowships or grants for the **2020–2021** academic year. An international fellowship was awarded to Marlen Munoz Franco from Honduras for a master's degree in chemistry at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph.

A virtual Midwest regional meeting was held via Zoom on January 30, **2021**. Hosted by AAUW of Michigan, the meeting included participants from Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin. Twenty AAUW Missouri board members attended, all participating in breakout sessions. AAUW CEO Kim Churches presented the AAUW equity wish list: COVID relief, women's economic security, and educational equity. Vice president Malinda Gaul spoke about the proposed bylaws change to membership criteria. Additional virtual events were a legislative retreat in January **2021** and a two-hour equal pay rally on the morning of March 24, **2021**.

National History Day in Missouri was held online on April 24, **2021**. The theme this year was "Communication in History—The Key to Understanding." The winners of the AAUW Missouri special prizes were Katherine Rein, Parkway West High School, Ballwin, for her senior documentary, "Martha Gellhorn, Unlocking the Truth Through War Correspondence"; Sofia Jerry, South Middle School, Joplin,

who won the junior documentary prize with her work titled, “Miss World, 1940 Feminists against Patriarchy”; Allison Valliert, Liberty Virtual High School, Liberty, who won the senior performance special prize for “One with the Other, the Story of Luce Mangione d’Eramo.” Valliert also competed in the National History Contest on June 3 and 19. Each AAUW Missouri winner received a check for one hundred dollars, an AAUW certificate, and a congratulatory note.

At the April **2021** meeting the AAUW Missouri board approved participation in the Votes for Women Trail Project. The goal is to guide Missouri branches to identify and post new sites to the National Votes for Women Trail, a project of the National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites.

The AAUW Missouri annual meeting was held via Zoom on May 1, **2021**. With the theme “What Stands before Us,” the meeting attracted more than seventy participants from fifteen of the seventeen AAUW Missouri branches. AAUW National board member Jeanie Latz, the keynote speaker, discussed AAUW issues and current voting requirements for membership. At the business meeting Lynne Roney received the **2020** AAUW Missouri Outstanding Member Award. The Outstanding Members for **2021** were Ellen Irons (St. Louis Branch) and Sue Shineman (Independence). Donna Myers (Boonville) and Marjorie Boudreaux (Joplin) were the recipients of the AAUW Missouri Woman of Distinction Award. Ten branches earned Missouri Star Awards: Ballwin-Chesterfield, Columbia, Independence, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, and St. Louis won ten stars; Ferguson-Florissant earned nine; Boonville and Jefferson City, eight; and Canton, six. Kirkwood-Webster Groves was awarded a Reserve Fund grant of \$250 to provide more than eight-hundred-yard signs across the state and the USA honoring suffragists and the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment.

In August **2021**, AAUW Missouri contributed a document for inclusion in the State Historical Society of Missouri’s (SHSMO) **2021** Bicentennial Time Capsule Project. As requested by SHSMO, AAUW Missouri’s entry consisted of three parts: the past, the present, and notes to future Missourians. The list of nine items in the notes included projects dear to AAUW, such as the ratification of the ERA, Missouri legislature support of Title IX, and the installation of more women in the Hall of Famous Missourians in the State Capitol. AAUW Missouri received a certificate of contribution in appreciation of the entry.

## **AAUW Missouri Branches**

### ***Ballwin-Chesterfield***

ballwin-chesterfield.com

*(organized 1981)*

Doris Nistler

Since its founding, the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, then named the Lafayette Area Branch with forty-one members, has grown over the years to 209 in June **2020**. Meetings were held the second Thursday from September through April at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Chesterfield. The branch year began in September, when the Board hosted a welcoming brunch for members and their guests; December was our winter party to raise funds to support branch activities; in May we held a luncheon honoring our retiring officers, installing new officers, and honoring outstanding branch members; and July was our summer potluck picnic for members and their guests.

At branch meetings the Program Committee presented speakers whose focus was directed toward our mission-based topics: social justice, economic security, human rights, gender and educational equity, and diversity. The Membership Committee had a New Member Coffee every year, published new member biographies in the branch newsletter, and introduced new members at a branch meeting. They also encouraged new members to become active in branch operations and join our many activities and interest groups. Throughout the year members participated in a variety of interest groups, including bridge groups, book groups, Play Readers, Movie Group, Expressions, Out-to-lunch, Genealogy, Golf, and recently, Munching Matters, focusing on AAUW topics and featuring branch members' life experiences.

There have been changes in the branch these past years in the areas of operation, mostly due to advanced technology which expanded the means of communicating our mission and the operational tools to achieve our goal of advancing women and girls in academia and the workplace. The branch website had information and pictures from branch meetings and activities, as well as State and National information. We were also on Facebook and other social media platforms and, recently, due to the nationwide pandemic, held board meetings via a web conferencing tool, as have the interest groups. Our branch newsletter, published ten times a year, featured branch meetings and speakers, articles from the co-presidents and all major committees, and announcements of branch, St. Louis Interbranch

Council (IBC), and AAUW Missouri state and National events, as well as Dollars for Scholars events and interest group meetings.

Under the leadership of the Public Policy Committee a number of events and activities promoted AAUW public policy priorities by emphasizing awareness of social injustices to women and by encouraging member participation. Webinars promoted member advocacy activities, such as arranging in-district visits to members' representatives in order to present AAUW's position on women's issues. In April, members were encouraged to participate with other organizations in the Equity Action Day Rally held in Jefferson City. In **2012**, the Branch registered 384 new and updated voters as part of the Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) grant; Missouri was one of fifteen states awarded such grants by AAUW National. Branch GOTV efforts and events continued during election years. In May **2015**, the branch was awarded a Community Action Grant of \$10,000 for two years to establish the St. Charles Coalition Against Human Trafficking nonprofit, and a number of events and forums were held on this modern-day slavery of human trafficking.

In **2016** the branch learned about the State Net MO service which advises about new bills filed in Missouri State Legislature. In **2017** a successful conference on Breaking Chains of Human Trafficking, a result of the Community Action Grant, exceeded the goals set for the final year of that grant. In **2018** the Work Smart online project began, an initiative to train women in salary negotiations, and members were instructed and encouraged to take the class to assist in achieving a grant, which was successfully completed by March **2019**.

The branch supported the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) through education and fundraising. The branch LAF Committee educated members on LAF supported cases by writing articles in the branch newsletter and giving presentations at monthly meetings. Initially, the primary focus was on those cases that arose from the workplace or academia, but in **2012** the focus included cases on sexual assault and harassment to women while serving in the U.S. Military. In that same year, LAF and St. Louis IBC sponsored screening of "The Invisible War," a documentary about the sexual assault epidemic of soldiers within the U.S. Military, featuring several plaintiffs from LAF supported lawsuits. In September **2012**, the LAF Committee and Dollars for Scholars sponsored a presentation "Human Trafficking in St. Louis" at the St. Joseph of Carondelet Motherhouse. The LAF Committee raised funds by designating February as LAF Individual Giving Month and through fund raising events. In 2012, LAF sponsored Trivia Night, raising \$2,800, and two more Trivia Nights, raising over \$3,000, in both March **2014** and October **2015**. In June **2017**, the committee sponsored an All-Games Day, raising over \$1,000.

Supporting the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) and local scholarships for non-traditional women returning to college was part of branch efforts. Our Dollars for Scholars program raised scholarship funds through member-sponsored activities, the money raised was sent annually to EOF, and local scholarships were awarded. The amount varied over the years. In **2019–2020** the branch contributed \$4,000 to AAUW National and awarded women \$6,000 in local scholarships, divided between the University of Missouri and St. Louis and Maryville Universities. In **2011**, the EOF committee began a used book sale, which has continued to date, all proceeds benefiting Dollars for Scholars. November was the annual Individual Giving Drive. In **2005** the Branch began the Silver Anniversary Research and Project Grant, with a \$75,000 goal, which was completed in March **2012**, three years ahead of schedule. Every January we invited recipients of local scholarships to attend a branch meeting so that we could hear their stories. The Eleanor Roosevelt Walk was held every October, and branch members walked to raise funds in support of AAUW research. The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), an annual event for female students, has been sponsored by the branch since 2000, giving scholarships for women to attend.

The branch actively supported AAUW STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education and careers for women and girls. The STEM Committee members mentored special projects, acted as judges at the Greater St. Louis Science Fair, and awarded cash prizes. Scholarships were awarded for students to attend “Expanding Your Horizons” science education programs. In **2010** the STEM Committee prepared a video and kit explaining the findings of the AAUW publication *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*, which was requested by and sent to universities in Missouri. A few years later the committee put together a “Traveling Tool Kit,” to be used by grade-school teachers. In **2012** and **2013**, the branch partnered with Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri and its STEM program at Normandy Middle School. In April **2014**, and every year since, a new project “STEM Girls of Promise” honored five high school girls from Valley Park High School for their excellence and promise in one or more of the STEM fields. In April **2015**, Maplewood-Richmond Heights High School was added to the project, and five juniors were honored at an awards program.

Together with other St. Louis area AAUW branches and the Tuesday Women’s Association of the Ethical Society, the branch sponsored and participated in a series of four international relations lectures that were free and open to the public. Branch members served as officers, as did members of the St. Louis IBC, which each year sponsored Spring Fling, an event at which a special award, the Barbara Lackritz

Service Award, was given to a St. Louis area AAUW member in recognition of outstanding service to AAUW.

In October **2018**, a major change brought the branch into line with current AAUW practices. Instead of separate EOF and LAF funds, anything associated with raising money for AAUW was grouped under one fund: the AAUW Fund. All money raised was coordinated. This resulted in a reconstruction of the board in order to update the branch to be more consistent with Missouri State and National AAUW requirements. The director positions of EOF and LAF were eliminated and replaced by AAUW Fund, and a new position, University Liaison, was created to emphasize the importance of our scholarship program. In a branch newsletter, Marcia Block, co-president 2017–2019, wrote, “The changes are primarily in title. We will still work for gender equity for women and girls as we always have.”

At the **2011** AAUW National Convention the branch received recognition as the third highest branch in combined giving; at the **2013** convention as eighth highest; at the **2015** convention thirteenth highest; and at the **2017** convention thirty-seventh highest. The branch was consistently the highest branch contributor in Missouri, every year receiving awards for first in Total Giving, along with Ten Star and Galaxy Awards for projects and events. One of the highest awards given by AAUW Missouri, the AAUW Missouri Woman of Distinction award, was won by members Julia Triplett in **2012** and Pat Shores in **2016**. Since **2010**, several members have won the AAUW Outstanding Missouri Member Award: Sue Barley, Marsha Koch, Joyce Katz, Yvonne Morrison, Julia Triplett, Pat Shores, and Karen Francis. Seven branch members received the IBC St. Louis Barbara Lackritz Service Award: Pat Shores, **2010**, Barbara Butchart, **2013**, Debbie McWard, **2015**, Kay Meyer, **2016**, Karen Francis, **2018**, Marsha Koch, **2019**, and Mary Jermack, **2020**.

Ballwin-Chesterfield was well represented by enthusiastic and sizable delegations to all AAUW state, regional and national meetings. Many members served as officers and board members of AAUW Missouri. In **2019–2020**, branch members Kay Meyer, Sue Barley, Marsha Koch, Debbie McWard, Nancy Hutchins, Pat Shores, Karen Francis, and Pam Kulp served on the AAUW Missouri Board. Branch members who have served at the AAUW National level are Yvonne Morrison, AAUW Fundraising Committee: Susan Barley, AAUW Director, Fundraising Committee, and Legacy Circle Team: Karen Francis, Public Policy Chair, Julia Triplett, LAF Committee and Leadership Corp.; and Mary Jermack, Membership Committee. Eleven branch members received AAUW National recognition as AAUW Legacy Circle members: Sue Barley, Teresa Ciccolella, Erlaine Eltomi, Karen Francis, Veronica Harris, Nancy Hutchins, Jayne Kasten, Pam

Kulp, Yvonne Morrison, Pat Shores, and Julia Triplett. Alice Crippen and Jayne Kasten, who became fifty-year AAUW members in **2018** and **2019**, and Susan Fenwick, an AAUW Art Contest winner for three of the past ten years, received AAUW National recognition.

### **Ballwin-Chesterfield Presidents, 2010–2020**

**2010–2012** Marcia Block

**2011–2013** Marian Bauer

**2013–2015** Suzanne Couch

**2012–2015** Karen Francis

**2015–2017** Barbara McQuitty

**2016–2018** Sandra Murdock

**2017–2019** Marcia Block

**2018–2020** Jean Elliott

**2019–2021** Jan Horner

### ***Boonville***

*(organized 1937)*

Lynndora Schler

During the decade **2010–2020**, the Boonville branch continued to be active in community, state, and AAUW National events. Members strived to follow the AAUW Mission to advance “gender equity for women and girls through research, advocacy, and education.” It had seven planned branch meetings each year, along with one planned social gathering in December. The meetings were generally held on the first Thursday of each month, but meeting times could be rescheduled or cancelled due to inclement weather or availability of guest speakers. Due to Covid-19 protocol, the branch chose to cancel meetings during **2020**. The branch programs (speakers, book discussions, and informational films) were open to the public.

As part of our mentoring program the branch sponsored a girl from Boonville High School to Missouri Girls State. We have sponsored a girl each year since **1992** apart from 2020 when Missouri Girls State was cancelled due to Covid-19, and we received a Certificate of Appreciation from the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Director Natalie Riley for support of their program.

The branch continued to participate in AAUW state and national activities through newsletters and emails, and with guest speakers from the Missouri State Headquarters. Bylaws chair Venessa Melton with her committee reviewed and updated all bylaws to meet AAUW National standards and to reflect more accurately AAUW’s mission and our branch actions.



During the March meetings the branch recognized a Community Woman of the Year and an AAUW Woman of the Year. It began recognizing women with these awards in 1996 and has continued. Due to Covid-19, the 2020 recipients will be presented their awards during the regular September 2021 branch meeting. We encouraged recipients' family members to attend these meetings. In 2020 Donna Meyer received the AAUW Missouri Woman of Distinction award.

### **Women of the Year Awards**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Branch</b>	<b>Community</b>
<b>2011</b>	Mary Ellen McVicker	Theresa Krebs
<b>2012</b>	Margaret Hankewich	Sharon Korte
<b>2013</b>		Roz Gordon
<b>2014</b>		Ilene VanAbbema
<b>2015</b>		Olga Xufuris
<b>2016</b>		Nancy Ward
<b>2017</b>		Jackie Hickam
<b>2018</b>	Margaret Hopkins	Debbie Maxwell
<b>2019</b>		Deanna Theis

### **Past Presidents**

- 2010–2011** Ada Gingrich/Phyllis Reesman
- 2011–2013** Julie Brown/Paula Danner
- 2013–2017** Paula Danner
- 2017–2019** Vanessa Melton
- 2019–2020** Adrienne Johnson/Carol Cox

The branch had sixteen active members in **2020**: Three members with over twenty-five years of service, three with over thirty years, two with over forty years, one with over fifty years, and one with over sixty years. We believed the continued support of long-time members with our newer members was a strength. We also believed that by continuing to provide quality and relevant programs we enhanced the lives of women in our community, state, and nation.

### Longtime Members

Christi Angelo	25 years	Margaret Hopkins	48 years
Ann Bettridge	37 years	Vickie Kueny	30 years
Mary Beth Conway	29 years	Mary McCush	35 Years
Vanessa Doorman	25 years	Maryellen McVicker	43 years
Ada Gingrich	68 years	Phyllis Reesman	59 years

### In Memoriam

Name	Member Since	Deceased
Margaret Hankewich (Donnie)	<b>1994</b>	<b>2017</b>
Donna Meyer	<b>1968</b>	<b>2018</b>
Dorothy Oswald	<b>1955</b>	<b>2019</b>
Ann Bettridge	<b>1983</b>	<b>2020</b>

### *Canton*

*(organized 1963)*

D'Ann Campbell

Canton's AAUW branch celebrated fifty-seven years in **2020**. In the past ten years, it has continued to maintain its special relationship with Culver Stockton College (C-SC) and Canton RV High School. It has won several stars each year as part of the Missouri star award program for supporting AAUW National's agenda.

#### **Branch Meetings, Membership and Fund Raising**

During Covid we met on Zoom or before work early in the morning at the beginning of the academic year. Usually we had a salad carry-in dinner at Carol Matheson's at the beginning and end of the year. We do not meet in the summers. For many years we met at someone's house with a program and dessert each month. Given the many activities we have sponsored with C-SC, we counted these for some of the monthly meetings and then tried to hold a holiday meeting and program during the winter. Membership has gone up and down as members retire and leave the community or die. We were successful in gaining interest with the college-age students, but most alumnae leave Canton, a town of 2,500, so we have not been able to recruit new, younger members. We have always been a small branch and often passed the hat at our meetings to raise money for special projects. We have sold coverlets that feature historic sites in Canton for the past decade. We have been able to raise enough funds for the C-SC scholarship and the Canton RV High School

women's history contests, but for very little else. Our extensive programs with the college and support of the local high school are not, however, programs that most other Missouri branches have done. In addition, we have been able to include in our membership the key women leaders at C-SC, including President Kelly Thompson until her retirement, Dr. Lauren Schellenberger who is now provost and previously a division and department chair, and Dr. Kim Gaither, vice president for enrollment management and previously a division and department chair.

### **Relationship with Other Branches**

For several years, members of Canton's branch visited the Quincy Illinois branch for its March celebration of Women's History Month. In fact, a few times, Canton members provided the program. For example, we showed a slide presentation on the history of C-SC with an embedded video of Mary Ellen Todd and Mary Eunice McReynolds, two of the first members of Canton's branch, who described their experiences at C-SC during WW II, and we discussed how C-SC began as a co-ed institution in 1853, the first one chartered west of the Mississippi River.

Because of Covid, the Missouri state president held monthly meetings by Zoom with all branch presidents (and several other meetings on membership, fundraising, informing local politicians, etc.) Last year, Canton's president, D'Ann Campbell, gave a special presentation on how the Canton branch has been able to co-sponsor many activities with C-SC and Canton RV High School.

### **Canton RV High School**

Each year we have sponsored a women's history essay contest for the 9th and 10th grade classes. Branch members read the essays and awarded a first prize to each class (9th and 10th) and an overall first prize. At first the essay contest was voluntary, but then became part of the curriculum; the essays were excellent. We have also sponsored some career fairs until the middle and high school sponsored their own. We also did a STEM event and would have created a much larger one, but the flu or Covid-19 has kept us from executing it yet. In addition, the Canton Branch awarded a \$500 scholarship to a senior high school woman who will attend C-SC that fall.

### **Culver Stockton College**

Culver Stockton College has continued to be an institutional member of AAUW. Many of the branch members have a connection with C-SC as part-time or full-time faculty or staff and/or alumnae. For the past four years there has been a student organization, Women of Promise, and the branch co-sponsored activities with it. Before, the branch would sponsor or co-sponsor with departments such as music and

history. Each academic year we have tried to sponsor or co-sponsor several activities.

Each academic year began with a student activities fair. AAUW has had a booth and distributed bookmarks with the text of the 19th amendment written on the back. We shared with students what AAUW does and later urged students to become e-members or to attend NCCWSL, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. We have not had anyone attend yet, but there are now college funds to help defray the costs of attending leadership conferences so we may have someone attend soon.

Each year C-SC has done a play featuring women, and after one of the performances AAUW sponsored/co-sponsored a panel by college experts who discussed the play and the director. Each October we worked with student organizations to get out the vote and sign-up students who did not know about absentee ballots. We also co-sponsored speakers who shared with the audience their knowledge of women in politics and women in the legal profession, including as judges.

In November or December of each year, the branch co-sponsored the showing of a documentary with commentary and a Q & A following the film. Films recommended by AAUW were purchased to show at these events including “Miss Representation” and “An Invisible War.” The last few films included “RGB” and “Iron Jawed Maidens.” We repeated some of these films every few years when there were new students on campus. These were well attended by women and men faculty, staff, students, and AAUW members.

We made similar presentations for Women’s History Month in March. Sometimes, however, we did a panel discussion or a slide presentation instead of showing a documentary. We even had AAUW member Carol Mathieson organize the singing of original suffragist’s songs. This was also where we first presented the History of Women at C-SC which included a reading, a slide show, a fashion show (or original hats and garments of the past and then present), and the video featuring the two founding members of the branch, who shared their WW II experiences while attending C-SC. AAUW member Jeanne Johnson developed the slide presentation and Carol Mathieson wrote the accompanying reading.

For the past four years in February, the college has had a LEADS (leadership) conference. AAUW teamed up with Women of Promise to provide students’ histories of women leaders.

***Cape Girardeau***  
(organized 1922)

***Columbia***  
(organized 1907)  
columbia-mo.aauw.net  
Debbie Parker

Columbia fulfilled the AAUW mission “To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy” through a variety of mentally and socially enriching activities during the decade spanning July 2010–June 2020. Each month, usually in the first week, the branch meetings were held in a variety of locations. The site most often used was Trinity Presbyterian Church in their community room. Meetings were also held in the Daniel Boone Regional Library. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the group met via Zoom.

This branch has a long history of working with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs in Columbia Public schools beginning with Field Elementary in **2003** when the branch joined a partnership called Partners in Education (PIE). After that school closed, our branch partnered with Thomas Hart Benton Elementary School, a STEM focused school that emphasizes problem solving and critical thinking skills. This was an especially important choice because Benton is a Title 1 school where over 90% of the students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. Activities included presentations at their career days, attending student science projects exhibition days, a docent tour of the University of Missouri’s Museum of Art and Archaeology, and other activities. In **2012**, the fifth-grade class accompanied by branch members visited the Columbia Area Career Center for a day of science, technology, engineering, and math. The same year the branch organized a graduation party for the fifth graders. The AAUW Missouri Incentive Grants Fund awarded a \$100 grant to the branch to help support the Queen Bee Bots, an all-girls robotics team in **2014**. Funds for robotics kits for the girl’s robotic team and personal assistance in the classroom were provided. From **2013** to **2016**, the branch supported the Benton Elementary School FIRST LEGO League Championship Tournament at the University of Missouri, Columbia. In **2013**, an AAUW Missouri Incentive Grant funded the trip led by Marianne Fues and Alice Reese to the Museum of Art and Archaeology on the Columbia campus. The projects were successful because of the help provided by Linda Evans, outgoing branch president, Dr. Jane Biers, current Missouri state historian and past Columbia branch president, and many others.

In **2019**, branch members held a new event to honor middle school girls for excellence in the sciences. Science Student Scholar Awards for outstanding seventh grade girls in Columbia Middle Schools were presented. The science teachers selected girls based on achievement, effort, and participation. The students were presented with a personally engraved medal and a certificate. One of the most popular speakers was Dr. Linda Godwin, PhD, former astronaut and professor emerita of physics and astronomy, University of Missouri, who presented the awards. The students, nominating teachers, and community were invited to the event. This event has continued until the present, and we hope it will continue in the future. Linda Evans, outgoing president, was in charge of the awards and the ceremony.

The Holly Burgess Public Policy Forum began in **2015** in honor of Holly Burgess, former branch president, who passed away from cancer in October 2014. She was committed to all things related to public policy. The AAUW Columbia branch held joint meetings with the League of Women Voters Columbia-Boone County to hear about advances in public policy.

### **Holly Burgess Public Policy Forum Speakers**

**2015** Nicole Galloway, Janet Thomson, and Margo McNeil who spoke about the struggles women face in politics and the importance of women influencing public policy.

**2016** Denise Lieberman from the Voter Education Program who presented “*Will Your Vote Be Counted? A Look at Voting Rights: Historic and Current.*”

**2017** Panelists Taylor Burks, Boone County Clerk, and Glenn Nielson, Computer Programmer and member of the Help America Vote Committee with Moderator Randy Picht. The topic was *Are Our Elections Safe?*

**2019** Panelists Judge Ann Covington, Judge Ellen Roper, Judge Christie Carpenter, Judge Casey Clevenger, and Moderator David Lile, KFRU, spoke about “Women Judges: Women’s Role in Justice.”

**2020** Brianna Lennon, Boone County Clerk, spoke via webinar on “Making Your Plan for November–Voting Options for 2020.”

On February 15th, **2020**, Women’s Equality Day and the 19th Amendment were celebrated. The branch coordinated with the League of Women Voters to host an Equal-Tea celebrating Susan B. Anthony’s 200th birthday and the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th amendment. A group of members performed a short play from Reader’s Theater “Women Reserve the Right to Vote,” and two students from the University of Missouri theater department gave a performance as Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony discussing the right to vote. Guests enjoyed tea and snacks, and people were encouraged to dress in white and/or period clothing.

President Linda Evans had Columbia Mayor Brian Treece issue a proclamation to honor the 100th anniversary of the vote. She also encouraged people to put large signs in their yards thanking the Suffragists.

Work Smart was a way for people to learn about pay equity. Members went into the community and tabled at Columbia College, the Columbia Farmer's Market, Earth Day, and outside the post office, and in addition to providing information at all branch monthly meetings the Work Smart workshops were promoted through social media including Facebook and the AAUW Columbia Branch website.

The Eva Johnston Scholarship Fund Raiser brunch was held each February to raise money for scholarships. Eva Johnston was the first President of the Columbia, Branch in 1907, first dean of women studies and Latin professor at the University of Missouri. The scholarship was awarded to a female student, a resident of Boone County and attending Columbia College, Stephens College, or the University of Missouri, Columbia. The scholarship rotated between the three institutions. The yearly brunch served freshly made quiche, fruit, and breads. The scholarship recipient was invited to meet branch members and talk briefly about her life and studies.

A Christmas tea or lunch was held each December, generally on a Sunday afternoon early in the month, to raise money for the AAUW Fund. Members lunched at a local restaurant where the group sometimes played games and put a stocking with a donation on the Red Stocking Tree. People who donated \$100 or more become members of the AAUW Missouri Century Club or Century Club Plus.

### **Other Fund Raisers**

**2010–2016** Members donated monetary and material gifts for girls at the Missouri Girls Town, Kingdom City, Missouri.

**2009** Bought necklaces and other jewelry and sold them to raise funds. Tour at Stephens College in the School of Fashion and Design "Her Story: A Fashion Collection Speaks to Women's History."

**2012** Hands to Threads project in Brazil led by Fatima Thomas. Proceeds went toward a purchase of a sewing machine.

**2014** Raising Our Half of the Sky Project. Discussion of the book *Half The Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dun, 2009. Members also watched the movie.

**2015** Sold donated books.

**2017** Tour of the National Churchill Museum and lunch at a restaurant in Fulton.

**2018** Tour of Stephens College Costume Museum and tour of the Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Missouri.

An annual celebration dinner was held each May to install new officers and recognize gift honorees for their significant contributions to the mission of AAUW. These were often held at the Country Club of Missouri.

The book group met on the first Saturday of each of month. The location changed a few times when a better location was found. It shifted from a cafeteria to the Columbia Public Library to the library at Trinity Presbyterian Church before going on Zoom for **2019–2020**.

AAUW Women@Lunch met on the fourth Thursday of each month. The group was able to visit a variety of restaurants, eat, socialize, and catch up on each other's lives. In **2019** and **2020**, the group continued the activity via Zoom.

### **Other Newsworthy Information**

The branch was mentioned in *Outlook* **2012** for its success in recruiting students and establishing an AAUW Student Organization, one of only seven nationwide at that time.

Branch member Carolyn Mulford had her first *Show Me the Murder* mystery series published. There are five books in the series so far. She also won Walter Williams Major Work Award for *Show Me the Murder* in **2013**. Branch member Jane Biers, member of the AAUW National College/University Committee in **2011–2015** and co-chair **2013–2015**, presented the College/University Committee Report at the AAUW National Convention in San Diego, June **2015**. Also, Diane Ludwig, co-chair of the AAUW National Fundraising committee, Missouri state president, and branch member, delivered the Fundraising committee report at the Convention. In **2016**, the branch engaged in voter registration in three of Columbia's high schools: Battle, Hickman, and Rock Bridge. This was a cooperative venture between the League of Women Voters and AAUW Columbia. Members also attended a University of Missouri Women's basketball game. In **2017** branch members tabled at Columbia College to inform students about AAUW at the Hey Day and Part-time Career Fair and offered free memberships to students as an E-Student Affiliate. They again attended a University of Missouri Women's basketball game. In **2018**, Diane Ludwig was named Missouri Woman of Distinction. Columbia Public Schools (CPS) recognized the Columbia Branch for its fifteen years as a Partnership Friend in CPS's Partners in Education Program. The branch tabled at the Community Involvement Fair at Stephens College. Members again attended a University of Missouri Women's basketball game. Marianne Fues received the AAUW Missouri Outstanding Member Award in **2019**. In **2020**, the branch put an advertisement in the *Columbia Tribune* thanking First Responders for their service during the Covid-19 pandemic.



### **Past Presidents 2010–2020**

Christine Roberson	<b>2010–2012</b>
Holly Burgess	<b>2012–2013</b>
Marianne Fues	<b>2013–2016</b>
Diane Ludwig	<b>2016–2018</b>
Linda Evans	<b>2018–2020</b>

### **In Memoriam**

Betty Cook Rottmann, October 26, **2011**  
Holly Burgess, October 29, **2014**  
Jean Brand, December 20, **2017**  
Diane Brukaradt, February 17, **2018**  
Virginia Sue Bader, February 24, **2020**

### ***Creve Coeur***

*(organized 1969, disbanded 2016)*

Deborah McWard

Despite a dwindling membership, the Creve Coeur Branch continued to meet the standards of AAUW thanks to the involvement and leadership of many members. It was awarded 10-Star status in **2010**, a Mission Accomplished Award in **2011**, eight stars in **2012**, ten Stars in **2013** and **2014**, and seven in **2015**. In addition, the branch was always a top state contributor to AAUW LAF and EF Funds. In **2014**, Joyce Guard (Schuetz) shared the state’s Woman of Distinction award. Debbie McWard served on the state board in positions of secretary, membership chair, College-University co-chair, and chair. In **2015**, she was recognized by the St. Louis Interbranch Council (IBC) with the Barbara Lackritz award.

Activities included a display in the St. Louis County Library in **2014**, participation in the Fair-Trade Markets, held at Manchester Methodist Church each fall, and judging Missouri History Day at the University of Missouri, St. Louis (UMSL). Programming included “Human Trafficking,” “Title IX at Parkway Schools,” “What’s Up with Girls at Bellerive Elementary School,” participation in UMSL’s Lifelong Learning program, literacy issues, and women-focused health issues.

With the aging of the branch and growing reluctance to participate in evening meetings, many of the members joined Ballwin-Chesterfield’s daytime branch. It was a strange turn-around since that branch was originally a spin-off from the Creve

Coeur one. After three agonizing years of recycling officers and trying to keep the branch afloat, it was decided to disband in June **2016**. The funds remaining in the treasury were divided between AAUW National Fund and St. Louis IBC to enable a second student to be given a scholarship for the 2016 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

### ***Ferguson-Florissant***

*(organized 1963)*

fergusonflorissant-mo.aauw.net

Lillian Boly, Shirley Breeze, and Pat Kelemen

Since **2010**, the Ferguson-Florissant Branch of AAUW has had a number of programs on several topics concerning women's rights and some with the rights of all citizens. These meetings were open to the public, and attendance at the meetings varied. Most meetings took place in churches in the area. At opening meetings in September, there was usually a speaker on some AAUW topic, many times a state AAUW officer. In **2010**, programs were scheduled on foreclosures, African American women who stepped forth, historical Missouri women, breaking through barriers, and current trends in media. In **2011**, programs were on STEM, on a counseling program for first generation college students, on CARE, on "Which Way North County," on gender violence, on status of Missouri women, and on environmental issues that affect women. Several times in the last ten years women legislators spoke to the branch about legislation issues and voters' rights. Speakers included Rita Days and the Hon. Margo McNeil.

In February **2013**, a panel of women legislators spoke on legislative issues. In March there was a women's history month program with Barbara Kaye talking about the Bissells of North St. Louis County. In April there was a speaker on Human Trafficking. In October 2013, the program was on anti-bullying in schools, and speakers were representatives of local school districts. The November program was titled "Immigration Ramifications," and Kelly Moore of the International Institute was the speaker.

In the year **2014–2015**, the September opening program was on "100 Years of AAUW." The October subject was voter suppression—Getting Out the Vote." November's program was about famous women veterans, and February's topic was "Notable African-American Authors." In March, Pam Ross spoke on "Veteran

Feminists of American Film.” The April subject was about cruelty to animals, women, and children.

At the **2015–2016** opening meeting in September, Diane Ludwig, AAUW Missouri president, was the speaker. Several women legislators spoke at the October meeting. There was a program on Senior Resources in February, and in March, Dr. John Wright spoke on “Notable African-American Women.” STEM education for women was the program topic in April.

Jan Scott, AAUW Missouri state president, was the speaker at the **2016–2017** opening meeting. In February, the subject was an AAUW informational session, and in March **2017** Ruth Ann Hager spoke about “Women of the Dred Scott Decision.” In April the subject was again STEM education for women. The October **2017** program was “Community Program Legislative Forum.”

In February **2018** there was a speaker on “Alzheimer’s: A Family Challenge.” At the October **2018** meeting, North County women of various cultures were the speakers. At the March **2019** meeting, Mable Davis talked about “Human Trafficking,” and at the April meeting, Dr. Gloria Johnson’s topic was “I Got Flowers Today.” In October the topic was voter suppression.

Other meetings included business meetings and several game day potluck luncheons, and silent auctions, which took place in January each year. Members and guests enjoyed playing card or board games, eating lunch, and buying items. The proceeds from the auction were used for branch expenses or for donations to AAUW Fund. Some also supported the International Relations Group meetings and donations to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Other meetings of the branch were business meetings or get-togethers for enjoyment. Meetings from March **2020** were canceled because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This branch has been active in many areas, several of them serious-minded. Even so, some events have been purely social in nature while others have had social aspects. These have helped build a sense of community among us. Through the years, a pattern for our events has served the branch well. The branch year started with an opening reception, usually held at the home of Shirley Breeze. This was an opportunity for members to reunite after the summer break. Guests usually attended and sometimes decided to join. Often a guest speaker from the St. Louis Interbranch Council (IBC), AAUW Missouri, or AAUW National made a brief presentation. Everyone enjoyed a buffet of finger food.

Beginning in May **2014**, the branch celebrated the past year with a May luncheon. It was an opportunity to meet and honor members with Named Gift

Awards, induct incoming officers, hear a speaker on a significant topic, and enjoy a meal together. Programs included a panel of North County women leaders (2014), a presentation on the history of Ferguson education (2015), how government policies affected housing in North County (2016), the Hon. Margo McNeil on public education in the age of vouchers (2017), Missouri author George Hodgman (2018), and the Hon. Rita Days (2019).

The December meeting was our holiday party, with plentiful food, entertainment, and conversation. The events were often held in a local church such as Ferguson First Presbyterian Church. Unfortunately, bad weather sometimes forced cancellation of the party. Bag pipers entertained with Scots and Irish music, then answered questions in 2017. In 2018, Ann Geiler's String Trio performed and led a sing-along of Christmas Carols. The 2019 event was canceled due to the weather. By 2020, Covid-19 prevented any group events.

Small groups met monthly. Afternoon at the Movies has been meeting since 2016. At first, Nancy Gerber and later Judy Holmes served as hostess, arranging for a movie and welcoming people in their homes. Tuesday Afternoon Book Group has been meeting for many years to discuss books and have lunch in a member's home or a local restaurant.

Human beings are social creatures, so members of the branch valued the fact that our events were sometimes purely social in nature and often included social aspects when the main reason was more "serious" in nature.

Community involvement and volunteerism that provided visibility for AAUW and promoted its mission were important outreach activities of the branch. Tabling has been one of the most important. To varying degrees and in some years, tabling at the Ferguson Farmers Market, the Hazelwood STEM conference, and, during election years, Get-Out-the-Vote has had many members actively out in the community. The Ferguson Library received a grant for community involvement; Ferguson-Florissant was the organization they chose to work with on this grant. It resulted in three forums about democracy; AAUW provided panel members for these. For visibility and to increase finances, Ferguson-Florissant wrapped gifts during the holiday season at Barnes & Noble. This event alone resulted in interest in AAUW and potential new members. For several years, a group of members volunteered at a robotics workshop for elementary school students.

Community events/activities where branch members volunteered as individuals included Meals on Wheels and Food Pantries, serving as trustees for their subdivision, acting as docents at the St. Louis Art Museum, working with Community Betterment organizations, singing in a church choir, serving as council members for their city, and participating in international relations groups.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of women getting the vote, the branch had proclamations signed by the Florissant and Ferguson mayors.

During the legislative sessions in Jefferson City, members talked with legislators in the Capitol on a weekly basis concerning issues of importance to women. Often this included testifying on bills in person or providing written testimony to the chair of the committee.

## ***Independence***

*(organized 1940)*

independence-mo.aauw.net

Jolene Cerveney

The Independence Branch of AAUW Missouri was organized as an affiliate of the National AAUW organization. An early Branch yearbook stated, “We will use education as a force to build citizens who can meet the responsibilities of democracy.” During the past ten years, our focus has aligned with our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

**2010–2011** The branch began with fifty-two members and one student affiliate member. Programs focused on community organizations that provide support for individuals with special needs as well as on AAUW national issues. Patt Braley served as president this year and represented our branch at the National AAUW Convention in Washington, D.C.

**2011–2012** In November, the members celebrated AAUW’s 130th birthday. They noted meaningful dates on a 130-year timeline. Other programs that year presented information on domestic violence, school funding, and bullying. Branch president was Patt Braley.

**2012–2013** Our branch was then sixty-three members strong plus one student affiliate member. A program on “Re-Entry–Then and Where We Are Now” was presented at Blue River Community College by the dean of instruction. Other programs that year included one on the role of Jackson County women in the Civil War and another on the effect of eBooks on the public library system.

**2013–2014** Fifty-nine members and one student affiliate member made up our branch this year; Ruth Hotle took on the role of branch president. By-laws were updated, and programs included a topic on gay rights and STEM. The branch celebrated the 40th year of the Book Fair which cleared over \$4,500 from the event.

**2014–2015** President Ruth Hotle presided over the branch of fifty-eight members. Programs covered campaign financing, common core curriculum, and how to maintain a healthy balance for today’s woman. Former Judge Ann Mesle presented a program titled “A Feminist and a Judge.”

**2015–2016** Our branch president was Sue Shineman; membership totaled fifty-nine. Speakers presented programs on breaking barriers for women, needs of the homeless in our midst, and human trafficking. The closing program that year was presented by author, Carolyn Mulford. It was titled “Write Your Own Novel.”

**2016–2017** The branch began the year with fifty-six members, adding three new members to the rolls. President Sue Shineman encouraged members to formulate an “elevator speech,” the information one might share with someone unfamiliar with our organization and as if you had a captive audience for a short time. Our branch had a presence at events like “The Juncture” held at Penn Valley Community College that promoted women in STEM fields and leadership roles. Another member participated in the **2017** Women’s March in Kansas City, an event mirrored throughout the country. These events saw millions standing in solidarity for human rights and justice worldwide. During this election year, the public policy chair shared legislative and public policy updates with the branch. Members were encouraged to become “Two-minute Activists.” The College/University chairs successfully increased the branch’s involvement with Blue River Community College, first by conducting a voter registration event and, later in the year, by hosting a Cookies and Conversation meeting and inviting students and staff. A program on human trafficking was held on campus; branch members also participated in Sexual Assault Awareness Day there.

**2017–2018** The branch consisted of fifty-seven members including President Sue Shineman, who also served as Missouri state membership vice-president. Patt Braley, the branch’s AAUW Fund chair, also served on the AAUW Missouri State Board as a member of the Nominating Committee. Our program chair and her committee lined up yet another informative roster of programs and special events. Two highlights of the year included an update on AAUW Fellowships by Kate Thornton, daughter of a long-time branch member. The March program featured Outstanding Women in Missouri History. Members dressed in character presented the stories and accomplishments of six women. Fund raising expanded beyond the Book Fair to include working a Community Impact grant at the Independence Pizza Ranch, wrapping gifts at Barnes & Noble, and a tabling event at the Vaile Strawberry Festival.

**2018–2019** Our branch had the National Work Smart Initiative on its radar this year. Under the leadership of President Sue Shineman, information on Work Smart was shared at Blue River Community College events as well as at several branches of the Mid-Continent Libraries. The branch now numbered sixty-three members. Sue Shineman, our outgoing branch president, was installed as president-elect of AAUW Missouri.

**2019–2020** President Jolene Cervený served the branch with a membership of sixty. Programs presented had an emphasis on STEM, Title IX, and history of the suffrage movement. March **2020** was to be the branch's last used book fair, a major fund raiser since the mid-**1970s**. One fundraiser was designed to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the branch, asking members, past and present, to donate \$19.40, **1940** being the year the branch was organized.

And then there was Covid-19. Plans to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of women's right to vote were modified or cancelled due to the pandemic. Yard signs were distributed and displayed and resources on women's suffrage were distributed to the three high school libraries but marching in parades with banners and sashes didn't happen.

**2020–2021** And then there was still COVID. President Jolene Cervený and our fifty-two-member branch did what women do best—adapt and come up with Plan B. Programs, branch and state business meetings, student awards, and even a Christmas tea party were made possible thanks to ZOOM, a technology we developed a love/hate relationship with. Other modifications included Book Club social distancing in a member's garage; fund raising with online auctions and flower seed sales; field trips replaced with webinars. Remote learning suspended our connection with Blue River Community College for a time. However, scholarships were still awarded to three Independence senior girls; a Woman of Achievement was recognized; and AAUW National was supported by the generosity of our members. Highlights of the branch that have been constant include the presentation of Student Awards. Scholarships, usually in the amount of \$500 each, were awarded to three outstanding Senior girls, one from each of the three Independence School District high schools. Until the pandemic changed the structure of classrooms, recognition of junior high girls was a standard for the branch. Designed to encourage growth and leadership, awards were given to 7th and 8th grade girls in recognition of their achievements in scholarship, citizenship, and service. Support of re-entry scholarships, Adelanté Book Club, and Woman of Distinction Awards are other aspects of AAUW Independence Branch's rich history that have been continued during the past ten years.

***Jefferson City***  
(organized 1926)  
Charlotte Parsons

**Programs**

During the decade **2010–2020**, the Jefferson City Branch arranged many insightful and thought-provoking programs for its members. The branch met monthly September through April at the United Universalist Fellowship in Jefferson City; the May meeting, a carry-in supper to celebrate the end of another successful year, was held at the home of Charlotte and Richard Parsons.

At candidate forums, held at the Missouri River Regional Library in Jefferson City, candidates for public office spoke to members and guests about their views. Discussion followed the presentations. In **2016** the branch hosted a Jefferson City School Board Candidates Forum at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Jefferson City. That night the room was packed with standing room only. Moderator Charlotte Parsons presided, and Carol Truby Bisges was the timekeeper. In **2017** Cole County Assessor Shawn Ordway, and Greg Dorge, the Geographic Information System (GIS) Coordinator for Jefferson City, presented a program on privacy issues.

For several years the branch met monthly on Saturdays at a local restaurant to discuss the Great Decisions book, a program from AAUW National. The meeting kept the branch informed on important international issues.

**Other Activities**

Three members of the branch helped AAUW Missouri by creating nameplates for the dinner tables at the AAUW state convention held in **2016**. To promote knowledge of AAUW, in **2019** the branch participated in a downtown Jefferson City parade in a car with magnetized rubber signs attached to each side of the car.

In **2020**, the branch celebrated the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment at City Hall in Jefferson City. Mayor Carrie Tergin issued a proclamation, and branch members wore yellow sashes and provided one for the mayor to wear. The event was written up in the local newspaper with an image on the front page.



## ***Joplin***

*(organized 1923)*

joplin-mo.aauw.net

Marj Boudreaux

**2010–2011** The thirty-six members launched the year with special programs ranging from presentations about the international outreach at Missouri Southern State University (MSSU) to a look at historical places and clean energy. Highlight was a STEM program with professors from Pittsburg State University with high school guests attending a brunch in order to learn about career options. Joplin was hit with an F-5 tornado on May 1, but we met on May 21 for our final **2010–2011** meeting with florist Myra Carr who told her story of surviving the tornado's shattering of her windows by taking refuge under her bed. A year to remember.

**2011–2012** One of our very own members initiated us into the perils and perks of being an air traffic controller. We focused on community issues: low-income parents seeking education, management of emergency needs whether tornado, fire, or storms, a new program to provide physical needs of elementary students, and a venue for local artists. A year of healing.

**2012–2013** Membership went up to thirty-seven! A varied set of programs had us listening to a history professor teaching about the American Constitution and a lawyer instructing us about Missouri law. Life stories came next: achieving educational goals as a non-traditional student; Joplin's recovery process; and a sojourn in China. A year of recovery.

**2013–2014** Our thirty-eight members found out what happens when East meets West in culture bumps, and what occurs on a life journey for an Eastern Shawnee Tribal Chief. Art in various forms predominated from ageless music to the healing power of art to the need for a place for literature in a new library and for turning children on to learning. A year of reflection.

**2014–2015** The thirty-five members traveled in spirit from Joplin's ecosystem to Main Street's Third Thursday celebration and Historic Murphysburg District, and to MSSU; from Missouri roadways to an African Safari; and finally, a Journey to Destiny. A year of exploration.

**2015–2016** The panel on STEM went so well that we asked the professors back again. Our thirty-five members enjoyed health topics from a legally blind author and a concierge doctor. Updates were given on Joplin's recovery, the role of women on a global scale, and AAUW policies, along with anecdotal stories about international students. An eclectic year.

**2016–2017** Our thirty-five members celebrated the 90th anniversary of AAUW, the 30th anniversary of the Dorothea B. Hoover Foundation for Scholarships, the

opening of the Joplin High School, ravaged by the **2011** tornado, the restoration of Mercy Hospital from the destruction in **2011**, and the opportunity to hear about programs from economic security and Lovin' Grace, a new home for at-risk girls. A year of celebration.

**2017–2018** The death of three members left us with thirty-eight total. We continued to promote STEM with the report on the new Kansas City University (KSU) Farber/McIntyre Medical School Campus in Joplin. Programs on community issues featured reports on the Joplin School District, local law enforcement, and growth in Joplin businesses. A life coach taught us spirit enriching exercises. Globally, we were informed about Rapha House and Touch a Life Foundations that rescue and rehabilitate underprivileged and trafficked children worldwide. A year to mourn for what we lost and rejoice in what is good.

**2018–2019** Our thirty-member branch collaborated with MSSU to host a panel “Funding for Higher Education” with 100 guests attending; another public forum was scheduled for November. We heard from historian Brad Belk on the restoration of the Zelleken and Schifferdecker historic homes funded by a Joplin businessman. Connect to Culture was set to begin on an Arts and Culture Building, and the One Joplin organization established priorities for the city's progress. A second historian, Bill Caldwell, told us about Emily Blair, founder of the League of Women Voters in Joplin. Although January and February were canceled due to inclement weather, we could say this was the year of restoration.

**2019–2020** A continuing focus on education was the theme for the twenty-seven members this year. Programs featured diversity and inclusion in our Black community, early women of Joplin with costumed role play by the Ellis sisters, and economic survival and public policy updates from one of our own members. Then Covid-19 hit, and meetings were canceled for the remainder of the year. Emails kept us in touch with each other, but this was a year of unprecedented change. Still, we carried on with courage and hope for the future.

**2020–2021** We were able to hold only two branch meetings, in April and May during this year, but we continued to meet and work together to further our goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Notable events for the branch were the Spirit of Service Award from MSSU given to member Lorraine Whittington in **2019** and member Diane Adams in **2020**. Member Marj Boudreaux was recognized as a **2020** AAUW Missouri Woman of Distinction at an online AAUW Missouri Convention in May **2021**. Crowning all our programs and achievements was the ongoing successful funding of a full scholarship each year at MSSU for a junior or senior female student at the college. We raised the funds through an auction, in **2020** hosting a "no-show" auction to raise the \$5,000 commitment. Tuition increased, but we voted to cap the scholarship at \$5,000, currently covering almost all the cost for two semesters.

## ***Kansas City***

*(organized 1893)*

kansascity-mo.aauw.net

Stephanie Hatfield and Luna Mukherjee

AAUW Kansas City (Missouri) Branch has been advancing AAUW's mission for women and girls for over 125 years through various activities and events. It was organized by Mrs. Ida Beagle Mosher, Ms. Ethel Allen, and Ms. Jesse Burnham, as the Kansas City Association of Collegiate Alumnae, now called the American Association of University Women. This report highlights activities during the past decade.

Our annual calendar runs from September to the following June. Officers are elected by AAUW members at our annual meeting in May for the following business year. Branch board and general membership meetings are held monthly throughout the year. Our “special project events” serve as membership meetings for the month in which they occur. Our “interest groups” for members include a Great Decisions study from January through April followed by participant suggested topic discussions at Friday Forum in the remaining months. Our book group, Books and Brews, meets the third Thursday of each month, and a Cuisine group also meets each month for lunch. The Bridge group disbanded in 2013. Branch members and leaders are involved with local colleges and universities, and also AAUW state and national.

### **Branch Involvement with AAUW State and National, and with Local Colleges and Universities**

We supported AAUW Missouri and routinely participated in the following events: Legislative Retreat, AAUW Missouri State conferences, Missouri Women’s Lobby Day, Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV), and Equality Week in Kansas City. Branch members also took on leadership and committee roles.

The branch abides by and supports AAUW National priorities and agendas. Members attended AAUW National conventions, and the branch budgeted support for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). The branch maintained relationships with the University of Missouri, Kansas City, and the Kansas City Community Colleges as well as encouraging and supporting a satellite group at Kansas City Kansas Community College.

## **Selected Past Branch Program Topics**

**December 2011** Panel Presentation “Women’s Shelters.

**September 2012** Fall Fling “What Does AAUW do?”

**August 2013** On August 27, the Kansas City Branch, the League of Women Voters, Kansas City, Jackson, Clay, and Platt counties, partnering with the National Archives, hosted a panel discussion “Three-State Strategy: Understanding the Equal Rights Amendment Ratification.

**September 2014** *A Century of Service, Plus 21 Years*, the fresh-off-the-press history, composed by Ardy Pearson and Dana Perry, debuted at the Fall Fling in September, at the home of Mary Emily Kitterman. The 125-page history book of the AAUW-Kansas City Branch includes the original text published in **1993** on the one hundredth anniversary of the branch’s founding, plus updates and photographs of the following twenty years.

**March 2015** “STEM and the Impact on Women’s Equality.”

**October 2016** “Barriers to the Ballot,” with the Black History Study Group and National Archives.

**November 2017** Panel Discussion “Women Religious Leaders.”

**November 2018** 125th Birthday Party! “America’s First Ladies: More than the Women Behind the Men” by Dr. Diana Carlin Pierron.

**May 2019** “Reports from the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, 63rd session,” Gail James, Alice Kitchen, Luna Mukherjee, and Joanie Shores.

**May 2020** “AAUW Start Smart Salary Negotiation Workshop,” Virtual Event on Zoom.

**December 2021** “Women’s Shelters” panel presentation.

The branch created and distributed newsletters to inform members and other audiences about mission, plans, activities, and events. The branch posted information and newsletters on its website.

## **Special Projects**

### **High School Girls**

Each year from **1931** through **2005**, the branch honored outstanding high school junior and senior girls and their families with a program and reception. The girls were selected by their school’s teachers and counselors. In **2006** the University of Missouri Kansas City student affiliate group (AAUWym) initiated changes in the program to include only senior girls and added scholarship options with college scholarships up to \$1,000. To be eligible for the 100 High School Girls scholarships, students were asked to apply and write an essay. The girls were current students of one of the following area schools: Central Academy of Excellence, East High

School, Northeast High School, Southeast High School, Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts, Lincoln College Preparatory Academy, Southwest High School, Ruskin High School, Center High School, and Grandview High School. The practice of awarding three scholarships continued through **2020**.

### **Reentry Woman of the Year Award**

This award, begun in **1987** under the leadership of Marjorie Rees (branch president, **1985–1987**) and the Kansas City Inter Branch Council (IBC), supported many women who return to college after an absence of five or more years. A large percentage of these women had children and family obligations and benefited from financial assistance. Kansas City area branches (IBC: Independence, Kansas City, Kansas City Northland, Northern Clay, Parkville, and Raytown) provided area colleges with information and application forms and worked together to select potential recipients. The winners were those who best exemplified the effort, perseverance, and courage of a mature woman who wanted to return to the classroom in pursuit of personal and vocational goals. The awards were presented each spring at an IBC brunch.

### **Speed Mentoring Event—March 2016**

In the AAUW report, *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing*, and in many other studies, mentoring is identified as one of the most successful strategies for helping young women overcome the barriers to obtaining education and establishing careers in STEM fields. So, a STEM Speed Mentoring event in March gave five young women the opportunity to meet with five experienced women engineers. Marian McClellan was instrumental in organizing the event. The evening event was made possible by support from the Kansas City Branch and AAUW Missouri.

### **Thorpe Menn Literary Excellence Award**

Each year since **1979**, the branch has recognized a local author for his or her excellence in writing. The Thorpe Menn award, established in **1979** by the branch, was named to honor Thorpe Menn (**1912–1979**), long-time book editor of the *Kansas City Star*, who supported all aspects of Kansas City's cultural life, especially authors and artists.

Beginning in **2011**, the portraits of the winner and two runners-up were posted on the branch website along with the list of winners since **1979**. Between **2010** and **2020**, more than 250 books by 250 different local authors were read by each member of the reading committee. In **2020** the \$500 award was revised to give \$300 to the

winner and \$100 to each of the two runners-up. Due to the pandemic, the forty-second award ceremony in **2020** was held virtually through a Zoom webinar.

Nominated books must have been published in the previous year and include works of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, or poetry. Nominated authors must live in the greater Kansas City area—Jackson, Cass, Clay, Lafayette, and Platte counties in Missouri, and Johnson, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte counties in Kansas.

### **Wagy Fund: Nettie Irene Van Der Ver Wagy Fund for Women and Girls**

Beginning in **1997**, the branch has awarded grants of \$1,000 to \$4,000 to local organizations that support AAUW's mission by promoting equity, education, intellectual growth, individual worth, and development of opportunities for Kansas City women and girls. These grants are made possible by a generous bequest from the estate of Irene Wagy, a branch member who died in **1996**, plus donations from other branch members.

A committee of the branch reviews applications and selects the recipient organizations. The awards are presented to representatives of each organization at a holiday event in December. The grant application and awards process are managed by the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. From **2011** through **2020** the branch has awarded forty-three grants totaling \$99,800.

### **Partnerships**

The branch partnered with Women's Equality Coalition (WEC), organized in **2012**. WEC is a coalition of eleven women's organizations that work to eliminate discrimination against women in pay, leadership roles, voting rights, and safety from and prevention of violence. WEC has provided over 100 educational and experiential opportunities for local audiences. Programs included topics such as corporate boards, bridging the gap to sisterhood, #respect me too, intersection of housing eviction and gender-based violence, barriers to and bias against women in the workplace and in society, and Anita Hill's film. The branch participated with WEC during Equality Week, held in August in Kansas City: In **2014**, branch member Jane McLain gave a talk titled "Women's Suffrage on the Prairie"; in **2017** branch member Carol Cowles was one of the panelists for "Building Coalitions through Courageous Conversations: Lessons from the 60s and 70s"; and in **2018** branch members Jane McClain and Patty Cahill, with US Representative Edith Green, performed an oral history interview reenactment "What is Women's Work Worth? The History of the Equal Pay Act of 1963-I."

## Past Presidents, 2010–2020

**2010–2011** Joan Shores

**2011–2012** Sara Pedram

**2012–2013** Mary Emily Kitterman

**2013–2014** Nicola Stanke

**2014–2015** Winnie Weinrich

**2015–2016** Stephanie Holthaus

**2016–2017** Marian McClellan

**2017–2018** Linda Berube

**2018–2019** Stefanie Hatfield and Ellen Johnson

**2019–2020** Wanda Perkins

### *Kansas City Interbranch Council*

*(established ca. 1995)*

Debra McArthur

At the end of the decade of **2010–2020**, the Kansas City Interbranch Council (IBC) consisted of four local branches: Kansas City, Independence, Kansas City Northland, and Parkville. These branches typically did their best to communicate news of their programs and invite branch members from other branches to attend. Together, the KC IBC has had one main focus: The Reentry Scholarship Program. Reentry liaisons from each of the area branches have established contacts at local colleges. These contacts help identify eligible students, make applications available, and submit the applications and essays to IBC through the branch liaisons.

In order to qualify for the reentry scholarship, a student:

- Must have returned to college after a lapse of five years or more (either a lapse in college education, or a lapse after high school).
- Must be enrolled in a degree or certificate program at a four-year or community college.
- Must be enrolled in at least six credit hours.
- Must have at least twenty-four hours of credit, with at least twelve credit hours (graded) after reentry or be enrolled in a certificate program.
- Must have a GPA of 3.0 or better since reentry.
- Must have at least two letters of recommendation.

Once applications were received (around the first of March), branch representatives met to read and score the applications and essays. The number of awards was determined by available funds. In the past few years about five to seven awardees have received scholarships.

Scholarships were given in two categories: one group to students who were Pell-eligible, and one group to students who were not currently receiving Pell grants. The latter students received scholarships given in memory of Toni Thornton, a long-time member of the Independence Branch. These funds were managed through the Truman Heartland Community Foundation. The Pell students received funds from the IBC account which included donations from the branches, as well as donations from individual members.

Once the committee had scored essays, awardees were notified. They were then celebrated at an annual brunch in April and were invited to bring family and/or friends to the brunch to celebrate with them. Many members from across the metro area attended to congratulate the winners and hear their inspiring stories.

***Kansas City Northland***  
(organized 1958)  
northland.mo.aauw.net  
Diana Curry-McGuirk

The first president of the branch, chartered on May 19, **1958**, was Ruby Jane Scott. There were thirty-six members in that first group of forward-thinking women. The mission was then, as it is today, “to advance gender equity for women and girls.”

The branch prides itself on high quality monthly programs offered and shared throughout the community. The programs included authors, state senators, and leaders in the Kansas City community. In addition, the branch has two strong book clubs that read and discuss books related to the AAUW mission. The branch continues to support the Re-Entry Award project, and gift recipients have been named throughout the years. The branch has a yearbook which includes information on committees, upcoming meetings/programs, socials, upcoming books for book clubs, and membership.

In the past ten years excellent presidents have led this branch to meet its vision of “Equity for All.”

**2011** JoAnne Lile, 32 members  
**2012** Janet Wilson, 32 members  
**2014** Pat LaCalamito, 30 members  
**2015** Pat LaCalamito, 30 members  
**2016** Kathleen Welton, 25 members

**2017** Kathleen Welton, 26 members  
**2018** Suzanne Conaway, 20 members  
**2019** Suzanne Conaway, 18 members  
**2020** Dixie Youngers, 20 members



The goals and vision for the next decade have grown to include a focus on STEM education for girls. Further, the branch will educate members and the community on diversity, equity, and inclusion for all.

### ***Kirkwood-Webster Groves***

*(organized 1971)*

kwg-mo.aauw.net

Deborah McWard

In **2011**, Kirkwood-Webster Groves celebrated its 40th anniversary. As we completed this ten-year history, we were one year shy of our 50th. Much has happened in those fifty years, and we like to think AAUW has had something to do with it. Just in the last ten years we have had to rethink the importance of social media to communicate with our base. Yet there has had to be some balance to include older members who do not care to make these often-confusing changes, yet who have a place in our branch activities.

Our last ten-year history reflected our focus on STEM careers for women and girls. Because we had good leadership, interest, and resources in that area, it made sense to concentrate efforts there. But as you can see, we did not ignore other priorities, such as leadership for women and equipping women to negotiate better for salaries and benefits.

A cultural shift away from membership in organizations resulted in a drop in membership for traditional organizations. Despite this, AAUW at the national, state, and local level continued to work for equity. In the past ten years Kirkwood-Webster Groves AAUW has built on past programs and initiated new ones to meet the challenges of today's world.

Our year usually began with a pot-luck dinner where we picked up where we left off in the spring. We encouraged guests' participation in this event in order for them to learn what AAUW is about. Food attracts participation, and it is always a good way to follow up dinner with updates on AAUW branch, state, and national initiatives. Usually, the branch board made plans for the coming year in summer sessions.

## **Community Outreach**

We tabled at many events at our colleges, libraries, festivals, book fairs, and STEM events. Our tabling had two goals: To publicize our work and to encourage new memberships. Highlights included working with other Interbranch Council (IBC) members, to judge IBC AAUW Missouri History Day, both locally and at the state competition. St. Louis Book Fest in the Central West End proved to be one of our most successful events, and the all-day affair put us in touch with many interesting forward-looking people. It was an opportunity to truly converse with civic-minded people. The Greentree Festival in Kirkwood in September (think hot and dusty) gave local visibility. We usually had a few small games and prizes to attract attention to the fairgoers. We tabled at Webster University events as well as at middle schools and high schools where we promoted our STEM projects. Our general meetings were often held at local libraries with open invitations to all visitors to attend. We participated in the University of Missouri, St. Louis's Lifelong Learning programming until it was cut by funding. The film, "The Invisible War," was shown at Frontenac Theater, and we helped sponsor it along with other branches. At the Sachs Library as part of its educational programming for the public, Christine Nobbe gave a presentation on women in the space program. Kirkcare and 219 Nurses for Newborns gave us opportunities to donate our personal funds to these worthy local charities.

## **Community Collaborations**

We supported the Ethical Society-International Relations series with funding as well as with co-chairs of the four speaker series events. We Christmas shopped at Plowsharing Crafts and later ZeeBee Marketing, both Fair Trade stores that support women's worth in developing countries. We constantly partnered with the League of Women (LWV) voters in Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) events and provided volunteers wherever we could. LWV was a great source of programming for us as we were always involved in election issues. IBC staffed Work Smart Workshops in local county libraries in **2019** and **2020** in the West End. Support of the Missouri Women's Network was ongoing, both at their events and financially. We judged both locally and state-wide for National History Day in Missouri, another ongoing venture. We were always well represented at Equality Day which gave us the opportunity to meet face to face with other women leaders in the region.

## **Fundraising**

Our branch dues remained low because of members' willingness to receive newsletters and other communications online. Outside our own branch, we supported the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), the Missouri Women's Network, the Ethical Society speaker series (which we helped found) and, foremost, scholarships for worthy graduating high school seniors electing to go into STEM fields in college. Our funding came from various places: Plowsharing Crafts and ZeeBee Marketing that gave us a rebate on our purchases; member support of IBC Spring Fling; Carol Davis McDonald continuing to spearhead sales of pecans that brought in an enormous amount of money; a jewelry sale; gift-wrapping, organized by IBC at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in December, that garnered generous contributions from Christmas shoppers; it also gave us three new members in **2019**. Dewey's Pizza in Kirkwood let us raise funds for our STEM project when we purchased their pizza in January **2018**.

## **Support of AAUW Objectives**

Every newsletter and general meeting brought members up to date on AAUW National objectives. We wrote elevator speeches and held an open house for students at the University of Missouri, St. Louis (UMSL), and at Webster University. Webster also gave a Start Smart workshop that the branch helped to organize. UMSL and our members were instrumental in promoting and reaching the goal for the Work Smart initiative, and we continued to sell the program to everyone we met. Kirkwood-Webster Groves contributed at least \$200 a year to IBC's NCCWSL's scholarship. Other personal donations usually enabled two students to attend.

In **2016**, a beautiful day saw many of our members dressed in yellow and white to celebrate in downtown St. Louis the Centennial of the "1916 Golden Lane" parade by Suffragettes to the Democratic Convention. Encouraged by that experience, members who in **2017** participated in the original Women's March gained a taste of public participation in demonstrations. Of course, we were peaceful. The demonstration was essentially in support of the women's issues that were disregarded/defeated in the **2016** election.

We attended the St. Charles Coalition Against Human Trafficking in **2016**. That event occurred because of a Community Action Grant. It was one of the first big promotions in the area for the problem of human trafficking. The branch always found an opportunity to participate in GOTV somewhere. We attended the annual Legislative Retreat in Jefferson City, although it seemed to be scheduled for the worst possible weather and was often cancelled. Our newsletter touched on any

news from AAUW state and National. Carol Davis McDonald worked tirelessly on that communication. Jean Shull (deceased), Lucy Barrington, and Nancy Hutchins joined the Legacy Circle. We always received at least nine stars for the Star Award. Our financial support was near the top in the state every year.

## **STEM**

If you could define the priority of the branch, it would have to be STEM. This AAUW initiative landed at just the right time to line up with our leadership. While the seeds were planted earlier, the idea gained momentum over the years. In **2011**, the board agreed to use reserve funds to start a math and science award; guidelines were sent to Kirkwood and Webster Groves High (WGHS) Schools. In January **2011**, a New Horizons in Space Symposium with NASA astronaut Lt. Col. Robert Behnken, PhD, was held at Selvidge Middle School. In April **2013**, an AAUW Fellow, Kelly Bickel spoke on “AAUW Fellows and the Future of Young Women in Science and Math.” Later in **2013**, we were entertained by the Statesbots Robotics Team from WGHS and the first Tech Challenge competition. It is significant that for the first time about an equal number of females and males participated. Science awards were given to WGHS and Kirkwood High School girls.

In October **2014**, members of the WGHS Robotics Team shared some of their accomplishments in the STEM field. But as much as we liked working with our local high schools, the board decided we might gain more visibility at other schools. Therefore, in **2015**, the STEM awards were given to girls from Affton and Maplewood-Richmond Heights High Schools. The speaker at the event was Maggie Duckworth, electrical engineer and Mars One candidate. November that year featured two engineering and math programs in St. Louis: Project MEGSSS and the Institute for Mathematics and Computer Science (IMACS), a for-profit company that provides children's development of critical thinking skills. In January **2016**, we ducked bad weather for a program “Maker Space,” an open lab for students to maximize their creative genius at the Grand Center Arts Academy, which was hosted by Andrew Goodin. In May **2016**, there was a follow-up on the students who had received our STEM awards. All were still in a STEM field or studies. Helina S. Woldekiros, PhD, from Washington University, talked to us about honoring careers in science, technology, engineering, art-design, and math. Two Webster Groves recipients of our STEM awards attended. In April **2019**, we recognized our two STEM scholarship awardees at the May meeting.

### **Stem Awardees**

**2013** Demi Lewis, Kirkwood High School, and Paige Madison Krejci, Webster Groves High School.

**2014** Emily Willis, Kirkwood High School, and Monica Smith, Webster Groves High School.

**2015** Anna Maria Pyne, Affton High School, and Autumn Martin, Maple Richmond Heights High School.

**2016** Ellen von zur Muehlen, Maple Richmond Heights High School, and April Votrain, Affton High School.

**2017** Amra Kardasevic and Mia Rantoul, Maple Richmond Heights High School.

**2018** Jasmin Hunt, Affton High School, and Amandi Muse Morris, Maple Richmond Heights High School.

**2019** Anastasia Juracsik, Maplewood Richmond Heights High School, and Korey E. Canada, Afton, High School.

### **Leadership and Awards**

Kirkwood-Webster Groves has always produced leaders in all phases of AAUW. Lynne Roney and Carol Davis McDonald kept IBC St. Louis meetings recorded and fiscally sound. Lynne put together the 2020 State Conference that was cancelled because of the pandemic. She also worked to assemble the multi-state conference scheduled for June which met the same fate. Our members have served in various state positions. It seems nobody joins the branch without ending up without working hard. We draw members involved in other endeavors as well, too numerous to mention. Leadership runs deep.

And then **2020** brought things to a standstill. That so many things were cancelled brought us together, but with members like Marsha Koch, Chris Nobbe, Lynne Roney, and Tricia Scott nudging and mentoring our sometimes-reluctant members we became familiar with social media. Meet 'n Geek was held at the library for a while until scheduling interfered. Lynne Roney raises her hand every time a web person is asked for. Our first board meeting via Zoom was a success. Tricia Scott and Marsha Koch were generous with their business Zoom accounts. Nancy Hutchins monitored the Facebook page.

### **Branch Presidents**

**2009–2011** Carol Davis  
McDonald, Lynne Roney  
**2011–2017** Kay Meyer

**2017–2019** Chris Nobbe  
**2019–2020** Chris Nobbe,  
Jeanne Webdell

## State Presidents

**2009–2010** Marsha Koch

**2018–2020** Kay Meyer

### Awards, Barbara Lackritz IBC St. Louis

**2009** Lynne Roney

**2015** Deb McWard (dual with Creve Coeur)

**2019** Marsha Koch

## *Maryville*

*(organized 1918, disbanded 2021)*

Stacey Calfee

In **2013**, the branch completed the Opal/Eckert Maryville, Missouri Branch Grant. After ten years of funding and with the help of AAUW members throughout the state the grant was fully funded. Opal Eckert was an outstanding educator and author who taught in rural schools, high schools, and at university level in Nodaway County, Missouri, for fifty-two years. On her retirement she wrote a weekly newspaper column for the Daily Forum and published two volumes of Nodaway County history. She belonged to a number of organizations, including AAUW. She became a life member of AAUW in **1942**, served in many branch offices, and was one of three women appointed to write the resolutions for the AAUW National Convention in 1967. In **1990** she was named AAUW Missouri Woman of Distinction. She died in **2005** at the age of 100.

Branch programming has been varied and interesting over the decade. For example, in spring **2017** the branch enjoyed a variety of programs featuring local speakers and supporting local causes. The year began with an equity and diversity panel discussion by international students at Northwest Missouri State University. The students talked about their backgrounds, university experiences, and goals for the future. Another panel discussion featured local businesswomen representing a variety of efforts to support themselves and their families and serve the community. Finally, the April meeting concentrated on a community effort to provide public events that promoted the arts and the revitalization of the downtown district of Maryville.

Because of lack of membership and membership involvement in the branch, Maryville decided to disband in **2021**.

## Branch Presidents

2010–2011 Linda Girard  
2011–2012 Linda Girard  
2012–2016 Catrina Pelton

2016–2017 LeDonna McIntosh  
2017–2018 LeDonna McIntosh  
2018–2020 Stacey Calfee

## *Nevada Branch*

(organized 1951)

Judy Campbell and Alison Fast

### 2010–2011

- This year's programs featured a literary theme with a diverse selection of topics, such as *Cover Girls: You Can't Tell a Book by its Cover*.
- A membership drive, with a little different twist, was held at the home of Dr. Micaela Wexler. Erin and Phyllis (co-membership vice-presidents) came up with the idea to host a bunco and wine tasting night for members and prospective members. Sixteen people attended, so it was a success. At least two prospective members signed up with the potential for several more.
- The Holiday Auction took place in November, with Delbert Johnston as auctioneer. Linda Tourtillott catered the refreshments.
- A survey about the auction was printed in the newsletter.
- In November and January, we reviewed AAUW National accomplishments in 2010.

### 2011–2012

- Membership was twenty-five members (up 70 percent from previous year).
- Carolyn Thornton organized the book club for October 11 at 5:30 in the Library Community Room. *The Help* was discussed.
- The program for the evening, *Why Join AAUW*, was presented by AAUW Missouri president Julie Triplett.
- The Holiday Auction with Delbert Johnston netted nearly \$1,500.
- The branch provided refreshments for a middle school program *Girl Empowerment*.
- Member Frances Jenkins fell and was seriously injured.
- Member Carolyn Thornton published two books.
- Allison Fast attended the Five-State Conference in Oklahoma City in June 2012.

### 2012–2013

- At the Nevada courthouse on Nov 7, **2012**, branch member Mikki Johnson coordinated a tribute to Eleanor Roosevelt on the 50th anniversary of her death. Donations of \$250 were sent to the Eleanor Roosevelt Endowment Fund.
- The auction successfully raised \$1,500 with auctioneer Delbert Johnston.
- A second fundraiser was held. Brenda Ross and Frances Jenkins both donated quilts for a quilt raffle. Proceeds were \$260.
- Member Renee Hornsby served as Secretary of the AAUW State Board.
- The branch provided refreshments for the middle school program *Girl Empowerment*.
- Mikki Johnson attended the Missouri/Illinois State Convention in St. Louis May 3–5, **2013**.

### 2013–2014

- Cottey College became an AAUW College/University partner.
- The Holiday Auction was held in November with Delbert Johnston as the auctioneer and raised \$1,522.
- Seven members had supper at Cottey College, and then attended a program featuring rear admiral Sandra Stosz. She was a member of the third graduating class at the Coast Guard Academy (CGA); first woman to be assigned to a law enforcement vessel; first female graduate of the CGA to achieve flag rank; and the first woman appointed a superintendent of any of the nation's five service academies.
- The branch provided refreshments for the middle school program *Girl Empowerment*.
- Because of our branch's support of the Cottey College Leadership Fund, Cottey president, Dr. Judy Rogers, invited our members for the groundbreaking for the new Fine Arts instructional building.
- Frances Jenkins, charter Nevada branch member, announced that she would be moving to Kansas where she and her sister would share a home.
- Sue Lutes was chosen as our named gift honoree for the Education Foundation.
- Allison Fast attended the State Leadership conference in Columbia, Missouri, on Saturday, May 3, with Renee Hornsby who was still serving as the state secretary.
- Our branch was recognized as in the top ten branches for giving to the AAUW Fund.



## 2014–2015

- Frances Jenkins provided this information about the Nevada Branch: It was with the encouragement of Dr. Blanche Hinman Dow, president of Cottey College, that the branch was reorganized in **1951**. Two previous branches included one in the 1920s and a second in **1929** that lasted thirteen years.
- In September, Phyllis Sprenkle, Eileen Leininger, Sara Compton, and Allison Fast, met at the Cottey College dining hall to talk to students about AAUW. As a result, twenty-one students signed up to be student affiliate members.
- In the October **2014** newsletter, it was mentioned we had fourteen paid members.
- Our March program was Abby Landoll who talked about her experience at Girls State. We sponsored her registration fees.
- A very successful auction was held with Delbert Johnston as our auctioneer. The net profit was \$1,920.
- Allison Fast and Phyllis Sprenkle attended the AAUW State conference in Columbia in May. Featured speakers from AAUW National were Linda Hallman, executive director, and Erica Stout, training and program director. The Nevada branch was recognized as one of the top ten branches in per capita giving.
- The branch provided refreshments for a middle school program *Girl Empowerment*.

## 2015–2016

- The program theme this year was “Breaking Barriers.”
- Member Mary Ann Clark died in January **2016**. January was also tough for member Sara Compton whose mother died, and for member Judy Campbell whose husband died.
- The Holiday Auction raised over \$1,600. Delbert Johnston was probably the auctioneer.
- The April program was presented by Shirley and Gary Belk about human trafficking. This program was advertised as open to the public because of the subject.
- The year-end banquet included our high school scholarship recipient and her mother; Kayla Jones, returning to college scholarship recipient; and our Girls State representative and her mother.

## 2016–2017

- Our October meeting featured Carol Stark, editor of the Joplin Globe, a forty-year career journalist and the first female executive editor in the 120-year history of the newspaper. The title of her talk was “Questions on the Ballot” and was an effort to understand six very confusing issues. A press release was submitted about the program, and the public was welcome to attend.
- Member Dr. Carol Clyde-Gallagher presented the Start Smart program to ??
- At the January meeting, Grace McKenzie presented a program which focused on the impact of her Girls State experience.
- The Holiday Auction this year brought in just over \$1,600. The auctioneer was Larry Hacker.
- At the February meeting members discussed the book *My Life on the Road* by Gloria Steinem; member Judy Campbell led the discussion.
- Phyllis Sprenkle reserved a table for the branch at the Cottey College dining room to participate in an Engagement Fair for Cottey students. Phyllis and others distributed AAUW materials.
- Phyllis Sprenkle received a certificate from AAUW National commemorating our sixty-five years as a branch.
- The branch received word that Frances Jenkins had died on November 22, **2014**. Surprisingly nothing had been mentioned until the **2017–2018** newsletter.
- The Bylaws were updated and turned into the state.
- Several members participated in various awareness events for Equal Pay Day. Members Eileen Leininger and Mary Jane Hinkle hosted an event at Crowder College where they sold candy bars; to illustrate the unfairness men paid \$1 and women paid 80 cents. The Nevada Daily Mail ran a front-page article about these efforts.
- Scholarship recipients Alexis Moore and Katie Crawford were guests at our May banquet.

## 2017–2018

- At our Oct meeting we heard from three local women who attended women’s marches in three different locations throughout the country on January 21, **2017**, the day after Donald Trump’s inauguration. They shared their various perspectives on the events: Donna Logan marched in Kansas City, Missouri, Jill Compton in Lexington, Kentucky, and Clarisse Teepe-Fryrear in Washington D.C.
- A successful auction was held in November with Larry Hacker as the auctioneer.

- Another Start Smart program was held in February at Cottey College. This event was sponsored by our branch and the Serenbetz Institute at Cottey. We provided pizza for the eleven students who participated.
- The March meeting was a book discussion led by Kristen Owens of *Things I wish I'd Told My Daughter: Lessons from Leaders on Raising the Next Generation of Empowered Women* by Nina Tassler.
- In March, member Carolyn Thornton was nominated by our branch as an AAUW-Missouri Woman of Distinction. The award was presented to Carolyn at the state conference in May.
- Our branch was again recognized at the state conference as in the top ten in per capita giving (we were eighth).
- The April program was held at the Lodge of Hope in Belamy, Missouri. The Lodge of Hope provides outdoor recreational therapy for wounded or injured vets and their families, and for youth and adults with disabilities or serious illnesses.
- For equal pay day, Phyllis Sprenkle and Clarisse Fryrear spent an hour over the lunch period at Cottey College to inform students about the unfairness for women.
- In the spring of **2017**, Dr. Clyde-Gallagher again presented Start Smart.

#### **2018–2019**

- The September program featured Kim Greer who was a teacher fellow at George Washington's Mt. Vernon program, a three-week onsite, immersive, professional development experience. She was one of only five teachers selected nation-wide.
- In October we heard a recap of Kalysta Lewis' experience at Girls State.
- The Holiday Auction was held in November with Larry Hacker as the auctioneer. Attendance was low and netted just over \$1,000. General consensus was to begin thinking of a different fund raiser.
- Our branch, along with Friends with Purpose (formerly Soroptimist), co-sponsored a Ballot Forum. The turnout, well attended with nearly 100 people, was deemed a success.
- Judy Campbell led a book discussion on *Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project* by Jack Mayer.
- Low membership, low attendance at meetings, and lack of members willing to take on an office, had us wondering about the future of our branch.

## **2019–2020**

- An informative meeting in October featured Dr. Larry Campbell talking about his research and exploration by car along the Missouri River from Three Forks, Montana, to St. Charles, Missouri.
- This year we tried a new fundraiser, a Bunco night and a limited silent auction at the Bushwhacker Museum. Our goal was to seat fourteen four-person tables. We ended up with ten tables and net proceeds of \$1,241. Based on our budget, we did not have to hold a second fundraiser.
- At our January meeting Judy Campbell led a book discussion of *Educated* by Tara Westover.
- Our March newsletter reported the first mention of the corona virus panic occurring across the country.
- March and April meetings were cancelled.
- The May meeting was held on Zoom.
- Nominated officers for **2020–2021** were president-elect, Sara Compton and Phyllis Sprenkle, who will share the role; and Lois Pendrak, finance.

## **Officers 2010–2020**

### **Past Presidents**

**2010–2011** Judy Campbell

**2011–2015** Allison Fast

**2015–2017** Phyllis Sprenkle

**2017–2020** Sheryl Baer

### **Program Vice-Presidents**

**2010–2011** Carolyn Thornton and Sara Compton

**2011–2016** Eileen Leininger

**2016–2020** All branch members

### **Membership Vice-Presidents**

**2010–2011** Erin Morris and Phyllis Sprenkle

**2011–2015** Phyllis Sprenkle

**2015–2020** Allison Fast

### **Finance**

**2010–2012** Carol Roberts

**2012–2014** Brenda Ross

**2014–2020** Ashley McKinney

### **Secretary**

**2010–2011** Susan Vickers

**2011–2013** Doris McMahon

**2013–2015** Judy Campbell and Sue Lutes

**2015–2020** Judy Campbell

***Parkville***  
(organized 1935)  
Debra McArthur

The Parkville Branch was founded by a group of women connected with Park College (now Park University). This connection with the university continued through the 2010s, with branch meetings being held on the Park University campus, and with many members connected to the university as faculty or staff members. Many programs through these years have been given by faculty members at Park, including faculty from the psychology, sociology, science, and public affairs departments.

Our branch has long supported AAUW student organizations. Through much of this era, Parkville Branch member and Park staff member Linda Vestal served as sponsor of the student group. Later, Debra McArthur (also a branch member and Park staff member) was the sponsor. Both women served as campus representatives for Park and arranged tabling events at the annual Park Activities Fairs and other campus events.

The Parkville Branch also sponsored a number of Start Smart programs on the Park campus throughout the years. Both Linda Vestal and Debra McArthur were trained as presenters for Start Smart and Work Smart and facilitated those workshops for Park students.

The branch celebrated its 80th anniversary in **2015**. Both current and former members attended, and Mayor Nan Johnston of Parkville presented the branch with a proclamation from the city recognizing this milestone in our organization. The Parkville Branch has several annual traditions that have continued:

- A politically themed meeting program in November. In some years this was a public candidate forum with all candidates for local offices invited. In other years, we sponsored public programs on local or state issues, such as state amendments or programs providing voter education.
- A brunch on the first Saturday in December, at which we also brought donations for a needy local family that we have adopted.
- A Saturday luncheon in February, with a notable speaker (often an artist or author). This was sometimes held at a restaurant or a catered venue. Our members brought guests, and this was considered a membership recruiting opportunity.
- A potluck “picnic” in May for our annual installation of officers.

- An ongoing philanthropic project to collect contributions to assist our local food pantry in purchasing feminine hygiene products.

The latter half of this decade brought membership changes to our branch in the loss of several long-time members. Two of these members, Julie Boltz and Betty Johnson, left funds in their wills for our branch to distribute through our Reentry Scholarship program, which is a project of the Kansas City Interbranch Council (IBC). Thanks to their generosity, our branch was able to award scholarships to several Park University students who have returned to school after a lapse of five or more years in their education. In **2021**, we still have enough funds to provide scholarships for a few more years.

The year **2019** brought another change to our organization, as the last of our branch's Park University-connected members retired from the school. Although we do not currently have any Park faculty or staff among our members, we continue to reach out to the university community to re-establish that connection.

## ***Raytown***

*(organized 1954, disbanded 2014)*

Sandra Frank

Unless otherwise specified, all meetings were held on the first Monday evening of the month at Bickford House, 9110 E. 63rd St., Raytown, Missouri.

### **2010–2011**

The branch recognized with certificates and honor the four women who were instrumental in the creation of the Raytown Emergency Assistance Program (REAP). The meeting was held at REAP's new facility recently completed in Raytown. Mayor Pro Tem Joe Kreamer presented a proclamation to these four women, Shirley Latare, Barbara Carmack, Maggie Chase, and Rosalie Van Zant. They are sterling examples of what a few women can achieve with the support of the community. REAP has continued to grow and aid the Raytown Community.

Books 'N More continued to read, discuss, and review books of interest to the group. The 24th Annual Raytown Arts Festival was held April 10, at Raytown High School (RHS), co-sponsored by the branch. The 17th Women in Math Seminar was held April 1, at Raytown South High School (RSHS). Branch members attended the Reentry Luncheon and Scholarship Awards. The Senior Expo offered an opportunity to make Raytown citizens aware of the Raytown AAUW Branch.

## **2011–2012**

Books 'N More continued to meet. Programs for this year included “Glory, a therapy dog,” owned and presented by Michelle Provin;” Dr. Janie Pyle, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction for the C-2 School District; George Koepp, financial advisor; Eileen D'Amato, president of the Central Exchange; and Kathy Wittman who organized aid for victims of the tornado which devastated Joplin, Missouri.

The 18th Women in Math Seminar was held at RSHS on April 20, **2012**. Presenters came from the fields of mechanical engineering, architecture, and medicine. The 25th Annual Raytown Community Arts Festival was held at RHS on April 1, **2012**, co-sponsored by the branch.

Fundraising for scholarships included the annual garage sale and sales of Entertainment Books and Farmstead Nuts and Treats. Eloise Kipp, chair, handled all the necessary paperwork and delivery for sales items. The garage sale was held at the home of Marty Erickson.

The Raytown Branch hosted the Reentry Scholarship Award luncheon in April at Unity Village. Several young women were awarded scholarships enabling them to return to education. They gave interesting accounts of their life experiences. National AAUW required the branch to change the branch by-laws to agree with National by-laws. Donations to REAP were collected at the December meeting which included a potluck dinner to which spouses and friends were invited.

The year-end picnic was held at Cave Spring Park with Anne Walters, Eloise Kipp, and Susan Landers acting as hostesses. Members brought dishes to accompany the main course.

## **2012–2013**

Programs included a presentation about the Truman Home in Independence by Lisa Houston, a former park ranger who worked at the house; “Women's Issues in Raytown,” presented by member Christy Garnett; “Math, Science and Technology,” presented by the Robotics team of Lee's Summit North High School; “Fit for Life” with Susanne McEvoy; “Farrand Farms,” by Keith Farrand; and “Women of the Civil War,” presented by Anne Mallinson and Nancy Tucker. Residents of Bickford House were invited to join the branch at the December potluck when they were entertained by music students from RSHS.

The 19th Women in Math Seminar was held at RSHS on March 23. The 26th Annual Raytown Community Arts Festival was held at RHS on April 7, **2013**, co-sponsored by the branch. Books 'N More met at Las Chilis each month of the school year except December.

## **2013–2014**

The branch supported the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program sponsored by the Raytown Area PTA Council. Branch members assisted at the November 7th presentation in lieu of the November meeting.

Raytown High School musicians entertained branch members and residents of Bickford House at the annual December potluck. The February meeting featured a presentation on identity theft, a timely and interesting program, given by Karen Eanest. Books 'N More met the third Monday of each month, except December, at Las Chilis, a local restaurant.

This was the 60th anniversary year of the Raytown Branch. Raytown Mayor Sue Frank issued a proclamation, honoring the branch for its accomplishments in promoting education and equity for women and girls and for its educational endeavors. The Women in Math Seminar was held this year at RHS on March 28. Together with The Raytown Arts Council and the C-2 School District, the branch continued its co-sponsorship of the 27th Annual Raytown Community Arts Festival. The branch hosted the Reentry Scholarship Award luncheon at Unity Village on April 19<sup>th</sup> and presented six deserving young women with scholarships that enabled them to continue their education.

Due to declining membership, the branch voted to disband after sixty years of existence, effective with the last meeting in June. This was a difficult decision for the members and involved a great deal of soul-searching and exploration into alternatives. After several months of research, members made the decision to disband, and formal notification to AAUW state and national offices was served. National by-laws stipulate that when a branch dissolves, histories and minutes must be archived in state or national historical museums, unless a local site is available to house the histories. Because the local Raytown Historical Society Museum did not have space for the scrapbooks from sixty years of existence, members decided the histories and minutes would be sent to the State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri, where they would be more accessible. A summary of the branch history would be given to the Raytown Historical Society Museum. Betty Trotter, Marilyn Bosso, Dorothy Fry, Anne Walters, and Sandra Frank were entrusted with this responsibility.



## Officers 2010–2014

Co-Presidents – Sandra Frank (2010–2011) and Marty Erickson

President – Marty Erickson (2011–2014)

Vice President for Programs – Dorothy Fry

Vice President for Membership – Susan Landers

Recording Secretary – Pam Ratliff (2010–2012)

Recording Secretary – Betty Trotter (2013–2014)

Corresponding Secretary – Alyse Stoll

Treasurer – Sarah Swaters

Historian – Susan Luce and Sally Ingram

### *St. Charles*

*(organized 1933)*

stcharles-mo.aauw.net

Teri Brecht

Several branch members along with AAUW St Louis Area Interbranch Council (IBC) branch members participated in the IBC “Adelante” Book Club which reviewed seven books a year. The International Relations Lecture Series was held the first Tuesday mornings in January to April at the Ethical Society in St. Louis. The Great Decisions discussion group met on the second and fourth Mondays, February through May, to discuss national and international topics. St. Charles Branch officers were also active in the St. Louis IBC which connected area branches (Ballwin-Chesterfield, Ferguson-Florissant, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, and St. Louis). In March members of the St. Charles Branch together with members from the other four branches attended the Spring Fling Luncheon.

Each February Warlene Reed presented a reading, history, or display to commemorate Black History Month. In March the branch recognized fourteen senior girls from seven area high schools who excelled in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). The young women, their parents, and nominating teachers were invited to attend the STEM Awards and Salad Supper hosted by the branch. What a delight to hear these young women share their interests and future educational plans! The branch also raised funds for scholarships for two graduating senior girls from St. Charles County; they were recognized at the May meeting. Each October branch meeting had a special cake, game, or activity to honor the October 11th birthday of Eleanor Roosevelt. An informal auction and game time was held at

November meetings with proceeds going to the Education and Training Fund (formerly the Educational Opportunities Fund). The branch earned the AAUW Missouri 10-Star Award each year. The branch purchased a brick at the base of the Lewis and Clark Statue in Frontier Park and also became a co-sponsor of the Women's Financial Education Series along with University of Missouri Extension; the five-session series is taught at the St. Charles Community College.

A Teatime Trivia, created in March **2011** by three members, raised funds for the local scholarships. This unique trivia (**2011–2019**) was attended by women only, asked women's interest categories/questions, and was held on a Saturday afternoon. Key Club students from Duchesne High School or St. Charles West High Schools helped and earned volunteer hours. The number of scholarships was increased from one to two for St. Charles County High School senior women. Each May the Annual Flea Market tables were set up for members to bring white elephant items or books, \$1 only donations, with funds going to the branch general fund.

### **2010–2011**

Over the summer several members began the arduous task of archiving the branch scrapbooks created since 1933. Materials were re-organized into acid-free sleeves and binders and were stored at Teri Brecht's home. Betty Takahashi received the Barbara Lackritz Service Award at the St Louis IBC Spring Fling Luncheon. At the STEM Awards, State President Julie Triplett presented a copy of AAUW's research publication *Why So Few? Women in STEM* to each high school. Mission Accomplished and Galaxy Awards were announced at the AAUW state meeting in May; Betty Takahashi received an AAUW Missouri Outstanding Member award. The local scholarship went to Katherine Phillips from Duchesne High School. Honorary Lifetime member Eleanor Randall passed away in July **2010**.

**Programs:** A "So You Think You Know AAUW Members?" game was played; "Women, Philanthropy, and the New AAUW," Diane Ludwig, St. Louis branch and National Fund Raiser chair; "Inside View of the State Legislature: My Experiences as One of the Few Women Legislators," Rachel Bringer; Equal Opportunity Fund (EOF) Auction, Rob Weiman; "Main Street Books," Vicki Erwin; "St Charles and Franklin School," Tom Stephenson; STEM Awards Night; "Is Autism Research Valuable?" Nicole Takahashi (also a **1987** local scholarship recipient); "Women in Opera: The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful, Diane McCullough.

### **2011–2012**

Over a dozen teal-colored tote bags were created by a member using the front of t-shirts with St. Louis and AAUW logos. Totes for any Missouri member were a \$15 donation to AAUW. Several members attended the Women's Network Luncheon with speaker Doris Dukes (Dukes vs Walmart). Six members volunteered at the

October Community Council Summit, and five members were featured as “Mystery Members” in each newsletter. Members had submitted five unique facts to share.

St. Charles Branch became a sponsor of University of Missouri Extension’s five-week class, “Women’s Financial Series.” Jane Hood became an AAUW Honorary Lifetime Member, and Betty Takahashi was nominated for the Woman of Distinction Award. Branch scholarships were awarded to Rebecca Vandaldbebe, Francis Howell Central High School, and Meagan Broadfield, Fort Zumwalt South High School. Longtime members Barbara Broadfoot, Dorothy Barklage, and Jeanne Huesemann passed away.

**Programs:** “Looking Back Through the Years,” a celebration of AAUW’s 130 years with cake, treat boxes, and reminiscing with newly constructed branch historian books; “One Room School to Franklin and Beyond,” Tom Stephenson; Fall Dinner Meeting with Speaker Margaret Donnelly, director of Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; “EOF Auction”; “St. Charles Women During the Civil War,” Dr. Gary McKiddy; STEM Awards and Salad Supper; “Habitat for Humanity of St Charles County,” Ashlee Johnson; “Creative Women in Our Midst,” Becky Tillinski, Joyce Rothermich, and Denise Lombardozi.

### **2012–2013**

Members registered voters at St. Charles Community College and Lindenwood University as part of AAUW’s ‘Get Out the Vote’ campaign. The documentary “The Invisible War” about sexual harassment in the military was shown as an IBC fundraiser. Sharon Tebbe shared a copy of the book she won, *Grace and Grit* by Lilly Ledbetter. Dual member Barbara Butchart received the **2013** Barbara Lackritz AAUW Service Award. Joyce Rothermich’s watercolor “Passionate Pink” was chosen as one of six works to be featured on AAUW notecards. Jane Hood became an AAUW Honorary Lifetime Member. Branch scholarships were awarded to Jaedyn Larson, Lutheran High School, and Paige Wulff, Orchard Farm High School. The branch lost members Genell Henderson and thirty-five-year member Phyllis Johnson.

**Programs:** “Rapid Access and File for Life Program SCC Ambulance District,” Kyle Gains; “Art in the Heart of St. Charles,” Amy Baue; “Administration of Justice in St Charles,” Judge Ted House; Annual Auction for EOF; “War of 1812,” Doris Franke, Historian, St. Charles Historical Society; “Exoduster Movement of 1879,” Warlene Reed; STEM Award Night; “Women of Courage,” Pam Kulp, Lorna Anderson, and Kathy Brown; “Opera...All That Jazz,” Diane McCullough.

### **2013–2014**

The St. Charles Branch celebrated its 80th anniversary. AAUW President Patricia Fae Ho sent a Certificate of Honor, and CEO Chair Linda Hallman sent a letter of congratulations. Joyce Rothermich designed a bookmark with a passionflower for each member. There was a review of branch history albums, quotes by Eleanor

Roosevelt, and members wearing hats, gloves, and clothing representing several decades. A feature in the newsletters this year was “Mystery Member” with several fascinating facts/clues to identify three members in each issue.

Warlene Reed’s Black History Month display included information about St. John African Methodist Episcopal church’s connection to First United Methodist Church in St. Charles. Spring Fling was held at Old Hickory Golf Course in St. Charles. Teri Brecht received the **2014** Barbara Lackritz AAUW Service Award with twenty-five branch members in attendance. A group photo was taken of nine Barbara Lackritz Award recipients attending. Branch scholarships were awarded to Courtney Vishy, Francis Howell North High School, and Ann Chen, Orchard Farm High School. Longtime member Virginia Terry passed away in May at age ninety-five.

**Programs:** “Gender Politics,” Representative Anne Zerr, Missouri 18th District; “Just Us—80 Years and Counting” with a review of branch history albums; Annual Dinner Meeting “One Day—Three Towns,” Vicki Erwin of Main Street Books; Annual EOF Auction; “Take Care of Yourself,” Angela Leonard; 20th Annual STEM Awards and Salad Supper; “Civil War Love Letter Project,” Molly Kodner, Associate Archivist; “One CAN Put One’s Eggs in One Basket, If that Basket is Built and Wired Correctly!” GSW, Inc.

(NOTE: The branch historian (**2014–2017**) passed away in September **2017** leaving the branch without newsletters, photos, awards, or certificates, etc. The historian’s binder was nowhere to be found! We were able to get copies of many photos, and one member donated past newsletters, but some history will remain forever incomplete, such as 10-Star and other annual certificates.)

### **2014–2015**

GOVT (Get-Out-the-Vote) training was presented by Dr. Pat Shores. Branch members set up a table at Lindenwood University in September to register college voters. Barbara Barnett, former AAUW Missouri president and St. Charles Branch member, became an AAUW Honorary Lifetime Member. In addition to the branch’s two local scholarships, Virginia Terry’s family awarded scholarships to two more young women from two St. Charles High Schools. Branch scholarships were awarded to Rebecca Cheng, Fort Zumwalt West High School, Katherine Balfany, Wentzville Holt High School, Nicole Roseman, St. Charles High School, and Elizabeth Overton, St. Charles West High School.

**Programs:** Experience,” Quancye Smith; The Honorable Rachel Bringer Shepherd, Missouri 10th Judicial Circuit Court; “AAUW FUNDS Action,” Rob-Lite; “Human Trafficking,” Laura Gardner, Covington House; “Title IX: The Ball is in the Women’s Court,” Julie Williams; STEM Awards and Salad Supper; “Health Care for All: Physicians for a National Program. The Solutions to Health Care

Delivery are Hiding in Plain Sight,” Dr. Ed Weisbert, MD and Dr. Mark Krasnoff, MD; “Saving the Environment with Native Plants,” Marla Stewart, master gardener, St. Charles Extension Center.

### **2015–2016**

St. Charles provided the program for Spring Fling, “Gateway Spotlight Chorus,” a Sweet Adeline’s women’s a-Capella four-part chorus based in St. Charles. Teri Brecht is a tenor in the chorus. Pam Kulp became a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle and received her pin in April. Member Frances Washington celebrated her 100th birthday on April 30; she joined AAUW in **1971**. Branch scholarships were awarded to Yushin Lee, Fort Zumwalt North High School, and Karen Rieffer, Francis Howell High School.

**Programs:** “NCCWSL” Sharon Lynn Pruitt, University of Missouri, St. Louis; “Women in Government—It is NOT Just for Men,” St. Charles County Councilwoman Cheryl Hibbeler; AAUW EOF Auction; “Main Street Book Reviews and New Selections,” Emily Hall; “Ferguson, MO—Positive Happenings,” John Powell, Ferguson Human Rights Commission and One Ferguson; STEM Awards and Salad Supper; “Court Watch Project,” Jessica Woolbright, co-founder of SLEVAWN (St. Louis Ending Violence Against Women Network); “History of Fashions,” Shannon Meyer, Senior Curator of the Missouri History Museum.

### **2016–2017**

Eleanor Roosevelt’s birthday was celebrated with one of her favorite foods—pie. In November’s newsletter were several quotes from women who ran for president: Belva Lockwood in **1884**, Margaret Chase Smith in **1964**, Ellen McCormack in **1976**, and Shirley Chisholm in **1972**. Sue Moellering attended the Washington DC Women’s March in January; Joyce Rothermich submitted two paintings for the AAUW Art Contest; and Dr. Jane Biehl, Sue Mollering’s sister from Ohio, presented a program with her hearing dog, Sita. Barbara Roach became a fifty-year Honorary Lifetime member of AAUW. Branch scholarships were awarded to Mikayla Hardy, Francis Howell High School, and Mary Bollinger, Fort Zumwalt South High School. Two longtime members passed away: Jackie Cooney, also a member of Boise, Idaho, Branch, and JoAnn Schnur. Both were AAUW honorary lifetime members.

**Programs:** “Are You the Center of the Universe?” Christine Nobbe, EdS, Educator and Space Enthusiast; “Sharity Charity: Fabric in Service,” Carole Splater; Annual EOF Auction; “Main Street Books: Update,” Emily Hall; “Safe Place,” Karen Sieve, Regional Safe Place Manager, Youth in Need; “Lemongrass Spa: Safe Skin Care,” Wendy Breeze; Annual STEM Awards and Salad Supper; “Here to Bump, Bump to Hear,” Dr. Jane Biehl and her hearing dog Sita from Ohio.

## **2017–2018**

October's dinner meeting with Representative Stacy Newman had a large attendance. In December Pam Kulp and Teri Brecht gift-wrapped books at Barnes & Noble in Ladue Crossing with donated tips going toward NCCWSL. A record eleven math and science teachers attended STEM Awards Night with their students. A decision was made by the branch to move the 7:00 p.m. evening meetings of AAUW to afternoon meetings at 1:30 p.m., except for the STEM and Scholarship Meetings where students and parents are involved. A one-time-only decision was made to honor three young women selected to each receive \$500 scholarships as there was a three-way-tie in scholastic abilities and extra-curricular activities. The scholarships were awarded to these students: Jennifer Ferry, Francis Howell Central High School; Unsun Lee, Fort Zumwalt South High School; and Alexandra Sabala, St. Dominic High School. Barbara Barnett, former Missouri State AAUW president, and Jane Hood passed away. Both were Honorary Lifetime Members.

**Programs:** "Writing Your Life Story," Charles Rogers; "State of the State," Stacy Newman, former Missouri House Rep. 87th District, St. Louis County; EOF Auction and Game Night; Emily Hall, "Main Street Books"; "Historian Book Night—Sharing Memories of AAUW"; 25th Annual STEM Awards and Salad Supper; "Dignity Period: Keeping Girls in School in Ethiopia," Angie Wiseman; "Show Me What AAUW MO is Doing," Karen Francis, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch and AAUW National Public Policy chair.

## **2018–2019**

The St. Charles Branch received an Incentive Grant to cover the registration fee for an information table at the Yellow Butterfly Workshop for the Midwest Human Trafficking Conference hosted by Lindenwood University in September. Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) information for registering to vote was available. The branch was fortunate to have a second program and visit with Dr. Jane Biehl (branch member Sue Moellering's sister) who earned three advanced degrees despite her loss of hearing, service dogs, and struggling with cancer since **2010**. Her careers include librarian, rehab counselor, college teacher, and author of three books and numerous magazine articles. Branch scholarships were awarded to Arianna Chaves and Stephanie Monson, both Francis Howell Central High School.

**Programs:** "Women Candidates in 2018," St. Charles County Councilor Cheryl Hibbler; "National Happening at the National Level of AAUW," Sue Barley, AAUW Director and member of Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch; Game Day and EOF Auction; "Main Street Books," Emily Hall; "Volunteers in Medicine," Dr. Sill; STEM Awards and Salad Supper; "Better Business Bureau: Fraud and Senior Scams," Matt Flinner; "Paw Prints on My Soul," Dr. Jane Biehl.

## 2019–2020

In October Dan Fuller introduced members to many of the ‘notorious’ women of St. Louis (including Virginia Minor) who are buried in Bellfontaine Cemetery. A special birthday “photo-cake” of Eleanor Roosevelt, plus photos of her life, adorned the snack table. Members correctly answered the quiz of her quotes. Before the auction, a short Ken Burns’ documentary of Elizabeth Cady Stanton was viewed. Pam Kulp, Rose Ann Weeks, and Teri Brecht again volunteered to wrap books for holiday gifts at the NCCWSL fund-raiser at Ladue’s Barnes & Nobel.

The Annual Salad Supper and STEM Awards were held on March 5, a week before all meetings and events were canceled to shelter at home for the Covid-19 pandemic. Warned at this time not to shake hands by experts such as Dr. Fauci, elbow bumps were the concluding gesture for the evening. March 12 marked the day sheltering at home began for the country. As of June, fifty scholarship applications had been reviewed individually by the committee members, but the two recipients had not been selected. Ruby Quarterman, a branch member since **1978**, passed away suddenly on December 28.

**Programs:** “Teacher to Writer: One Author’s Journey,” Stephanie Bearce; “Noteworthy and Notorious Women: Bellfontaine Cemetery,” Dan Fuller; Game Afternoon and AAUW Fund Auction; Main Street Books with reviews by Emily Hall Schroen; Storyteller for three of Missouri’s African American Women (Elizabeth Keckley, Mary Robinson, Lucy Ann Delaney), Carole Elaine Shelton from Missouri Humanities Council’s Show-Me Missouri Speakers’ Bureau; Annual Salad Supper and STEM Awards Night. Because of the pandemic, all further meetings, events, conferences, lecture series, etc., were canceled as of March 12, **2020**. Plans for future AAUW programs were halted indefinitely.

### *St. Louis*

*(organized 1893)*

stlouis-mo.aauw.net

Carol Davis McDonald and Sue Barley

The **2009–2010** program year began with our popular new salon format. The previous year it proved a great success as we discussed the impact of the arts on society. Next, we looked at an area AAUW has been instrumental in helping to grow—women and sports and Title IX. Members gathered in the front room (salon) of Connie Stoker’s three-story home. In true salon fashion, beginning with beautiful music (by Jan Scott on the flute) to set the tone and a bit of insightful poetry (by published poet Nancy Collins), some tasty refreshments, and intelligent minds, a

pre-selected topic was thrown out to see where the dialog would take us. Other topics included “A Woman’s Nation Changes Everything” and an extensive look at St. Louis women and their issues in **1881**.

Due to waning membership in our (and most) branches (and organizations), the “old way” of having monthly meetings, discontinued a few years earlier in favor of project-oriented meetings, continued during this decade. The branch began by studying sexual harassment policies on local college campuses during the previous few years, and we were selected to showcase our project at the AAUW national convention held in St. Louis in **2009**.

St. Louis area branches participated in AAUW’s Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) campaign by providing voter registration assistance held at a community health fair at the People’s Clinic in the City of St. Louis in 2012. In **2013** AAUW National congratulated the St. Louis Branch on its 120th anniversary, making us five years older than we thought.

In **2012** a program, “Women Working Outside the Box,” was presented at University of Missouri, St. Louis (UMSL) to introduce women students to alumnae in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields. Listening to their stories we hoped would help women become familiar with careers they had not thought of and help them to know what women already in the field had gone through to get where they were. Members attended UMSL’s Lifelong Learning program on human trafficking, a challenge to action.

In **2014** members helped raise money to hire a sculptress to create a bust of Virginia Minor, who led the fight for women’s suffrage in Missouri. Upon completion, the bust was dedicated in September at the Capitol in Jefferson City and placed in the Hall of Famous Missourians. Area members of AAUW (including four St. Louis branch members) and other organizations chartered a bus to attend the unveiling.

In **2015** the St. Louis Branch started a new project—to identify 250 notable women who contributed to the history of St. Louis City. Research was done by branch members, and AAUW university partners were invited to participate (St. Louis University, St. Louis College of Pharmacy, St. Louis Community College (STLCC)-Forest Park campus, Washington University, and Fontbonne University). The goal was to complete the project by early February **2015** and join with the Missouri History Museum in the closing events for the St. Louis City 250th Anniversary. The St. Louis Branch presented its project about inspiring trail blazers, freedom fighters, suffragists, and other empowered women on Saturday, February 21, **2015**, at the Buder Branch Library, 4401 Hampton Avenue. Bayless High School art students made a 250th anniversary cake for the event. A PowerPoint presentation of pictures of notable women scrolled on a laptop during the meeting. A repeat performance of the program was presented at the home of Fran Irwin on April 18,



2015, to members and friends who were unable to attend at the library. A few of the living notable women were present at both events. The list of the 250 women, which included dates, categories, and short summaries, was made available to others; and branch members offered to present the program to schools and other groups.

Another event, a legislative action forum on sexual assault, right to work, and minimum wage, was held in February **2016**. Our national focus on sexual assault was addressed by Divine Shelton, field representative for Senator Claire McCaskill. He discussed the status of the bill, Campus Accountability and Safety Act, and other efforts to combat sexual violence. Our state-level focus on right-to-work legislation was addressed by Missouri State Senator Joe Keaveny. Our local focus on minimum wage was addressed by Lyda Krewson, alderwoman and future mayor, City of St. Louis.

In **2017**, in cooperation with the St. Louis Press Club, the branch presented a luncheon forum on “Pay Inequity: Root Causes,” featuring panelists discussing labor and unions, Start Smart and Work Smart, and the impact of pay inequity on women of color. Branch member Susan Barley submitted a photo of her quilt, Green Tea and Sweet Beans, to the AAUW National annual art contest. Members participated in the Women’s March in downtown St. Louis. Another branch project involved Title IX. Based on the theme “Engage New Voices,” members developed a guide to provide an exploratory tool to get people to ask questions, not to provide specific answers per se. The guide was intended for use by colleges and universities.

Members also participated in the Women’s Action Resource (WAR) Project. As its first initiative, the WAR Project decided it was important to identify issues that matter to St. Louis women, to find out where the current St. Louis City mayoral candidates stood on those issues, and to develop ways of holding the next mayor accountable for his or her answers. WAR drafted eight questions about the issues relevant to St. Louis women, covering topics such as pay equity, housing, policing practices, and the treatment of immigrants. These questions were sent to each candidate. Their responses were sent out in a press release.

The kick-off event for the **2017–2018** year was a panel discussion of the AAUW convention in Washington, DC, by three area AAUW members who attended and shared their experiences and thoughts. A tabling event led by Sally McGowan was held in Forest Park as part of Earth Day **2018**. Members talked to many people about AAUW’s Work Smart program. In May the branch again partnered with the St. Louis Press Club with a program on “#MeToo and What’s Next: Three Perspectives on Sexual Harassment and Due Process in the Workplace,” which was moderated by a reporter from St. Louis Public Radio. Panelists were a supervisory investigator

from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, an attorney, and a partner of a public relations and marketing agency about human resources.

In February **2019** member Lorie Jackson and a guest speaker presented a workshop to St. Louis College of Pharmacy students, “Navigating the Gender Pay Gap: Strategies to Negotiate Your Best Career Opportunities,” providing an overview of gender pay equity in pharmaceutical and other medical fields; larger cultural change issues; why the gap widens over time; and how to create allies and build change management skills.

The branch also co-sponsored a candidate forum for president of the board of aldermen for the City of St. Louis held in the Central Library auditorium. With assistance from the AAUW Missouri State Incentive Grant Program and participation from other local branches, Sally McGowan once again organized a tabling event in Forest Park for Earth Day **2019**. Area AAUW leaders met with Gloria Blackwell, AAUW senior vice president, to discuss the Missouri Work Smart initiative and AAUW's online salary negotiation course. Gloria was able to clarify the AAUW National goals and timetable for Work Smart, beginning with getting 100,000 women to take the online course. Kansas City was one of six cities where Work Smart training was planned under a \$500K grant from Coca-Cola. St. Louis branch members who participated were Ellen Irons, Carol Davis McDonald, and Janet Scott.

In February **2020** a forum on pay equity was held in conjunction with the St. Louis Press Club concerning the history of why there is a pay gap and why it is so slow to change. The panel consisted of AAUW members, a representative of the Women’s Foundation of Greater St. Louis, and a state senator. Just before the outbreak of Covid-19 around the world, the St. Louis City Library, Schlafly Branch, sought to partner with the AAUW St. Louis Branch to provide Work Smart programs. One such event (Navigating the Gender Pay Gap) was planned for March 14, the day the city essentially closed for over a year due to Covid-19. As part of her state board position, Branch President Ellen Irons gathered a wealth of information about the 19th Amendment in celebration of the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote. Although in-person programs and activities were put on hold, the branch partnered with the St. Louis Metro League of Women Voters and AAUW Missouri to obtain 19th Amendment Centennial Celebration Proclamations from the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County. Starting in November **2020**, meetings, including the launch of a monthly Movie Discussion Club, were held via Zoom.

Each December (except for **2020**) members gathered at the home of Susan Barley to enjoy the holiday season. AAUW fellows attending area universities, as well as

students who attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) who were still in St. Louis, joined us to talk about their experiences and plans. At this time members learned or were reminded of AAUW Fund opportunities.

Members also participated in cooperative programs of the St. Louis Interbranch Council, such as the Downtown Lunch Group, the International Lecture Series at the Ethical Society, the Adelanté Book discussion group, and support of students at local partner universities to attend NCCWSL. We also attended the Missouri Women's Network's Equity Day at the Capitol each April and participated in the Legislative Retreat in January or February to discuss legislation on issues of concern to AAUW's mission. Each August we joined the Equality Day brunch in celebration of the 19th Amendment. Many also attended AAUW state Legislative Day, state leadership conferences and conventions, and regional and national conventions. Our branch was active in planning and promoting the annual IBC luncheon, Spring Fling.

Over this period, branch programming covered a variety of topics including: The Affordable Care Act, the status of Missouri Women study, current trends regarding sexual harassment at the UMSL campus, a sociological perspective of gender roles, and current AAUW issues (e.g., Title IX, bullying, Legal Advocacy Fund, and the gender wage gap).

The branch consistently ranked in the top ten in state awards for highest per capita giving and/or total giving to AAUW Fund, had two to three AAUW MO Century Club and Century Plus Club members each year, and always made its financial goals.

#### **Past Presidents**

**2009–2012** Diane B. Ludwig

**2012–2019** Janet (Jan) A. S. Scott  
and Carol Davis McDonald

**2019–2021** Ellen Irons

#### **Finance Officers**

**2010–2012** Carol Davis McDonald

**2012–2020** Susan Barley

**2020–2022** Candy Low

#### **Directors (2013–2020)**

**2013–2015** Yvette Goods

**2014–2016** Fran Irwin

**2015–2019** Ellen Irons

**2015–2020** Sally McGowan

**2017–2018** Lisa Taylor

**2019–2020** Lorie Jackson

### **Other Leadership Positions**

Janet Scott: program, **2010–2015**;  
membership, **2010–2011**

Nancy Collins: AAUW Fund, **2010–  
2014**

Amy Telthorst Weisser: secretary,  
**2010–2011**

Diane Ludwig: newsletter, **2011–2012**

Mary Bruemmer: AAUW Fund, **2011–  
2013**

Carol Davis McDonald: membership,  
**2011–2013**; communications, **2013–**

**2017**; branch directory, **2010–2018**;  
newsletter editor, **2013–2021**; web

page manager, **2010–2021**; Facebook  
page manager, **2018–2021**

Yvette Goods: public policy, **2012–  
2013**

Susan Barley: AAUW Fund, **2014–  
2020**; bylaws, **2014–2020**

### **AAUW Missouri Board**

Carol Davis McDonald: finance officer, **2010–2014**; newsletter editor, **2015–2018**

Susan Barley: bylaws/parliamentarian, **2010–2014**; vice president membership,  
**2014–2016, 2019–2020**, AAUW National liaison, **2018–2019**

Diane Ludwig: vice president programs, **2011–2013**; president-elect, **2013–2014**;  
president, **2014–2016**

Janet Scott: president-elect, strategic plan monitor, **2016–2020**; president, **2016–  
2018**; directory, **2016–2017**; nominating committee chair, **2019–2020**

Ellen Irons: public policy, **2018–2019**; 19th Amendment Task Force, **2020–2021**

### **AAUW National Positions**

Diane Ludwig: Fundraising Committee chair, **2010–2011**

Susan Barley: Breaking Through Barriers campaign, **2010–2011**; Fundraising

Committee, **2011–2015**; Leadership Corp, **2011–2013**; AAUW Legacy Circle  
Team, **2012–2020**; Regulatory Guidance Task Force, **2013–2014**; National

Board of Directors, **2015–2019**; AAUW Committee Appointments Task Force  
chair, **2015–2019**; AAUW Nominating Committee, **2019–2020**

Margaret Weck: St. Louis College of Pharmacy C/U representative, **2010–  
2018**

### Named Gift

#### Honorees (Honored by the Branch)

Mary Bruemmer	<b>2010</b>	Janet Scott	<b>2016</b>
Ellen Irons	<b>2015</b>	Ellen Irons	<b>2018</b>
Sally McGowan	<b>2015</b>	Lorie Jackson	<b>2018</b>
Susan Barley	<b>2016</b>		

#### AAUW Missouri Outstanding Member (Honored by the State)

Susan Barley	<b>2011</b>
Carol Davis McDonald	<b>2012</b>
Susan Barley	<b>2014</b>

#### Barbara Lackritz Service Award (Honored by St. Louis IBC)

Diane Ludwig	<b>2012</b>
Janet Scott	<b>2016</b>

### *St. Louis Interbranch Council*

*(established 1970)*

Shirley Breeze and Pat Kelemen

St. Louis Interbranch Council (IBC) is the umbrella organization for AAUW branches in the greater St. Louis area. Those branches are Ballwin-Chesterfield, Ferguson-Florissant, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, and St. Louis. The Creve Coeur branch disbanded in **2016**. The Council meets quarterly.

IBC promotes events and initiatives that further AAUW's mission and supports the branches in carrying it out. It is instrumental in the selection and financing of young college women to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland, College Park. Recent attendees included Kenyatta Thacker, **2012**; Abigail Sturmer, **2013**; Ebony Williams; Quancye Smith, **2014**; Sharon Pruitt, **2015**; Liz Koenig and Janet Kagoda, **2016**; Lydia Richardson and Jiji Oufattole, **2017**; Taylor Michl and Shima Rostami, **2018**; and Julia Spoerry and Panashe Gadaga, **2019**.

IBC supported the Work Smart campaign, encouraging branches to have their members complete the questionnaire and printing hundreds of Work Smart bookmarks to increase public awareness. IBC also participated in several types of tabling events to increase public visibility, including at various Farmers' Markets and Earth Day celebrations in Forest Park. Besides encouraging individual branches

to hold Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) events, IBC itself sponsored GOTV events each election year and continued its long-time support of the International Relations Lecture Series, a partnership between AAUW and the Ethical Society of St. Louis.

The major annual event was Spring Fling. This luncheon for members of all five branches and guests was a festive opportunity to see one another, enjoy an interesting program, and raise needed funds for IBC. An important feature was presenting the Barbara Lackritz AAUW Service Award to an outstanding AAUW member. Over the last decade, these women received the award: Betty Takahashi, **2011**; Diane B. Ludwig, **2012**; Barbara Butchart, **2013**; Teresa Brecht, **2014**; Deb McWard, **2015**; Janet Scott, **2016**; Kay Meyer, **2017**; Karen Francis, **2018**; Marsha Koch, **2019**; and Mary G. Jermak, **2020**.

A key fundraiser each year was gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble during the holiday season. With donations from customers, we wrapped books and other purchases to fund the bookmarks we printed, memberships in civic groups, and other expenses.

### *Springfield*

*(organized 1908, disbanded 2017)*

Donna Medlin

After the celebration of Springfield AAUW's 100th anniversary with the AAUW Missouri state board on the Drury College, now University, campus, the promise of increased membership was revitalized. Several members of the Drury faculty were interested in forming a branch that would meet on the Drury campus. There were several attempts to integrate the two groups. Unfortunately, the plan was not successful. Springfield AAUW continued to hold regular meetings and book discussion groups.

In **2012** the branch co-sponsored a local candidate forum with the League of Women Voters. The group studied local voter registration data and discovered that women in the 18 to 30 age group were those least likely to be registered to vote and to actually vote in elections. The branch sponsored several voter registrations drives and Get-Out-the-Vote activities.

Membership and potential leaders dwindled, but innovative structures and co-leaders were attempted. In late **2015**, the group celebrated the fifty-year AAUW membership of Virginia True. In June of **2016**, AAUW members were saddened to receive news from Kansas regarding the death of ninety-nine-year-old Betty Snodgrass who had been the heart and soul of Springfield AAUW for many years.

Dr. Rhonda Thompson and Jamie Schweiger took the lead in increasing AAUW presence on the Missouri State University campus. Unfortunately, both moved from Springfield in **2016**.

Sadly, the branch did not have enough members or leaders to survive and began the disbandment process with the final resolution occurring in **2017**. The Springfield AAUW papers are archived at the Drury University library.

Post Note: Dr. Holly Holladay assisted some young women in establishing a student AAUW organization at Missouri State University in **2018**. Several members of the group served on a panel at the AAUW state conference in Columbia. The Virginia Craig Endowed Scholarship that was established by Dr. Craig and other AAUW members in her honor many years ago still continues for a student at Missouri State.

### ***Warrensburg***

*(organized 1920, disbanded 2015)*

Warrensburg Branch records are stored in the State Historical Society of Missouri Center for Missouri Studies, Columbia, Missouri.

# Appendix

## Missouri State Past Presidents

- 2010–2012** Julia Triplett, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch
- 2012–2014** Linda Berube, Kansas City Branch
- 2014–2016** Diane B. Ludwig, Columbia Branch
- 2016–2018** Jan Scott, St. Louis Branch
- 2018–2020** Kay Meyer, Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch
- 2020–2022** Sue Shineman, Independence Branch

## Missouri Woman of Distinction Award Recipients

The award is given biennially to a woman who has promoted the missions and values of AAUW in her branch and community.

- 2012** Julia Triplett, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch
- 2014** Betty Takahashi, St. Charles Branch, and Joyce Guard Schuetz, Creve Coeur Branch
- 2016** Dr. Mary Emily Kitterman, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, and Maurita Stueck, Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch
- 2018** Diane B. Ludwig, Columbia Branch, and Carolyn Gray Thornton, Nevada Branch
- 2020** Marjorie Boudreaux, Joplin Branch, and Donna Meyer, Boonville Branch (posthumously)

## Outstanding Member Award Recipients

- 2011** Susan Barley, Jane Biers, Marsha Koch
- 2012** Gloria Bandstra, Grace Butler, Carol Davis McDonald, Betty Takahashi
- 2013** Holly Burgess, Ellen Johnson, Joyce Katz, Pat Shores
- 2014** Susan Barley, Renee Hornsby, Yvonne Morrison
- 2015** Shirley Breeze, Julia Triplett
- 2016** Linda Berube
- 2017** Karen Francis, Pat Shores
- 2018** Marsha Koch
- 2019** Marianne Fues
- 2020** Lynne Roney



## **College University Partner Members, November 2020**

Columbia College, Columbia  
Cotley College, Nevada  
Culver-Stockton College, Canton  
Maryville University of St. Louis  
Metropolitan Community Colleges of  
    Kansas City  
Missouri State University  
Park University  
St. Louis College of Pharmacy

St. Louis Community College, St. Louis  
Stephens College, Columbia  
University of Missouri, Columbia  
University of Missouri, Kansas City  
University of Missouri, St. Louis  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Webster University, St. Louis  
William Jewel College, Liberty

## **AAUW Student Organizations**

Park University, **2016–2017**

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