



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS *together!*
AAUW Central States Regional Conference

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
October 19-21, 2023



The Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch

2 South 4th Street, St. Louis, MO 63102 314-231-3003 www.DruryHotels.com



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision

Equity for all.

Values

Nonpartisan - Fact-based - Principled - Inclusive - Intersectional

Diversity Statement

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.



Conference Book Index

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AAUW Central States Regional Conference

October 19-21, 2023 - St. Louis, MO

WELCOME! This conference planned, presented and sponsored by the following states:

**Arkansas (AR), Illinois (IL), Indiana (IN), Iowa (IA), Kansas (KS), Michigan (MI),
Minnesota (MN), Missouri (MO), Oklahoma (OK), Texas (TX), and Wisconsin (WI)**

ALL MEETINGS HELD IN THE 4th FLOOR LEWIS & CLARK BALLROOM

QUICK AGENDA

THURSDAY, October 19, 2023

- 10:00—5:30 Registration and Displays Open
- 1:00 Conference Welcome and Opening Session
- 1:15 Inclusion – Infusion
- 1:35 Keynote Address — Lisa Maatz
- 2:20 Movin’ & Groovin’ Time — Illinois
- 2:30 Health & Reproductive Rights — Vanessa Wellbery
- 3:15 1) Strengthening Advocacy — Lisa Maatz OR
2) Assumptions and Bias — Deanie Brown
- 4:15 Swap Shops 1A and 1B (6 topics each session)
- 5:30 Networking Time and Drury Kickback
- 7:00 HERstory Performance / Taste of St. Louis
- 9:00 Group Photos—States in Group 1

FRIDAY, October 20, 2023

- 7:00-11:00 Registration
- 8:00-5:30 Displays Open
- 8:00 Welcome and Announcements
- 8:15 Inclusion — Infusion
- 8:30 Keynote Address — Gloria Blackwell
- 9:25 Swap Shops 2A and 2B (6 topics each session)
- 10:30 Town Hall — Gloria Blackwell
- 11:00 Movin’ & Groovin’ Time—Arkansas

FRIDAY—continued

- 11:10 Gender Pay Gap — Karen Kedrowski
- 11:50 Luncheon and Panel of AAUW Board Members
- 1:45 Trending Topics (4 presentations)
- 2:40 Trending Topics (4 presentations)
- 3:30 Movin’ & Groovin’ Time—Michigan
- 3:40 Swap Shops 3A & 3B (6 topics each session)
- 4:45 AAUW Fund Presentation
- 5:30 Networking; Drury Kickback, Breaktime
- 6:45 Dinner Buffet; Legacy Circle Recognitions
- 8:15 Panel of National Committee Members
- 9:30 Group Photos—States in Group 2

SATURDAY, October 21, 2023

- 8:00 Welcome, Announcements, Evaluations
- 8:10 1619 Freedom School Project — Sheritta Stokes
- 9:00 ERA: Equality is Overdue — Meghan Kissell
- 9:40 Break; Check Out
- 10:00 Counterpart Sessions (6 topics)
- 10:45 Voting Rights & Challenges —Denise Lieberman
- 11:20 Lessons Learned / Take-a-Ways
- 11:45 Conference Closing Session
- NOON Conference concludes

See pages 5-9 for detailed daily agendas



Meet Me In St. Louis Song Lyrics

ORIGINAL LYRICS

Meet me in St. Louis, Louis,
 Meet me at the Fair,
 Don't tell me the lights are shining
 Any place but there.
 We will dance the Hoochee Koochee,
 I will be your tootsie wootsie,
 If you will meet me in St. Louis, Louis,
 Meet me at the Fair.

SPECIAL AAUW Conference Lyrics

Meet us in St. Louis, Louis,
 Meet us at the Arch,
 Let us celebrate our mission,
 As we grow and listen.
 We will share our Swap Shop info
 While we advocate the pros,
 When you meet us in St. Louis, Louis,
 Meet us at the Arch.

Meet us in St. Louis, Louis,
 Meet us at the Arch,
 We will challenge each to think more,
 And to talk galore.
 We will ask and search the issues,
 We will eat and talk and share,
 When you meet us in St. Louis, Louis,
 Meet us at the Arch.

Meet us in St. Louis, Louis,
 Meet us at the Arch,
 We are mighty with a strong voice,
 As we choose prochoice.
 We will learn, discuss and ponder,
 And we members never wander.
 When you meet us in St. Louis, Louis,
 Meet us at the Arch!

"Meet Me in St. Louis" is a popular song from 1904 when St. Louis hosted the World's Fair, which celebrated the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The words were by Andrew B. Sterling, and the music by Kerry Mills. At that time, it was recorded by many artists. Later, in 1944, the song and the Fair were again focal

(Special lyrics by Jan Carey, MN)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Conference Bags — Inside you will find a *MS* magazine, a logo notebook, AAUW pen, and many other treats.

Site Committee — The ladies in the teal sashes are St. Louis area AAUW members here to assist you.

Attendees List — A list of attendees, with contact info, will be available on Friday after the luncheon.

Presentations and Handouts—All presentations and handouts shared by presenters will be posted to the AAUW MO website at aauw-mo.aauw.net.

Hotel Kickback Time — Hotel guests enjoy complimentary hot food options, soups, and salads, plus two drink tickets, 5:30-7:00 pm daily in hotel lobby dining area. (Non-hotel guests need to purchase Kickback tickets; cost: \$12.05.)

State Photos — Group photos will be taken on Thursday and Friday at the end of the events. State members should be TOGETHER and ready.

Thursday Group 1: Arkansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, and Oklahoma

Friday Group 2: Kansas, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Texas, and Wisconsin



2023 Detailed Agenda and Session Information

All sessions held on 4th floor in Lewis & Clark Ballroom

Thursday, October 19, 2023 (all times Central Daylight Savings Time)

10:00-5:30 Registration

1:00 pm Welcome, Opening Ceremony - Karen Francis, AAUW Missouri President

AAUW Mission—All , led by Karen Francis, Missouri
 Presentation of the Flag - Diane B. Ludwig (MO) and Conference Planning Committee *see page 24 for notes on special flag
 Pledge of Allegiance - Dr. A. Patricia Shores, Missouri
 Reading of the Land Acknowledgment Statement - Donna Becker, Kansas
 History of Hotel - Stephanie Watts, Drury Hotel
 Singing of *Meet Me In St. Louis* - Pam Meyers, Missouri, see page 4 for lyrics

(Please see pages 18-24 for bios, photos, and contact information for our speakers and presenters)

1:15 pm Inclusion-Infusion Exercise led by She Shineman, Missouri

1:30 pm Keynote: Challenges Facing Member-Driven Organizations

Lisa Maatz, Gender Equity Specialist, Independent Non-Profit Consultant

Join Lisa to discuss key issues and challenges of member-driven organization in today's changing world. How do we identify the ones impacting AAUW and what are the possible solutions? Lisa will lead us in looking at things from new perspectives and assess shifting values.

2:20 Movin' & Groovin' Time — Illinois AAUW

2:30 pm Issues & Actions: Women's Health and Reproductive Rights

Vanessa Wellbery, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy, Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri

Since the fall of *Roe v. Wade*, a patchwork of state laws have caused confusion and revealed stark differences in access across the country, with some states enacting abortion bans, and others strengthening protections and expanding access. Planned Parenthood has long been on the forefront of this very personal issue. Wellbery leads the policy and advocacy programs in Illinois and Missouri for a Planned Parenthood affiliate with health centers in both states. During this conversation-style session, she'll provide her on-the-ground perspective working in both a protective and restrictive state and share what has unfolded since the fall of *Roe*, the impact on patients, health care providers, and advocates, and how we can all engage in efforts to build reproductive rights and freedom.

Short Break—Walls moved for next session

3:15 pm ISSUES AND ACTIONS; Select one of following sessions

A) Public Policy—Strengthening Advocacy: Working Across Generational Lines

Lisa Maatz, Gender Equity Specialist, Independent Consultant

Mobilizing new generations for advocacy work is a must, and Lisa will speak to that issue as well as share ways we can work together to advance women's rights in a changing landscape.

B) Unconscious Assumptions and Implicit Bias: We All Have Them—Now What Do We Do With Them?

Deanie Brown, Attorney, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Illinois Judicial Branch (via ZOOM)

"Who me? Biased? That's not who I am!" That's likely our first reaction - a deeply felt and absolutely understandable response. But research confirms we begin to form instant associations as toddlers. These assumptions are often automatic and become reinforced through societal messages, persistent stereotypes, and shared norms, often contrary to our positive beliefs and good intentions. This presentation explores the ways what's known as implicit biases can cause harm and impede progress, and explores ways to recognize, interrupt, and counteract them in our lives and in our AAUW branches.



Detailed Agenda and Session Information

(Please see pages 18-24 for bios, photos, and contact information for our speakers and presenters)

Thursday—continued

Short Break—Walls moved for next session

4:15-5:15 pm Swap Shops Sessions (see page 11 & 12 for sessions, descriptions, and states presenting)

We appreciate your flexibility as we relocate within the rooms for these exciting presentations.

4:15-4:45 Session 1-A

4:45-5:15 Session 1-B

5:30 pm Enjoy the Drury Kickback time and treats in the main lobby; network, network, network!

7:00 pm Voices of American HERstory—An inspiring look at our history!

Enjoy hearing from three accomplished women who will present the stories of three key leaders in our early women’s movement in America.

Jenny Grace Morris (Susan B. Anthony), Rebecca Now, (Elizabeth Cady Stanton) and Tia Adkins (Sojourner Truth) will recite actual speeches of these pioneering activists and share their stories. They then stay in character for a Q & A time, so have your questions ready and be prepared. They just may have a surprise for us! ENJOY and LEARN! (Assisting them will be Cathy Babis and Kelly Croy.)



8:15 pm A Taste of St. Louis—Following the performance will be three tasty treats: Gus’s Pretzels, Ted Drewes Frozen Custard (not ice cream), and toasted ravioli! The perfect nightcap!

STATE PHOTOS — Group 1: Arkansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Each state should have one person’s phone camera ready for Photo Team to use. Photo Team will also take a photo.

Friday, October 20, 2023 (all times Central Daylight Savings Time)

7:00-11:00 Registration Open

8:00 am Welcome, Announcements, Housekeeping - Karen Francis, AAUW MO President

8:15 am Inclusion-Infusion Exercise led by She Shineman, Missouri

8:35 am Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO

Advancing Equity Together: Manifesting AAUW’s Mission for a Strong Future

CEO Gloria L. Blackwell will provide a National update from AAUW and discuss the successes and ongoing challenges faced by nonprofits and their leaders within the current landscape. She will also share how affiliates can continue to manifest AAUW’s mission for gender equity as we all work together to ensure the ongoing sustainability and impact of AAUW well into the future!

Short Break—Walls moved for next session

9:25-10:20 am Swap Shops Sessions (see pages 13 & 14 for sessions, descriptions, and presenters)

We appreciate your flexibility as we relocate within the rooms for these exciting presentations.

9:25-9:50 Session 2-A

Visit Room D to see ‘Display Only’

9:50-10:15 Session 2-B

Swap Shops on Friday, 8:00-5:00.

Short Break—Walls moved for next session



Detailed Agenda and Session Information

(Please see pages 18-24 for bios, photos, and contact information for our speakers and presenters)

Friday, October 20, 2023 - continued

10:30 am TOWN HALL with Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO

What do you want to know about AAUW? What do you want to share about your AAUW branch/state? Questions will be submitted from the audience on cards, sorted, and presented to her during the session.

11:00 am Movin' & Groovin' Time - Arkansas AAUW

11:10 am KEYNOTE: It's Complicated: The Causes and Consequences of the Gender Pay Gap

**Karen Kedrowski, Director of Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics;
Professor of Political Science, Iowa State University**

Why does the Gender Wage Gap exist? Sex discrimination is only one reason. Yet, the consequences of the gender wage gap are real, both in terms of women's income but also their families' wellbeing and their retirement income. Come to this session to learn more.

11:50 am LUNCH - Buffet Meal

12:45 pm AAUW Key Issues Panel; National Board Members Malinda Gaul (TX) and Jeanie Latz (MO)

Moderator for Leadership section: Sheila Blair (MI)

- 1) Membership and Degree Requirement Vote in 2024
- 2) Leadership and Succession Planning

During Q&A time, please use cards to submit questions

Short Break—Walls moved for next session

1:45-2:30 pm TRENDING TOPICS; select ONE of the four to attend

1) Gender Isn't Binary / AAUW Focus on Intersectionality (Room A)

Susan Halla, President, TransParent / Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Public Policy Director

Gender is a perception of self that comes from the brain. Today gender has become a coded political message and rallying cry, denying parents and transgender people of basic rights and humanity. Gender has long been distinct from sex. After this presentation, you will come away with a deeper understanding of the differences between gender, sex, and sexuality, as Susan discusses her experience raising her transgender son and the impact it has had on their lives. AAUW has a long and strong focus on Intersectionality, which Meghan Kissell will share.

2) What's Happening to Libraries? Censorship and Legislative Issues Impacting Your Community Library (ZOOM session) (Room B)

Colleen Norman, Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair, Missouri Library Association

Censorship has been on the rise across the U.S. in recent years with 2022 seeing a startling number of censorship attempts reported to the American Library Association. Learn more about how your library could be impacted and what you can do to support your local library and community.

3) Ending Period Poverty (ZOOM Session) (Room C) Janai Harris, Director, More Chances Period

A recent survey shows 46 percent of young women have skipped a class because of menstruation. Skipping classes is knowledge lost. More Chances Period provides period supplies, free, so that doesn't happen. In 2022, the organization served 17,338 young women, mostly at schools. Learn what motivated founder, Janai Harris, to want to make a difference.

4) Gen Z Voting Issues and Public Safety (Room D) Rachel Gonzales, Social Justice Advocate

Rachel Gonzalez will present topics important to Gen-Z, including voting rights and the epidemic of gun violence. She began her career in advocating for issues at the age of 13. Learn from this dynamic young woman why she is so passionate about what she does. Gen Z is looking at things with new eyes and in new ways—come talk to this young leader in her field.



Detailed Agenda and Session Information

(Please see pages 18-24 for bios, photos, and contact information for our speakers and presenters)

Friday, October 20, 2023 - continued

2:35-3:30 pm TRENDING TOPICS—select ONE of the four to attend

5) On Tribal Lands (Room A) Donna Becker, Native American Advocate; Program VP, AAUW Kansas

This session will focus on awareness of Native American tribes' dispossession of their ancestral lands by European colonial settlers, which destroyed not only hundreds of thousands of lives but an entire way of life. Considered will be Manifest Destiny, the Indian Removal Act, assimilation, and tribal sovereignty; issues of stereotypes and language; Indigenous history and culture in school curricula; and ways in which AAUW members can promote understanding, accountability, and appropriate support.

6) Education in a Changing Landscape: Title IX and Student Debt (Room B)

Megan Kissell, AAUW Senior Public Policy Director

Students shouldn't be political pawns. In the past few years, we have seen substantial threats to Title IX, the law that protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs. Learn more about what to expect with the proposed new Title IX rules from the Department of Education and hear about Congressional efforts to address gender-based harassment and discrimination in schools. We will also talk about the impact of debt-financed higher education, its impact on women, and steps being taken to address this.

7) Improving Maternal and Infant Outcomes in America - The Arkansas Story (ZOOM Session) (Room C)

Zenobia Harris, Executive Director, Arkansas Birthing Project

The U.S. leads the industrialized world in our rate of maternal mortality and infant mortality. Unfortunately, Maternal Mortality in the U.S. has risen significantly over the past 10 years. Arkansas has the highest Maternal Mortality rate in the U.S. This presentation will explore the causes identified and interventions being promoted to address this dismal situation. Community based solutions including Doula support, Community Health workers and volunteer net-works are being promoted as an answer to the gaps which need to be filled in the care delivery system for pregnant women.

8) Gen Z to Millennials: Issues and Advocacy — PANEL (Room D)

Lincoln University Students (MO) led by Kathleen Turner Ledgerwood, professor and moderator;

LU Students: Re'Nayjah Burton & Emma Nunamaker; and Rachel Gonzalez, Social Justice Advocate

How does the next generation see issues and advocacy? It is not business as usual. Learn what is on their minds, how they see advocacy and social justice work, and how we can work together to continue making progress.

3:30 pm Movin' & Groovin' Time - Michigan AAUW

3:40 pm-4:30 Swap Shops Sessions (see page 15 & 16 for sessions, descriptions, and presenters)

We appreciate your flexibility as we relocate within the rooms for these exciting presentations.

3:40-4:05 Session 3-A

4:05-4:35 Session 3-B

Short Break—Walls moved for next session

4:45-5:30 pm AAUW Fund — Demystifying AAUW's Greatest Needs

Susan Barley, AAUW Advancement Committee, Legacy Circle Team

Diane B. Ludwig, Fundraising Advocate, former Chair, AAUW National Fundraising Committee

The AAUW Fund does amazing things! Learn how the money raised goes to advance the mission work of AAUW. Session also includes fundraising planning, sharing of ideas that work, and insights on national fundraising trends.



Detailed Agenda and Session Information

(Please see pages 18-24 for bios, photos, and contact information for our speakers and presenters)

Friday, October 20, 2023 - continued

6:45 pm Buffet Dinner and Legacy Circle Recognition Event

Prior to meal, new Legacy Circle members will be welcomed and current ones recognized.

8:15 pm Panel: What Keeps AAUW Ticking? National Committees.

AAUW National Committee Members

Mary Smith, TX, moderator; Sue Barley, MO; Jan Carey, MN; Malinda Gaul, TX; Melissa LaDuke, WV; and Gloria Long, TX; joined by Mehgan Kissell, Senior Public Policy Director

National committees need you! Come learn about the roles of the committees. Do you know how the 8 national committees assist the national board and how they help branches and states with challenges? See where your leadership skills, interests, and knowledge might best fit one of the national committees and how to apply to join one. You are important and are needed!

During Q&A time, cards will be used to submit questions.

STATE PHOTOS — Group 2: Kansas, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Texas, and Wisconsin Each state should have one person's phone camera ready for Photo Team to use. Photo Team will also take a photo.



Saturday, October 21, 2023 (all times Central Daylight Savings Time)

8:00 am Welcome, Announcements, Evaluation Forms —Karen Francis, AAUW MO President

8:10 am 1619 Freedom School Project (“Liberation through Literacy”)

Sheritta Stokes, VP of Freedom School Project and Co-Director of Curriculum

The 1619 Freedom School program is dedicated to delivering intensive literacy instruction and a culturally responsive curriculum to bridge the academic opportunity gap among low-income public-school students in Waterloo, Iowa. Learn about our obstacles and triumphs and get a peak into the world of our scholars.

9:00 am ERA – Because Equality Is Overdue

Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Public Policy Director

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). For 100 years, we have lived with the gender pay gap, reproductive and health care inequities, and other persistent disparities. Equality is long overdue. Come hear about the efforts to mobilize an inclusive multi-generational, multi-racial coalition in support of true gender equality.

9:40 am BREAK / Check out

10:00 am AAUW Counterpart Sessions — Attend any session you wish.

Presidents Session—Led by Mary Smith (TX)

Program VPs Session—Led by Barb Duran (MI) and Linda Kervorkian (MI)

Membership VPs Session - Led by Susie Watson (MO) and Maggie Winz (WI)

Finance Officers Session—Led by Linda Berube (MO)

Public Policy Session—Led by Diane Kearns (IA)



AAUW Central States Regional Conference

October 19-21, 2023 - St. Louis, MO

Saturday, October 21, 2023 - continued

- 10:45 am The Ongoing Fight for the Right to Vote**
Denise Lieberman, Director and Legal Counsel of Missouri Voter Protection Coalition
 Our democracy is under assault. Over the last decade, the Supreme Court has weakened the Voting Rights Act, partisan actors have taken control over elections, election officials are being threatened, and states around the country have passed voting restrictions targeting young voters, seniors, voters of color, voters with disabilities and women. The 2020 elections and unchecked disinformation have added fuel to the fire. But there is hope in the examples of communities coming together to demand their rightful place at the table. Join this session with a voting rights lawyer who has been in the trenches to learn about the state of voting rights, and how we can reclaim our democracy and ensure all voices can be heard.
- 11:20 am Lessons Learned and Great ideas to Take Home! Karen Francis and Sue Shineman**
- 11:45 am Conference Closing Session — Karen Francis, MO State President**
- 12:00 Noon Conference Concludes**

Please leave evaluations in the basket or with Site Committee members. Safe Travels Home!



EVENT SPONSORS

We THANK the following donors for their generosity is helping make this conference possible.

AAUW members love to get together. So here we are! Several states decided to come together and hold a conference. Funding is always key to success. We asked each state to assist with a gift to the general conference fund, and they responded generously. In addition, some branches also made gifts to the fund. Several other anonymous gifts were received along the way, all greatly enhancing the budget. In total, we started with just over \$7,800 in our conference fund, most directed for speakers. Our sincere thanks to ALL who made this possible!

Arkansas State Board
 Illinois State Board
 Indiana State Board
 Iowa State Board
 Kansas State Board
 Michigan State Board
 Minnesota State Board
 Missouri State Board

Texas State Board
 Wisconsin State Board
 Albert Lea Branch, MN
 Hibbing Branch, MN
 Willmar Branch, MN
 Southwest Central Regional Fund
 Anonymous Donor



SWAP SHOP SESSIONS

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Session 1-A 4:15—4:45 pm



Handouts for sessions may be found using this QR code, then search by title.

	Room A	Room B	Room C
Front of Room	<p>IA The Iowa eNetwork — Zoom to Success</p> <p>Mary Ann Ahrens, Iowa Leader (maahrens@mchsi.com)</p> <p>Maxine Lampe, Iowa Leader (lampe.maxine@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History—How and why we do it • How our eNetwork recruits and plans the year’s program • Pros and Cons of a virtual branch <p>(session repeats on Friday in session 3-B)</p>	<p>MO Creative Fundraising in Difficult Times</p> <p>Independence Branch</p> <p>Karol Palmer, Branch Board (palmer9141@sbcglobal.net)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member driven • Community supported • Events and results 	<p>MO Collaborating and Networking with our College/University Partners</p> <p>Canton Branch</p> <p>D’Ann Campbell, Branch Board Culver-Stockton College CU Rep (dcampbell@culver.edu)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making that first contact • Educating Partners about the benefits of AAUW • Co-sponsoring programs and speakers • Creating awards, certificates and scholarships for college/university women students
Back of Room	<p>MO Cities for CEDAW (Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women)</p> <p>Alice Kitchen, MO State Board; Natl Public Policy Committee (inthekitchenak@gmail.com)</p> <p>Gail James, Branch Board (gljames@swbell.net)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why a city should become a City for CEDAW. • What are the benefits—who is a City for CEDAW? • Steps - Resolutions - Ordinance • Obstacles to anticipate 	<p>MO Diversity, Equity & Inclusion - How We Got Here. Missouri’s Journey to a Successful Program</p> <p>Luna Mukherjee, MO State Board; National DEI Committee (lunam2012@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Journey • Our Efforts • Our Activities <p>(session repeats on Friday in session 3-B)</p>	<p>KS The 8th International Women’s Day Celebration in Manhattan, Kansas</p> <p>Manhattan Branch</p> <p>Usha Reddi, Branch Board (ulr12345@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging community members in a conversation about gender equity in the U.S. and around the world • Partnerships with other organizations • Signature event recognized by the city, university, school district, and local media • Livestreaming and technology used for event on Facebook for viewers outside of Manhattan (KS)



SWAP SHOP SESSIONS


THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Session 1-B 4:45—5:15 pm



Handouts for sessions may be found using this QR code, then search by title.

	Room A	Room B	Room C
Front of Room	<p>MO STEM Action in Schools</p> <p>Sandra Murdock, MO State Board (sesandram@aol.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring STEM focus to elementary and high school Share creative and successful programs/projects Share various recognition programs Utilization of state website 	<p>IA TWO 15-minute SESSIONS</p> <p>1) Math Magic and Science</p> <p>Secrets: STEM Workshop for Girls</p> <p>Indianola Branch Jackie Brittingham and Jo Richey (jackie.brittingham@simpson.edu) (jorichey2@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STEM Workshop for 4th-5th grade girls in rural Iowa county Partner with Simpson College's "Diversity in STEM" student organization Emphasis on promoting role of women and girls in STEM Community partnerships (presenters from regional organizations) <hr/> <p>2) Reviving ¡Adelante!</p> <p>Davenport-Bettendorf Branch Elaine Kresse, Branch Board (elainekresse2@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use fact-based books and technologies for blogs/zooms Bring national members into conversation Work on developing diversity of minds 	<p>MO Ten-Star Branch Action Plan for Mission Growth</p> <p>Su Bacon, MO State Board (pigsubacon@aol.com)</p> <p>Diane B Ludwig, MO State Board (DBLudwig22@aol.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage branches in evaluating current work Set state goals in ten areas for action in AAUW mission work Focus board/committees in assisting branches in achieving various goals Recognize and reward branches for achievements in the various areas (STARS) <i>(11 of Missouri's 16 branches are now 10-Star branches and 3 others achieve 6-8 STARS)</i>

<p style="text-align: center;">Back of Room</p>	<p>MI So You Want to Serve on Your State Board? Barb Duran, MI State Board (barbduranaauw@gmail.com)</p> <p>Linda Kevorkian, MI State Board (kevorkianlk@gmail.com)</p> <p>THURSDAY AFTERNOON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share state board roles • Talk about how board positions work at state level • What resources are available to branches through the state board • How state board members are equipped to assist branches with their challenges 	<p>TX Working with Girls Inc. to Share AAUW Goals Tarrant County Branch Kathryn Bryan, Branch Board (kasal.kathryn@charter.net)</p> <p>SWAP SHOP SESSIONS</p> <p>Gloria Long, Branch Board (glorialong911@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March with the Girls on 'Day of the Girl' • Support a First Generation college student • Celebrate 'Outstanding Women in the Community' 	<p>AAUW Central States Regional Conference October 19-21, 2023 - St. Louis, MO</p> <p>MI Different and Implementation on a State Level N'Kenge Gonzalez, State Board (nkenge842004@gmail.com)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universalization of knowledge from AAUW national website • Cultivating inclusive environments • Necessity of DEI implementation on state level — ripple effect • Laying the ground work for DEI research
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SWAP SHOP SESSIONS



Handouts for sessions may be found using this QR code, then search by title.

FRIDAY MORNING

Session 2-A 9:25-9:50 am

	Room A	Room B	Room C
Front of Room	<p>IL Forming a New Online/Virtual Branch</p> <p>AAUW IL Jane Addams Online Branch</p> <p>Kate Skegg, Branch Board; Founder (kate@skegg.net)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online branch formation process • Start small—only two officers required • Every online branch is different • Programming and collaborations 	<p>MO Happy New (Membership) Year Party!</p> <p>Northland-Kansas City Branch</p> <p>Judy Kile, Branch Board (jkile@att.net)</p> <p>Diana Curry-McQuirk, Branch Board (dicurry1@yahoo.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to orient new members to AAUW mission and priority committees • Members bring guests who learn about and join AAUW • Way to educate and share National AAUW website resources 	<p>IL Coloring Books for Equality two versions: 1) Equal Pay and 2) Equal Rights)</p> <p>Chicago Branch/Illinois AAUW</p> <p>AJ Conroy, Branch Board (ajbooks@yahoo.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coloring books break through noise and generate “Buzz” for Public Policy priorities • Fun, visual, multi-generation approach to advocacy
Back of Room	<p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SWAP SHOP SIT-DOWN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEGHAN KISSELL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AAUW Senior Public Policy Director</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(see page 22 for bio and contact information)</p>	<p>IA STOP TRAFFICKING NOW! WORK to SAVE LIVES</p> <p>Mary Ann Ahrens, Iowa Leader (maahrens@mchsi.com)</p> <p>Maxine Lampe, Iowa Leader (lampe.maxine@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFINE human trafficking and RECOGNIZE the SIGNAL for HELP • OBSERVE victim behaviors and HOW victims are trafficked • KNOW WHAT to do and HOW to guard against becoming victims • INSPIRE members to take ACTION and WORK to END human trafficking 	<p>MI - via ZOOM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AAUW Membership Orientation</p> <p>Grosse Pointe Branch</p> <p>Roseanne Horn, Branch Board (rosewa33@aol.com)</p> <p>Eva Habib, Branch Board (evahabib@comcast.net)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of AAUW • Mission of AAUW • Local branch activities and fundraisers • Local branch accomplishments



SWAP SHOP SESSIONS



Handouts for sessions may be found using this QR code, then search by title.

FRIDAY MORNING

Session 2-B 9:55-10:20 am

	Room A	Room B	Room C
Front of Room	<p>WI Public Policy: Amplify Your Voice; How to Advocate AAUW Public Policy Priorities with Your Legislators</p> <p>Maggie Winz, State Board (maggiewinz76@gmail.com) Deb Theil, State Board (dick.deb@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using PowerPoint for presentation Review Public Policy Priorities for members Action plan to work with state legislators Adaptions for other states 	<p>MO Ban the Use of Salary History</p> <p>Alice Kitchen, MO State Board; National Public Policy Committee (inthekitchenak@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to eliminate salary history use Steps to passage Determining strategy Who does what Implementation and evaluation 	<p>MO Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Brings Us All Together</p> <p>Luna Mukherjee, State Board; National DEI Committee (lunam2012@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does Diversity mean? What does Equity mean? What does Inclusion mean? Inclusion-Infusion Exercises
Back of Room	<p>MO CU Relations - Our Path to AAUW's Future</p> <p>Patty Murray, State Board (MurrayAAUW@gmail.com) Sue Shineman, State Board (sueshineman46@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective outreach to college personnel at member schools Planning and operating a successful table event and enrolling student members Follow-up for best results and working with colleges Marketing to potential member schools 	<p>MO Dollars for Scholars— Raising Money for Scholarships</p> <p>Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch</p> <p>Sandy Brody, Branch Board (sandybrody163@gmail.com) Sage Taber, Branch Board (sagemo@aol.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising for local scholarship money Sharing our methods Developing local possibilities 	<p>IL Sanitary Pads for African Girls</p> <p>Crystal Lake Area Branch</p> <p>Carol Heisler, Branch Board (carolheisler@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides materials for young girls that enable them to be in school Group activity for members Collaborate with Bookfriends Fulfill our mission to support young women



SWAP SHOP SESSIONS



Handouts for sessions may be found using this QR code, then search by title.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Session 3-A 3:40—4:05 pm

	Room A	Room B	Room C
Front of Room	<p>MI How to Score a “Touchdown” when Recruiting and Retaining Members — The Membership Playbook</p> <p>Barb Duran, State Board (barbduranAAUW@gmail.com) Sheila Blair, State Board (sheilablairpmp@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to use the Membership Playbook as a step-by-step guide for branch growth • How you can scale the Playbook to fit your branch, whether big or small • How to engage ALL of your members with recruiting and retention strategies • How to attract younger members to your branch using technology and tools 	<p>AR Equal Pay Day— Candy Bars and More</p> <p>Maria Jones, Arkansas State Board (mhjones2@comcast.net)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote equal pay for women using Pay Day candy bars • Visually demonstrate salary differences via 2 sizes of candy bars • Share AAUW National Link to salary negotiations training with the public 	<p>SPECIAL</p> <p>SWAP SHOP SIT-DOWN</p> <p>with</p> <p>MELISSA LaDUKE</p> <p>National DEI Committee Chair</p> <p>(see page 23 for bio and contact information)</p>
Back of Room	<p>MO Gender Studies: Benefits of Getting Your Jurisdiction to do a Gender Study</p> <p>Alice Kitchen, State Board; National Public Policy Committee (inthekitchenak@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Gender? • What does a Gender Study include? • FOCUS: Salary inequities and disparities • How to get it funded and use it 	<p>MO We Love YARD SIGNS!</p> <p>Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch</p> <p>Marsha Koch, Branch Board (mkwkoch@outlook.com) Jeanne Webdell, Branch Board (jeannewebdell@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-partisan communication tool without political affiliation • Can be used in yards, classrooms, and public places • Excellent opportunity to collaborate with other organizations • Encourages branch participation throughout the state • Introduces AAUW name to people 	<p>MI - via ZOOM</p> <p>‘Kercheval After 6’ Booth for Membership</p> <p>Grosse Pointe Branch</p> <p>Eva Habib (evahabib@comcast.net)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract new members • Engage current members • Fundraise • Advertise in community



SWAP SHOP SESSIONS




Handouts for sessions may be found using this QR code, then search by title.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Session 3-B 4:10—4:35 pm

	Room A	Room B	Room C
Front of Room	<p>MO Growing Your Membership</p> <p>Independence Branch</p> <p>Karol Palmer, Branch Board (palmer9141@sbcglobal.net)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retaining and engaging members • Recruiting • Community connections 	<p>IL A Successful Strategy for Creating Meaningful Mission-Based Programs</p> <p>Naperville Branch</p> <p>Nikki Batsch, Branch Board (nikki.batsch@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizing a Program Committee • Taking program topic ideas to reality • Programs that have been successful 	<p>MO Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - How We Got Here - Missouri's Journey to a Successful Program</p> <p>Luna Mukherjee, MO State Bd; National DEI Committee (lunam2012@gmail.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Journey • Our Efforts • Our Activities <p><i>This is a REPEATED session</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Back of Room</p>	<p>MO CU Relations - Our Path to AAUW's Future </p> <p>Patty Murray, State Board (MurrayAAUW@gmail.com)</p> <p>Sue Shineman, State Board (sueshineman46@gmail.com)</p> <p>FRIDAY AFTERNOON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective outreach to college personnel at member schools • Planning and operating a successful table event and enrolling student members • Follow-up for best results and working with colleges • Marketing to potential member schools <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This is a REPEATED session</i></p>	<p>IA The Iowa eNetwork Zoom to Success October 19-21, 2023 - St</p> <p>Mary Ann Ahrens, Iowa Leader (maahrens@mchsi.com)</p> <p>Maxine Lampe, Iowa Leader (lampe.maxine@gmail.com)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SWAP SHOP SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History—How and why we do it • How our eNetwork recruits and plans the year's program • Pros and Cons of a virtual branch <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This is a REPEATED session</i></p>	<p>MI - via ZOOM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Robotics Team Sponsor</p> <p>Grosse Pointe Michigan Branch</p> <p>Roseanne Horn (rosewa33@aol.com)</p> <p>Eva Habib (evahabib@comcast.net)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEM • Fundraising • Mentoring • Partnering in Community
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SWAP SHOPS — DISPLAYS ONLY

These Swap Shops are in display format only. They will be on display on Friday, October 20th, from 8:00 am-5:00 pm in Room D. Be sure to visit them and learn about these great topics.

IN The 2023 'Indiana Girl' Report

Indiana State AAUW

Bobbie Weikle, State Board

(drbjweikle@comcast.net)

- Sharing recently released state survey on Indiana girls (copies of report available)
- Hoosier girls are facing an 'unprecedented' mental health crisis!

MN Support for Equal Pay by Ely Businesses and Government Entities

Ely Minnesota Branch

Mary Setterholm, Branch Board

(mary.setterholm@gmail.com)

- Solicited and received written commitments from 124 local businesses to support and implement equal pay
- Increase Equal Pay Day awareness in community
- Thanked business and city government in paid ads
- Partnered with local Rotary Club

MO 90 Years in Photos: Top Achievements of St. Charles Branch Since its Founding

St. Charles Missouri Branch

Teri Brecht, Branch Board

(tebrecht@yahoo.com)

- Poster of top ten achievements of branch since its founding 90 years ago
- Explanation page highlights achievements
- Poster presented at 2022 AAUW MO State Conference in celebration of 100th anniversary of AAUW Missouri (each branch was asked to do a poster)

MO Munching Matters—Lunch With Food for Thought

Ballwin-Chesterfield Missouri Branch

Pat Shores, Branch Board

(apatriciashores@att.net)

- Sharing topics of interest to our members by providing time to discuss them over lunch
- Celebrating the careers and life experiences of branch members
- Recognizing our members' accomplishments
- Identifying our members' interesting life stories



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Gloria Blackwell, CEO, AAUW

Contact: executive@aauw.org

Gloria L. Blackwell is the Chief Executive Officer of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in Washington, D.C.—a 140-year advocate and leader for gender equity.

Blackwell, a leader in the nonprofit, global education and gender equity sectors, has more than 30 years of nonprofit, international, and government experience. Among her many accomplishments is the 17-year management of AAUW's highly-esteemed fellowships and grants programs—during her tenure awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and community programs globally. An in-demand thought leader on issues ranging from pay equity and STEM to student loan debt, Blackwell's media engagement includes the Washington Post, Miami Herald, MSNBC, TIME, the Chronicle of Higher Education, ABC News, Market Watch, Yahoo! Finance, and Politico. With a strong background in international education and development, Blackwell also serves as the United Nations Main Representative for AAUW.

Blackwell is the recipient of multiple honors and awards and has led and served on numerous boards and advisory groups, including the UNA-USA Council of Organizations Executive Committee, the International Book Bank, Latina SciGirls Advisory Group, and the Canadian Organization for Development Through Education (CODE). She holds a master's degree in education and human development from The George Washington University and bachelor's degree in Foreign Service from the Walsh School at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and also studied at the American University in Paris, France. (See AAUW website for full biography.)



Lisa Maatz, Pay Equity Specialist, Consultant

Contact: [LinkedIn.com/in/LisaMaatz/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/LisaMaatz/) / Follow her on Twitter @LisaMaatz

Lisa Maatz, former AAUW Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy, spearheaded the campaign that led to the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and other crucial women's rights and civil rights legislation during her 15 years with the organization. After working on Capitol Hill for Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Lisa represented women's equity groups on Capitol Hill for almost 25 years. She is a savvy advocate and engaging speaker, with a reputation for her strategic and creative approach to all things government affairs, grassroots advocacy, and nonprofit management.

After moving back to Northeast Ohio, Lisa became the senior advisor at Ohio Citizen Action, a nonprofit organization that mobilizes people to protect public health, improve environmental quality, benefit consumers, and strengthen our democracy. She is now an independent consultant working nationwide, specializing in gender equity issues, grassroots advocacy, and nonprofit management. She works primarily with membership organizations and continues her public speaking on a variety of invited topics.

Lisa is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Ohio University, has two masters degrees from the Ohio State University, and has held an adjunct appointment with the Women and Politics Institute at OSU and American University.



THURSDAY Speaker Bios and Information



Vanessa Wellbery, Women's Health and Reproductive Rights

Contact: Vanessa.Wellbery@ppslr.org

Wellbery brings more than a decade of sexual and reproductive health and rights advocacy experience. She most recently served as the senior manager for state government affairs at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) in Washington, D.C., where she managed a 50-state policy portfolio that focused on abortion and contraceptive access; reproductive health care for young people, incarcerated folks, and the LGBTQIA community; and decriminalization of pregnant people. Wellbery is the vice president of Policy and Advocacy at Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and southwest Missouri.



Deanie Brown, Unconscious Assumptions and Implicit Bias

Contact: bdeanie50@gmail.com

Deanie Brown is an attorney serving as the Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for the Illinois Supreme Court and the Illinois Judicial Branch. She has been associate chancellor, chief of staff, and director of Human Resources and internal relations at universities in Illinois, California, and New Orleans, and serves on several boards supporting equity, education, public media, the community, and the arts, including representing AAUW as a member of the Illinois State Board of Education's Gender and Racial Equity Committee. She has a bachelor's degree in art and architectural history from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a law degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she taught Rhetoric as a graduate instructor, served as a founding editor and contributing writer for the literary journal *Poetic Justice*, and led the writer's workshop as editor of the journal *The Griot* for the African American Cultural Center at the University of Illinois. Deanie is currently director of diversity and inclusion for the Springfield, IL AAUW Branch and has also served her branch as co-president, along with serving as College and University Relations Director for her Branch and AAUW-Illinois.

FRIDAY Speaker Bios and Information



Karen Kedrowski

It's Complicated: The Causes and Consequences of the Gender Pay Gap

Contact: karenmk1@iastate.edu / cattcenter.iastate.edu

Dr. Kedrowski earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, where she majored in Political Science, French, and History. She then earned her Master of Arts and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma, Norman. Her research agenda focuses primarily on women and politics and civic engagement. She is the author or coauthor of four books and more than 60 book chapters, book reviews, journal articles, encyclopedia entries, and blog posts. She also leads Iowa State's voter engagement efforts, which have earned several national recognitions. In addition, Dr. Kedrowski is frequently interviewed by local, regional, national, and international news organizations. Prior to coming to Iowa State, Kedrowski spent 24 years at Winthrop University, where she held many leadership roles. She received Winthrop's highest honor, Distinguished Professor, in 2011.



FRIDAY Speaker Bios and Information—continued

AAUW Issues - Luncheon Panel

Malinda Gaul, AAUW Vice Chair, Board of Directors

Contact: malindag@swbell.net

After earning BA and JD degrees from Baylor University, Malinda has practiced employment law in San Antonio, representing employees, for 40 years, in addition to working with several non-profit organizations to advance the rights of women. Malinda served on the AAUW Board of Directors, after holding offices at the branch and state level, and is currently Vice Chair of the national board. Her other women-focused board service includes local and district offices with Business and Professional Women, Chair of the Women and the Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, President of the Bexar County Women's Bar Association, and Vice President of Texas Women Lawyers. Professionally, Malinda has chaired the Labor and Employment Law Section of the State Bar of Texas and served as President of the Texas Employment Lawyers Association. She also was Chair of San Antonio Youth Literacy, a non-profit providing one-on-one support to children by empowering them with the skills needed to read to learn, and is a board member of the Equal Justice Center. As a result of her professional and community work, Malinda was selected for membership in The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers and American Board of Trial Advocates.



Jeanie Latz, AAUW Board of Directors

Contact: jeanie.latz@gmail.com

Jeanie Sell Latz has led across public, private, academic, and nonprofit sectors. She was a C-suite executive at a Fortune 1000 company; taught strategy and law at the Bloch School of Management at the University of Missouri—Kansas City; and has chaired a number of not-for-profit boards. She currently consults in the areas of corporate governance and strategy. As a Governance Fellow of the National Association of Corporate Directors, Jeanie lends her expertise to a number of organizations. She received a BS in Business Education from Missouri State University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri.



Sheila Blair, Moderator, AAUW Michigan State President

Contact: sheilablairpmp@gmail.com

For decades, Sheila Blair had been seeking the sisterhood she finally found through AAUW. Her workplace and personal experiences drive her desire to advocate for women and girls in a variety of ways. She joined in 2016 and immediately moved into the position of Vice President of Finance in the Wyandotte-Downriver Branch in Michigan. Since then, she moved to the President-Elect and President positions of her Branch. In 2017, after learning more about the amazing work AAUW does, Sheila became a paid life member. Since then, she joined the AAUW of Michigan board as VP of Finance, President-Elect, and President. She currently serves as AAUW of Michigan President and her branch's VP of Finance and Scholarship Chair. Sheila holds a Master's Degree in Industrial & Organizational Psychology from Baker College, a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (Business and Psychology) from the University of Toledo. She holds a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification from the Project Management Institute (PMI). She's also TPM (Talent Pipeline Management) Certified by the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation.





FRIDAY Speaker Bios and Information



Susan Halla, TransParent — Gender Isn't Binary

Contact: susan.halla@transparentusa.org / [Transparentusa.org](https://transparentusa.org)

Susan Halla (she/her) is the board president of TransParent, a national nonprofit that brings compassionate support to parents and caregivers of transgender and gender expansive kids of all ages. She has her own trans child, who is now 22 but will forever and always be her kid. Susan is an architect, designer and small business owner who is passionate about all things mid-century.



Meghan Kissell – AAUW Public Policy and Intersectionality

Contact: kissellm@aauw.org

Meghan is Senior Public Policy Director for AAUW. See bio on page 22.



Colleen Norman, What's Happening to Libraries? Censorship and Legislative Issues Impacting Your Community Library

Contact: colleenenorman@gmail.com <https://molib.wildapricot.org/>

Colleen Norman is the current Chair for the Missouri Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC). She has presented Intellectual Freedom Workshops for her own library system and at annual conferences around the country since 2018. Colleen has been a librarian in Missouri since 2014 and actively works to promote and advocate for libraries and library workers.



Donna Becker, On Tribal Lands

Contact: beckerdonna2@gmail.com

Donna grew up on a small farm in central Kansas. Her childhood dream was to become a nurse, and she eventually received bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from the University of Kansas. She chose the field of mental health for her career, working in direct patient care, administration, and education. In retirement, she became a certified historical first-person performer. Other interests include serving on a history museum board, serving on the AAUW of Kansas State Board, travel, and reading. Donna has been a member of AAUW for 12 years.



Rachel Gonzalez, Gen Z Voting and Public Safety

Contact: rachelgonzalez33@gmail.com

Rachel is a Gen Z woman who has found a home in the political world. She is an activist, a leader, and a young person who gets things done. Currently she is on the Missouri Democratic Party Executive Committee, the Young Democrats of Missouri Board, co-chairs the DNC Youth Disability Caucus, and serves on the Advisory Board for DemCast. She declares herself a Social Justice Advocate and wants to find new and innovative ways to help make a difference.



FRIDAY Speaker Bios and Information



Janai Harris, Ending Period Poverty

Contact: janaitaylorharris@hotmail.com

Janai Harris came to Arkansas in 2000 to pursue an education at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. There she obtained a B.A. in Criminal Justice in 2005. Her passions are anything that includes Racial and Cultural Diversity Awareness and Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Awareness. In 2017 she established Period Poverty (More Chances Period), to help keep girls in school. Janai is also a published author. She has been a featured speaker to many organizations to help bring awareness to Period Poverty. She also serves on several boards and is a member of social and civic organizations involved with community betterment.



Meghan Kissell, Education in a Changing Landscape

Contact: kissellm@aauw.org

Meghan Kissell is the Senior Director of Policy and Membership Advocacy at AAUW. She leads AAUW's non-partisan and mission-driven public policy at the federal level and supports the grassroots advocacy work of AAUW's membership network. Meghan has more than 20 years of nonprofit policy and issue developing experience with a focus in implementing targeted social impact strategies designed to engage key stakeholders and policy makers to advocate for positive policy outcomes. Prior to joining AAUW, Meghan worked on state and local health policy and led efforts to expand LGBTQ equality with the Human Rights Campaign. She also worked for the Conservation Lands Foundation to help lead local and national campaigns in the Western United States. She was previously an AAUW's Field Director, supporting local advocacy engagement and volunteer Get Out the Vote efforts.



Zenobia Harris, Improving Maternal and Infant Outcomes in America

Contact: zeeh11zh@gmail.com

Dr. Zenobia Harris has spent most of her professional nursing career working in various clinical and administrative roles at the Arkansas Department of Health. She is a graduate of the Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. Currently she is the Executive Director of the Arkansas Birthing Project, a mentoring and empowerment program that connects local community volunteers with pregnant women to promote the growth and birth of healthier babies to women of color. She is also a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Interdisciplinary Research Program Alumna. Zenobia has also been active on the national level, advocating for health equity and for improvements to maternal, child and family health. She is immediate past president of the National Association of Public Health Nurses.



PANEL Gen Z to Millennials: Issues & Advocacy

Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO

Contact: turner8kathleen@gmail.com

LU: Kathleen Turner Ledgerwood is a professor of English at Lincoln University (LU) where she also runs the writing programs. She is a teacher/researcher/activist, and in this role works to develop an understanding and acceptance of linguistic differences, with a focus on honoring Black language.

LU: Re'Nayjah Burton is a freshman at LU majoring in Business Administration with a passion for changing the world around her. (photo not available)

LU: Emma Nunamaker is a freshman at LU majoring in English. She plans to become a writer. (photo not available)

Rachel Gonzalez— Social Justice Advocate; see page 21 for bio and contact information





FRIDAY Speaker Bios and Information



The AAUW Fund - Demystifying AAUW's Greatest Needs

Sue Barley, Legacy Circle Team, Advancement Committee Contact: barley702@gmail.com

Susan Barley is a long time member of AAUW, serving in leadership positions in four different branches. She has served on the Missouri board for over 26 years. Her interests and skills usually take her to the areas of finance, bylaws, and fundraising. She currently serves on the National Legacy Circle Team and the Advancement Committee. In the past, she served on the AAUW Board of Directors for four years and on two national committees: Fundraising and Nominating. She was chair of the National Committee Appointments Task Force for four years.



Diane B. Ludwig, AAUW Fund Advocate Contact: DBLudwig22@aol.com

Diane B. Ludwig, a 50-year AAUW member, has served as a leader on state AAUW boards in both Oklahoma and Missouri since the early '80s. She has been president of five branches and often served as the EF/AAUW Fund chair. From 2009-2015, Diane was honored to be on the national AAUW Fundraising Committee, serving four years as chair/co-chair, a position she loved. From her many years of branch fundraising for AAUW, Diane transitioned into fundraising and was a professional non-profit fundraiser for over 33 years. She claims to be retired now but is still an active volunteer, especially for organizations needing fundraising guidance.

PANEL—What Keeps AAUW Ticking? — AAUW National Committees



Mary Smith, Moderator, Advancement Committee Contact: mmsmith11627@att.net

Mary holds a Master of Education in Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in History. Over her teaching career she has presented multiple times at state and national conventions for both teachers and supervisors. She received a million-dollar Teaching American History grant. She has served as President of the Texas Social Studies Supervisors Association. For her local branch, NHC AAUW, Mary loves sponsoring one-day Summits at low socio-economic high schools in North Harris County to encourage girls to stay in school, take STEM courses, & have a positive social internet image, etc. She was recently awarded the Outstanding Educator of the Year for the Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon. She has served as President of NHC AAUW and is currently serving as President of AAUW Texas.



Sue Barley, Advancement Committee—see bio and photo above

Jan Carey, Advancement Committee Contact: jmcfree@aol.com

Jan is AAUW Minnesota president and has served on the state board for nine years. She holds a BA in Speech Communications & Theater Arts and an MA in Information Media. Postgraduate study, research & presentations include testimonials to the Minnesota Office of Higher Education Public Forum and the MnSCU/PALS Migration Forum. During Ms. Carey's 30-year career as an Academic librarian, she was active in several Library professional organizations and served on the boards of community arts and cultural non-profit organizations.



Malinda Gaul—Governance Committee— see bio and photo on page 20

Melissa LaDuke, Diversity & Equity Committee Contact: Mci1783@yahoo.com

Melissa C. LaDuke earned her PhD in curriculum and instruction from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Prior to that, Dr. LaDuke completed her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Hawaii Pacific University, Honolulu, HI and Master's degree in chemistry from University of Dayton, Dayton, OH. She currently serves as a faculty member at National Intelligence University in Bethesda, MD. She has been in the U.S. Air Force since 2005 and held instructor and faculty positions within the U.S. Air Force Academy. In addition, she has spoken at numerous national and international conferences.



Gloria Long, Advancement Committee Contact: glorialong911@gmail.com

Gloria Long is an Honorary Life Member of AAUW having been a member of 6 different branches between California and Texas over the past 52 years. She has held leadership roles in many branches including President of the Northeast Tarrant County Branch and currently serves as Programs VP for the Tarrant County Branch. She is the immediate past president of AAUW Texas and currently serves on the AAUW Advancement Committee. Gloria's career was as a high school mathematics teacher, teaching everything from pre-algebra to calculus.



SATURDAY Speaker Bios and Information



Sheritta Stokes, 1619 Freedom School Project; 325 E. Park Ave, Waterloo, IA

Contact: sstokes@1619freedomsschool.org

Sheritta Stokes is the school's co-director and curriculum coordinator. She is a veteran teacher with the Waterloo Community School District with more than 20 years of teaching experience with a diverse range of students and grades. She has years of experience showing successful growth in students' reading scores. She is currently a 5th grade teacher, teaching all subjects to elementary students. She has also served as the grade-level team leader for over 10 years. She has a reading endorsement and is Title One/Reading Recovery trained. She has worked for both the Jesse Cosby Center and UNI's Talent Search reading programs. She is the creator of the Black Men Read program in which African-American men volunteers come to the school and read to students. Sheritta is currently pursuing her Masters in Special Education Principalship. Sheritta has instilled her love of books and reading in many children over the years.



Meghan Kissell, ERA – Because Equality Is Overdue

Contact: kissellm@aauw.org

Meghan is Senior Public Policy Director for AAUW. See bio on page 22.



Denise Lieberman, The Ongoing Fight for the Right to Vote

Contact: denise@movpc.org / www.movpc.org

Denise Lieberman is a nationally recognized civil rights lawyer who has been on the front lines of voting rights debates in Missouri and around the country for 25 years. She serves as Director and General Counsel of the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition, a nonpartisan statewide network of voter advocates. Denise has testified in support of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act before Congress and previously served as director of Power & Democracy for Advancement Project National Office in Washington DC - a racial justice organization - where she brought lawsuits challenging discriminatory voting laws in states like Missouri, North Carolina, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Florida and others. Denise also serves as faculty director of the Voter Access and Engagement Initiative at Washington University in St. Louis, where she is an adjunct professor of law and political science. She has recently brought two lawsuits on behalf of the NAACP and LWV challenging Photo ID and Voter Registration Restrictions in a new Missouri voting law. In her role with the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition, Denise coordinates statewide nonpartisan Election Protection efforts in Missouri. She previously served as legal director of the ACLU of Eastern Missouri, and headed the Don't Shoot Coalition in the wake of the killing of Mike Brown in Ferguson.



Special AAUW American Flag Opens Conference

The United States flag being displayed in the opening ceremony of our 2023 AAUW Central States Regional Conference, October 19-21, 2023, in St. Louis, MO, is one of 130 flags that flew over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on January 14, 2012, honoring the 130th Anniversary of AAUW's founding organization's first general meeting. AAUW later gifted this flag to AAUW Missouri.

The Association of Collegiate Alumnae (ACA) held that first organizational meeting in Boston, MA, on January 14, 1882. Records note that 65 women, graduates of eight colleges and universities (Boston, Cornell, Michigan, Oberlin, Smith, Vassar, Wellesley, and Wisconsin) were in attendance. Today, AAUW still honors that original mission and continues to promote education and equity for all women and girls. We are proud to honor our heritage by using this historic American flag at our conference.



2023 Conference Planning Committee and Volunteers

This event took many hours, weeks, and months of planning, and many volunteers to make it happen. We list our planning team and local volunteers here, representing 11 states and 26 branches. We know others of you also spent many hours behind the scenes planning your presentations, helping get the word out, supporting the branch and state leaders, and sharing your enthusiasm. **WE THANK YOU ALL!**

Regional Planning Committee

- Arkansas** **Zenobia Harris**, Little Rock Branch; **Maria Jones**, Little Rock Branch
- Illinois** **Carol Heisler**, Crystal Lake Branch
- Indiana** **Sharon Langlotz**, Indianapolis Branch; **Sherry Watkins**, Indianapolis Branch
- Iowa** **Karen Agee**, Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch; **Kathie Farris**, Indianola Branch
- Kansas** **Liz Rempel**, Newton Area Branch
- Michigan** **Barb Duran**, Wyandotte-Downriver Branch; **Linda Kevorkien**, Birmingham Branch;
Jan Van Gasse, Iron Mountain/Kingsford Branch
- Minnesota** **Jan Carey**, Hibbing Branch
- Missouri** **HOST STATE—Karen Francis**, Ballwin-Chesterfield & Ferguson-Florissant Branches;
Diane B. Ludwig, Columbia Branch; **Sue Shineman**, Independence Branch;
A. Patricia Shores, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch
- Oklahoma** **Diana Campo**, Edmond Branch; **Shelli Wasson**, Edmond Branch
- Texas** **Lucy Barrington**, Lubbock Betty Anderson Branch; **Mary Smith**, North Harris
County Branch; **Terry Whaley**, Georgetown and Austin Branches
- Wisconsin** **Kleo Baruth Kritz**, Manona-Madison Branch; **Joan Schneider**, Appleton Branch;
Maggie Winz, Fort Atkinson Branch

Host State: Missouri Planning Team

Karen Francis , President	karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com	314-223-4235	Thank you for joining us in St. Louis for this exciting AAUW conference. We LOVED hosting it!
Sue Shineman , President-Elect	sueshineman46@gmail.com	816-365-1180	
Diane B. Ludwig , Program VP	DBLudwig22@aol.com	573-642-4664	
A. Patricia Shores , Pres. Asst.	apatriciashores@att.net	636-448-4387	

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- Sandy Brody
- Angela Janik
- Joyce Katz
- Pam Kulp

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- Teri Brecht
- Mary Jermak
- Pam Kulp
- Pat Shores

Special Assistants

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- Lois Domsch, Registrar
- Joyce Katz, Webmanager
- Marsha Koch, Signage
- Beca McNeely, Drury Hotel
- Lynne Roney, Signage/video
- Jeanne Webdell, Signage

Lynne Roney

Special thanks to Jennifer Lohman
for the conference graphic design.



AAUW Central States Regional Conference

October 19-21, 2023 - St. Louis, MO



The AAUW Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge and thank these visionary Legacy Circle Members.

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Margaret Winz
Jeanne Zirbel
Mary Zupanc

AAUW's National Legacy Circle Team is available to provide more information and answer any questions about planned giving.

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BARBIE—An INFLUENCER for the AGES!



Monologue by 'Gloria' in Barbie Movie in 2023

"It is literally impossible to be a woman," Gloria tells Barbie. "You are so beautiful, and so smart, and it kills me that you don't think you're good enough. Like, we have to always be extraordinary, but somehow, we're always doing it wrong.

"You have to be thin, but not too thin. And you can never say you want to be thin. You have to say you want to be healthy, but also you have to be thin. You have to have money, but you can't ask for money because that's crass.

"You have to be a boss, but you can't be mean. You have to lead, but you can't squash other people's ideas. You're supposed to love being a mother, but don't talk about your kids all the damn time. You have to be a career woman, but also always be looking out for other people. You have to answer for men's bad behavior, which is insane, but if you point that out, you're accused of complaining.

"You're supposed to stay pretty for men, but not so pretty that you tempt them too much or that you threaten other women because you're supposed to be a part of the sisterhood. But always stand out and always be grateful. But never forget that the system is rigged. So find a way to acknowledge that but also always be grateful.

"You have to never get old, never be rude, never show off, never be selfish, never fall down, never fail, never show fear, never get out of line. It's too hard! It's too contradictory and nobody gives you a medal or says thank you! And it turns out in fact that not only are you doing everything wrong, but also everything is your fault.

"I'm just so tired of watching myself and every single other woman tie herself into knots so that people will like us," Gloria concludes. "And if all of that is also true for a doll just representing women, then I don't even know."

Be sure to visit the dynamic BARBIE display in Room D! Barbie is indeed a trendsetter, role model and influencer. See how she has grown over her short lifetime - she is only 64, you know! She helps girls see their potential. Add your Barbie story or comments to the display and take lots of selfies/photos!



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EVALUATIONS

PLEASE TURN IN EVALUATIONS TO SITE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
OR PLACE IN BASKET AT BACK OF ROOM BEFORE LEAVING.

SAFE TRAVELS HOME!



THANK YOU FOR COMING!!

