

Missouri in Motion

Our Mission: AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, advocacy, and education.

Our Vision: Equality for all.

Our Values: Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering.



The AAUW Central States Regional Conference, October 19–21, 2023, at the Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch, reached new heights as 14 states and DC were represented by the 156 people in attendance. It was a jam-packed three days of great speakers on Trending Topics, keynoters on vital AAW issues, and invigorating Swap Shops on over 32 topics. Attendees left knowing they had grown from time spent in St. Louis. The states planning the conference included Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin. Also attending were AAUW members from DC, Ohio, North Carolina, and West Virginia.

Attendees were joined at the conference by staff and volunteer leadership from national AAUW. **CEO Gloria Blackwell** and **Senior Public Policy Director Meghan Kissell** both gave presentations on AAUW national, Title IX, and ERA issues. Board members **Malinda Gaul** and **Jeanie Latz** led discussions on the membership and degree requirement vote, and leadership and succession planning. AAUW DEI Committee chair **Melissa LaDuke** led a Swap Shop and discussion groups on incorporating DEI in all we do.

Keynote speaker **Liza Maatz** discussed the challenges facing member-driven organizations; **Vanessa Wellbery**, Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and SW Missouri, gave insights into policy and advocacy work being done; and **Deanie Brown**, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Illinois Judicial Branch, spoke of unconscious assumptions and implicit bias in today’s world.

Thursday evening, we enjoyed an excellent performance by Voices of American HERstory. **Tia Atkins, Jenny Grace Morris, and Rebecca Now Stanton** portrayed **Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton** to show the struggles women faced. A surprise visitor, ‘Barbie,’ shared current challenges on what has and has not changed.

Karen Kedrowski, director of Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University, helped us understand the causes and consequences of the Gender Pay Gap. **Sheritta Stokes**, co-director of Curriculum for the 1619 Freedom School Project in Waterloo, Iowa, shared its story of helping youth. Voting issues and rights were addressed by **Denise Lieberman**, director and legal counsel of the MO Voter Protection Coalition.

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From AAUW MO President Karen Francis

Celebrating AAUW MO

As you read this issue of *Missouri in Motion* you should all feel proud of AAUW MO hosting a phenomenal AAUW Central States Regional Conference. I say **ALL** because it certainly was a team effort.

- The Missouri planning team was led by **Diane Ludwig, Sue Shineman, Pat Shores** and me.
- The AAUW Missouri board supported the conference financially by offering seed money and assistantships to members to attend.
- AAUW Missouri members presented ten Swap Shop programs and had two Swap Shop display boards.
- Branch Presidents encouraged members to attend and sixty-two did.
- St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council members made up the incredible conference site committee.



The evaluation feedback has been unbelievable.

*Kudos for all your time and effort in creating such an energizing weekend.
Congratulations on an exceptional conference. I think we all left energized and inspired.*

I am especially proud that Missouri took the first step to bring AAUW members together, to focus on our mission, to network, and to have fun. The next opportunity to showcase AAUW MO will be the 2024 Legislative Retreat in February. Look for details from your branch president.

As we end 2023, please donate to the AAUW Fund to support the organization we all love. **Between now and year-end, every donation to AAUW Greatest Needs Fund will be matched.** I want to thank you for the privilege of leading the AAUW MO organization. We are Stronger Together-Making Equity the Norm.

AAUW Central States Conference, continued

Sue Barley and **Diane B. Ludwig** gave insights on the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund and held a mock fundraiser raising over \$4 million! A panel of AAUW leaders highlighted the eight national committees, how they work, and how to apply to be on one.

Kudos to our talented **AAUW Web Manager Joyce Katz** who posted conference information to the state website. Joyce was AMAZING! Programs and handouts will be available for a year for those needing program ideas.

Comments on the evaluation forms indicated the conference did raise AAUW to new heights.

"Fabulous! Love the opportunity for casual conversations with the leadership at national level and state counterparts. The sessions were all great and coordinated."

"Wonderful location near the Arch. Drury Hotel and their staff were fantastic. The ladies with the teal sashes were outstanding as well. Thank you all for a well-organized, delightful, exhausting but energizing, packed conference! KUDOS to the Reginal Team!" (heart)

"Probably the best convention I've attended in some time!!! Two thumbs UP!"

*"A great event! Much to take home as our branch plans for the future.
Thank you!"*

The photos in this issue are testaments to a truly outstanding conference, which energized, educated, and inspired those in attendance.

Swap Shops Live

AAUW MO Webmaster Joyce Katz

One of the regional conference highlights was the opportunity to share branch projects that further AAUW's mission, and benefit others. What unique and exciting ideas central state branches presented!

The only regret is that nobody can attend ALL the sessions ...but wait! It's now possible to do just that.

This sharing of projects is called Swap Shops, and the presenters' material is posted and is available to view/download at <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/swap-shops-sharing-branch-projects/>

Call for Nominations for AAUW MO Officers

The Nominating Committee of the AAUW MO Board reminds members that two officer positions will be voted on at the annual meeting next spring. The positions are Membership Vice President and Finance Officer. Nominations will be submitted by the Committee and announced in the Winter 2024 *Missouri in Motion*.

Suggestions for these positions may be submitted to any of the Nominating Committee members: **Lynne Roney**, acting chair (roneyeditorial@gmail.com); **Jane Biers** (biersj@missouri.edu), **Patt Braley** (braleypatt@gmail.com), **Kay Meyer** (kicmeyer51@gmail.com); and **Sandra Murdock** (sesandram@aol.com).

A Final Salute to Our Amazing Grace

Grace Botner Butler November 11, 1926–October 16, 2023



William Shakespeare’s quote: “And though she be but little, she is fierce” perfectly described **Grace Butler**. Grace was small in stature but had a fierce love for her family and for making a difference in the lives of women, especially through AAUW.

Grace was born in the Columbia, Missouri area, graduated from the MU School of Journalism in 1945, and married **Georgie Butler, Jr.** in August 1948. They moved to Pennsylvania where their four sons were born.

Grace found AAUW in those early years, and her passion for education and women’s issues began. Georgie passed away in 1975, and Grace and her sons moved back to the family farm just outside Columbia.

Grace connected with the Columbia AAUW Branch and was soon an active member and leader. She served as branch president, and later as AAUW MO state president. She then went on to serve as Southwest Central Regional Director for Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Everyone came to know Missouri’s Amazing Grace! Her energy and commitment just didn’t stop. She was a role model for all.

Grace receiving her Legacy Circle pin in 2017.

Grace became a Legacy Circle Member in 2017. In her closing years, she demanded that her family bury her wearing the pin, which they did. Grace was 96, only one month short of her 97th birthday. It was a lovely ceremony, included the hymn, *Amazing Grace*, and featured several stories by her sons of their experiences with Mom—many involving AAUW. We shall certainly miss this little, fiercely determined woman, who set the bar high for all.

Inclusion Infusion – Intersectionality

Sue Shineman, DEI

Intersectionality is a big word, and it is a very complex way to describe ourselves. It is the complexity of many things in life that shape who we are and how we are perceived by others. Our intersectionality is a combination of our culture, family history and values, education, experiences, and yes, it is also our sexual orientation, race, and education.

Example of one person’s intersectionality:

Married	Mother	70+ years of age	Liberal
White	College Graduate	American	Christian
Female	Other-Abled		



People yearn to be their true selves at work, at school, in their lives in general — we all want to be able to embrace our full identity. But to do that, we must understand the concept of intersectionality as a combination of many different identities. The effects of those different identities are not always the same in every circumstance. Knowing and understanding our intersectionality helps us as we interact with others. It is simply a way of recognizing that our life experiences influence our unconscious biases. Unfairness and inequality are often a result of those biases.

An easy Inclusion Infusion activity that will help us understand each other better is to have small groups share and discuss specific topics. Here are a few topics to get you started with understanding the intersectionality of your group. Allow approximately 3 minutes for each.

- What was your favorite job and why?
- Find one thing you have in common with the person next to you.
- Share a time when you felt left out or that you did not belong.

Sharing helps us not only to learn and understand more about each other, but it also helps us understand how we relate to the group. This creates a sense of belonging. Belonging leads us to commitment which leads to growth. Growth for each of us also leads to growth for AAUW and that leads to success! Your DEI Committee encourages each branch to include an Inclusion Infusion activity at each gathering.



Swap Shop: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Brings Us All Together
Luna Mukherjee, AAUW MO Board; AAUW National DEI Committee

AAUW Missouri Public Policy Fall Report

Alice Kitchen Chair, AAUW MO Public Policy Committee

The AAUW MO statewide Public Policy committee was well represented at the AAUW Midwest Regional Conference in St. Louis. We had Swap Shop presentations on The Elimination of Salary History in the Hiring Process, Steps to do a Gender and Salary Study, Cities for the Elimination of Discrimination in all forms Against Women and Girls (CEDAW), and C/U Relations-Our Path to AAUW's Future. In addition to that we have two new members on the public policy committee: **Marian Bauer** (Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch) and **Marilyn McLeod** (Columbia Branch) and president of the Missouri League of Women's Voters.

Our priorities for the next two years are as follows:

1. Equality & Equity in Wages.
2. Voter Engagement.
3. Cities for CEDAW at the local city or county level.
4. Continue to track and monitor Title IX, LGBTQI proposals, reproductive rights, citizen ballot initiative, and library restrictions.



AJ Conroy MO, Alice Kitchen, MO, and Meghan Kissell (national AAUW) discussed what it takes to get the ERA into the Constitution.



Back row L-R 'Barbie,' and AAUW members Diane Ludwig, Marilyn McLeod and Jane Biers, Columbia Branch. Front row, the enactors of women suffragist, HerStory.

2023 AAUW MO Upcoming Events

aauw-mo.aauw.net

December

1-31

Greatest Needs Found Donations
matched by AAUW National

January

27 AAUW MO board meeting on Zoom

February

Black History Month

7 Deadline for *Missouri in Motion* Articles

Legislative Retreat Date TBD

March

Women's History Month

6 Last day to register vote

9 AAUW MO board meeting

April

2 General Municipal Elections

College/University Relations

Debra McArthur, AAUW MO C/U Relations Chair

The C/U committee has had a record-breaking season in connecting with students at our partner schools! During the summer and early fall months, C/U committee members held student recruitment events at these MO member schools: Cottey College, Maryville University, Metro Community Colleges of KC (Maple Woods and Blue River campuses), Park University, and UMKC, as well as Kansas partner Kansas City Kansas Community College. As we talked to students about issues like reproductive healthcare access, women's student debt, and the gender pay gap, they recognized the importance of these issues and wanted to join AAUW. With these activities we surpassed the number of new student members over last year's total! Below left, **Gail James** introduces AAUW to students at UMKC. **Denise Childers** and **Diana Curry McGuirk** enrolled student members at Park University (below left).

C/U members also set up information tables at Missouri State University and Columbia College. We hope to add these schools as members soon.



Officers of the AAUW student group at Missouri State University worked to their gain members at the Back to School Bash.



Denise Childers and Diana Curry McGuirk enrolled student members at Park University.



C/U members set up an information table at Missouri State University.

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

State Historian Jane Biers

<https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/connect/history>

This volume includes a preface, a section on the history of AAUW Missouri from 2010–2020, Missouri branches' history, 2010–2020, an appendix listing Missouri state past presidents, Missouri Woman of Distinction and AAUW Outstanding Member award recipients, College/University Partner members in November 2020, and AAUW Student Organizations. A bibliography ends the volume. Also published online are Jane Biers, A Brief History of AAUW Missouri from 1893–2021 and M. A. Parrish, B. Lester, and G. Newman, The Story of the Southwest Central Region, 1926–1966.



Sue Barley, Legacy Circle chair presents a Legacy Circle pin to Jeanie Latz, AAUW Board Member from Missouri



Sue Barley, MO, and Jan Carey, MI, AAUW Advancement Committee and Diane B. Ludwig, Fundraising Advocate

AAUW Fund 2023 Giving Year Ending AAUW MO Fund Chair Susan Barley

Many of you have been waiting for the end of the year to make your annual donation to AAUW. Now is the time! Your gift will be matched by the AAUW Board of Directors and Committee Leaders, and it will be soft-credited* to your branch. It is easy to make your donation online.

Please consider being a 2023 MO Century Club Member (\$100) or a 2012 MO Century Club Plus Member (\$250+). AAUW needs your donation to continue the fight for equity for women and girls.

* Soft credit allows the branch (or state) to take credit for a donation when the branch (or state) does not actually make the donation. The donor is credited with the tax-deductible donation. AAUW always soft credits the donors primary branch and state unless the donor asks that her donation be soft credited elsewhere or not at all.

AAUW MO Woman of Distinction Award–2024 Sue Shineman, President-Elect and Women of Distinction Chair

It is time to start thinking about an outstanding member of AAUW Missouri who has promoted the mission and values of AAUW in her branch and community. Every member knows a member worthy of this recognition. Each branch may nominate one member from any Missouri branch. She need not be a member of your branch. Please discuss with your branch leadership and submit a nomination form. The deadline for submitting the information is April 6, 2024.

Previous nominees may be resubmitted in subsequent years. Previous award winners are not eligible. This award is presented at the AAUW MO Conference to one member each year. The application and nomination form are on the AAUW MO website, aauw-mo.aauw.net

Incentive Grants

MO Members "Celebrated AAUW" at The Central States Regional Conference.

Now is the time to
Incorporate ideas using
AAUW Incentive Grant Funds

Your branch can apply anytime for funds to share AAUW's Mission for:
2024 GOTV... C/U... projects... programs...
special speakers... branch bookmarks...
certificates...tabling events...
the list is endless!

Applying is so easy!
Get details from the AAUW state website,
<http://www.aauw-mo-aauw.net>.

Wall of Women's Achievement

Created by Jane McClain, AAUW MO Member

The Wall of Achievement is a photo montage that chronicles women's achievements from winning the vote in 1920 to the present. It was originally created for a celebration of the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage on August 26, 1995. Since then, the "Wall" has been updated through 2020.

There are more the 500 women identified along with their achievements and over 1,000 more in 350 photo groups. The "Wall" traces the journey of women as they entered and succeeded in virtually every arena of society of society. The Wall of Women's Achievement celebrates the accomplishments of women and the strides they have made towards greater equality and inclusiveness in our nation

Since the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920. It is an amazing journey that needs to be rehearsed and remembered.



Jane McClain, Kansas City branch, with her amazing project titled Wall of Women's Achievements 1900-2000.



If you would like to display the wall for an event or would like a presentation, contact Jane McClain (jmclain24@kc.rr.com).

AAUW MO Membership–Central States Regional Conference

Membership Vice-president Susie Watson

Visit <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/swap-shops-sharing-branch-projects/>

Membership topics were key at the conference. On Thursday afternoon, **Lisa Maatz**, Gender Equity Specialist, discussed issues and challenges for member-driven organizations. She stated that AAUW is a ‘civil society group’ and urged members to think and act locally, collaborate with other like-minded organizations, and make potential members consider the value of joining an organization.

Membership Swap Shops informed and inspired. How to Score a “Touchdown” when Recruiting and Retaining Members—The Membership Playbook, was presented by **Sally Doty** and **Shelia Blair**, AAUW Michigan state board members.

Judy Kile and **Diana Curry-McGuirk**, Northland-Kansas City, described a successful event titled “Happy New (Membership) Year Party,” (not pictured) presented by branch board members. It was a FUN July event with tiaras and games, designed to encourage members to renew their memberships for the next year.

Roseanne Horn and **Eva Habib** of Michigan presented a comprehensive Membership Orientation <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/files/2023/10/ZOOM-AAUW-Membership-Orientation.pdf>

Sally Doty and Barb Duran, MI



Growing Your Membership presented by Karol Palmer, president of Independence MO branch.



At a COUNTERPART SESSION **Susie Watson**, MO on Saturday, **Maggie Winz**, WI (not pictured), discussed different ways to highlight our branches.

Karol shared the Independence tri-fold brochure that listed mission, vision, meeting dates and times, program topics,

committees and had a QR code that linked to the National website. We were told QR means Quick Response.

A male AAUW member from Wisconsin recommended involving the Chamber of Commerce in town to help with gaining new members or to partner with other activities.

It is important to be recognized as an AAUW member. I was delighted to see **AAWW CEO Gloria Blackwell** wearing the AAUW logo nametag while meeting notables like **Nancy Pelosi** in her slideshow presentation and wore this name tag for the duration of our regional conference. These are available at Shop AAUW for \$13.



Susie Watson, MO.



Seen at the AAUW MO Central States Regional Conference



AAUW Flag ceremony begins conference and escorted by members of the regional planning team



AAUW MO program vice-presidents Diane B. Ludwig and Su Bacon lead a Swap Shop on the 10-Star Program



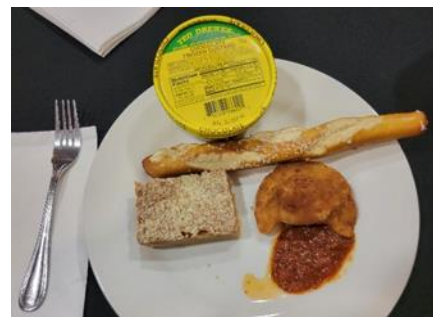
Pat Shores, AAUW MO welcomes conference goers



Inclusion-Infusion exercise led by Sue Shineman, MO



The St. Louis Arch



St. Louis Treats



AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell accepts a St. Louis conference memento from AAUW MO President Karen Francis



Lisa Maatz, Gender Equity Specialist
Keynote: Challenges Facing Member-Driven Organizations



Issues and Actions: Women's Health and Reproductive Rights,
Vanessa Wellbery, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy,
Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and SW MO



AAUW Sr. Public Policy Director
Meghan Kissel shared the status of ERA





Keynote: It's Complicated—The Causes and Consequences of the Gender Pay, Gap Karen Kedrowski, Director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics



TRENDING TOPICS Susan Halla Gender Isn't Binary/AAUW Focus on Intersectionality



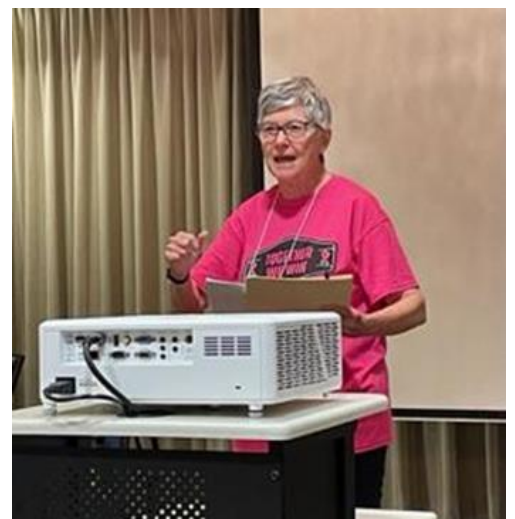
TRENDING TOPICS Gen Z to Millennials: Lincoln University Professor Kathleen Turner Ledgerwood, panel moderator, and students Re'Nayjah Burton and Emma Nunamaker, and social justice advocate Rachel Gonzalez.



Barbie the Influencer display



Marsha Koch, AAUW MO leader



D'Ann Campbell AAUW MO leader Collaborating and Networking with our College/University Partners



What Keeps AAUW Ticking?
AAUW National Committees
Panelists: Mary Smith TX, Susan Barley MO, Jan Carey MN, Malinda Gaul TX, Melissa LaDuke WV, and Gloria Long TX joined by Mehgan Kissell, AAUW Senior Public Policy Director.



DEI and Implementation on a state level
N'Kenge Gonzalez, MI State Board



At left, Sheritta Stokes, VP of the 1619 Freedom School Project and co-director of curriculum.

The school is dedicated to intensive instruction to bridge the academic opportunity gap among low-income public-school students in Waterloo, Iowa.



And that's a Wrap! Members of the Planning Committee
Back l-r: Maggie Winz WI, Lucy Barrington TX, Mary Smith TX, Kleo Baruth Kritz WI and Linda Kevorkian MI.
Front l-r: Diane Ludwig, Karen Francis, and Sue Shineman all from MO.



The Ongoing Fight for the Right to Vote
Denise Lieberman, Director and Legal Counsel of Missouri Voter Protection Coalition.

Leaves from the Branches

The Boonville Branch

John Tinker from Fayette, Missouri, the lead plaintiff in the 1969 U.S. Supreme Court case *Tinker vs Des Moines, Iowa* was the speaker at the October Boonville Branch meeting. The court ruled in favor of Tinker thus giving public school students the right to free speech within a school environment.

Mr. Tinker said, “We can see our own logic very clearly but sometimes have difficulty in seeing other people’s logic. This is why free speech is such an important part of the democratic process.” He reminded the group that these conversations are often difficult. He focused on recent issues including book banning. He noted that Missouri is number three, after Florida and Texas, on the list of states with the greatest number of banned books.

St. Charles Branch Commemorates 90 Years in AAUW



Historian Gary McKiddy and 52-year AAUW member **Karen Schneider** shared highlights of happenings through the decades from 1933–2023.

Karen discussed women's issues from 1971 when the women's movement was bringing women together to work on equal pay, (getting our own) credit, job opportunities, the impact of mass media and technology, and the ERA. Does any of this sound familiar 50+ years later?

Nevada Branch

In less than a month after the Regional Conference in St Louis, five Nevada Missouri Branch members met to see how they could implement a STEM Camp for 4th and 5th grade girls. This event is currently being held in Indianola Iowa with their AAUW branch partnering with Simpson College.

There were so many parallels between Nevada-Cottey College and Indianola-Simpson College, both small AAUW Branches, both in rural locations, both with college faculty as AAUW Branch members, both with the opportunity for older student involvement in leadership, both eager to implement a STEM activity for girls. There was no need to reinvent the wheel, but just let the wheel turn.

All of this came to light when **Sara Compton** from the Nevada Branch attended a Swap Shop “Math Magic and Science Secrets: STEM Workshop for Girls” presented by **Jackie Brittingham** and **Jo Richey**, IA. The Nevada Branch is working to begin their first STEM Camp in the fall of 2024 modeling it after the Iowa event. This path is made easier because of the opportunity for members from the Nevada Branch to attend the conference and the generosity of the Indianola Branch to share their idea and their process of organizing and implementing this STEM event. Jackie has been so helpful by answering multiple emails and providing documents for the Nevada Branch. AAUW continues to work together for women and girls.

Leaves from the Branches

Columbia Branch

Columbia Branch representatives **Diane B. Ludwig**, co-president, **Jane Biers**, communication, and **Marilyn McLeod**, public policy, were pleased to be part of the more than 155 AAUW members attending the Regional Conference in St. Louis. Marilyn focused on attending sessions related to public policy, Title IX, the ERA, and the Pay Gap. Jane, long a college/university rep, kept her eyes on that topic as well as looking at leadership and succession planning issues. Diane, one of the coordinators of the conference, focused on keeping the more than 30 Swap Shops running. One of the take-a-ways all three liked was that business meetings are not necessary at every branch meeting if no business needs to be conducted.

Jane noted that she especially liked the opportunity to visit with several national AAUW leaders and staff who were at the conference. They were always willing to share ideas and concerns. At the end of the conference, Jane even got to share a cab to the airport with Gloria Blackwell.



Columbia Branch members l- r Diane B. Ludwig, Jane Biers, and Marilyn McLeod visit with National AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell (2nd from left) at the Central States Regional Conference in mid-October in St. Louis.

Kansas City Northland and Parkville Branches

We had great representation at our Regional Conference! Five KC Northland and one Parkville member attended. They came home energized and ready to share information. Thanks to member **Denise Childers** for these photos.

On November 6, our branches hosted a panel featuring local three state legislators. Our members and guests learned a great deal about the inner workings of our state legislatures.



Left to Right: Susie Watson, Mary Seidt, Su Bacon, Diana Curry McGuirk, Denise Childers and Judy Kile.



Maggie Nurrenbern, MO Senate, District 15.
Lauren Arthur, MO House, District 1, and
Ashley Aune, District 14.

Leaves from the Branches

The St. Louis Branch held an Equality Day Celebration at Pietro's on Aug 26. We had a good crowd of 12 members at a very noisy, but fun and educational luncheon.



At Pietro's: l-r Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo, Sally McGowan, Carol Davis-McDonald, Linda Lindsey, Muni Akhmedova, and Chris Nobbe

Five St. Louis Branch members attended the AAUW Regional Conference Oct 19–21 in St. Louis and we all took away a great deal of energy and inspiration. We thank

the organizers of the conference from the bottom of our hearts.

One of our branch members, **Ruth Reese**, has a current exhibition at the Contemporary Art Museum (CAMA), and four of us attended her talk on October 21. Inspired by Greek deities such as Nyx, Gaia, and Daphne, Ruth uses clay and repurposed materials to create pieces that explore the idea of metamorphosis.

Our movie club has continued with its monthly Zoom discussions of *The Forty-Year-Old Version*, *Knock Down the House*, and *Living* our selections for the last three months.



CAMA talk by Ruth Reese: Jan Scott, Ellen Irons, Ruth Reese, Vette Goods, Chris Nobbe

The Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch was proud to be a part of the 2023 AAUW Regional Conference. Two of our board members, **Karen Francis** and **Pat Shores**, were part of the leadership planning team, and other members participated in other activities such as serving on the site committee and as photographers. Thanks to B-C member **Joyce Katz** for capturing all the Swap Shop session information for the state website!

The conference itself was memorable and full of highlights. The agenda was packed, and we had many choices of topics and speakers. We met national board members, and **CEO Gloria Blackwell** was present for all three days. Topics were diverse, ranging from women's health and reproductive rights to tribal lands, book censorship, the ERA, AAUW issues, and more. Many were pleased to learn the ERA needs just needs one signature from the government archivist to become law. The Swap Shops were excellent. Ballwin-Chesterfield presented three of these, one about STEM, one about Munching Matters, and one about Dollars for Scholars. It was a great conference, leaving us all feeling optimistic and inspired.

The B-C December meeting will be the Sassy Soiree, featuring the dancing of the St. Louis Strutters, followed by a boxed lunch. This event will also kick off the B-C Boosters, a branch fundraiser that extends from December to April to raise money for the Operating Fund. On January 11 the topic will be "Mental Health of Students, Post-Pandemic," presented by **Dr. Erin Schulte**, Parkway School District Coordinator for Counseling and Character Education.

Leaves from the Branches

Kirkwood–Webster Groves Branch supports its three STEM Scholarships for high school girls by selling pecans at the Pecanapalooza festival in Ste. Geneviève and the Affton High School Holiday Bazaar.



Kay Meyer shares AAUW info at Kirkwood Human Rights Commission event.

In October, a panel of AAUW Regional Conference attendees reported what they learned at the conference (at right).

Kay Meyer and her team of volunteers make this project a good way to spread the word about our branch by handing out brochures, bookmarks, and newsletters. We also shared information about AAUW's work for equity at the Kirkwood Human Rights Commission event, "Elevating Transgender Voices."



Jeannie Webdell sells pecans at Affton HS.



The Canton Branch co-sponsored with the student organization Women of Promise an information table in August for a lunch event for students to learn about organizations on campus and in the community. We also did a program open to students and the community on A Year After the Defeat of *Roe v Wade* and discussed what is happening in individual states, in elections, and in general. Specific examples of challenges women have faced in states restricting abortion were also shared as well as public opinion polls reflecting that a majority of voters support *Roe v Wade* and not the ruling of the Supreme Courts in the *Dobbs* case. In addition, we co-sponsored two sessions on recent US Supreme Court decisions on a wide variety of issues. Lively (but respectful) discussions ensued.

President of the Canton Branch **D'Ann Campbell** attended the 14-state regional conference in October and did a Swap Shop session on collaborating with University/College partners. Thirty members attended this session. The entire conference program offered an amazing amount of information on what AAUW national, states and branches are doing. The tenor was upbeat, and the audience took notes in a journal provided to each participant. The hardest thing to decide was which session to attend when there was a choice.

D'Ann reports that I often miss part of a conference to go out to tour the city, but I didn't miss any of the sessions from 8 a.m.–9 p.m. I saw very few people missing a session and overheard some of them confide to friends that they had to take a quick power nap, which was understandable. In sum, the conference kept our attention. Congratulations to the organizers.

AAUW MO State Board 2023–24

To contact a state officer, go to <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/contact-us/>

President Karen Francis Ballwin-Chesterfield	Program-Co VP 10- Star Award Diane Ludwig Columbia	Program-Co VP Su Bacon Parkville	Public Policy Chair Alice Kitchens Kansas City
President Elect/ Past President Advisor 5-Star National Recognition Program Sue Shineman Independence	Communications/ Newsletter Editor Mary Jermak Ballwin-Chesterfield	Secretary & Directory Patty Murray Ferguson-Florissant	Governance/Bylaws Parliamentarian Linda Berube Kansas City
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Missouri in Motion, Community Hub, and AAUW MO Website

To contact a state officer, go to <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/contact-us/>.

- Newsletter items are requested for branch news, announcements, and photographs. Please send items to Editor Mary Jermak.
- *Missouri in Motion* and branch newsletters are available for download at aauw-mo.aauw.net.
- Send a copy of your branch newsletter to AAUW MO Historian Jane Biers, Web Manager Joyce Katz, AAUW MO President Karen Francis, and Missouri Action Plan Facilitator Pat Shores.
- For website additions or corrections, contact Joyce Katz via the website contact form.
- Update your contact information at aauw.org/. The Community Hub now serves as the former member services database.