

## 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.

### AAUW MO Annual Meeting 2024

Saturday, May 4, 2024

### ***Advocacy and Equity – A Winning Team!***

Holiday Inn Executive Center – 2200 I-70 Drive SW – Columbia, MO 65203 573-445-8531

It is time to gather in person from across the state for the AAUW MO Annual Conference! The state board has a great day planned! Saturday, May 4 will include an address from **AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell**, awards for Woman of Achievement, Outstanding Member, AAUW FUND awards, branch STAR Awards, and the election and installation of new state officers. (See agenda Registration Form which will be attached to this newsletter's distribution). The noon luncheon will feature **Director and**

**General Counsel of the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition Denise Lieberman** to update us on Missouri voting issues. We'll also have an update on library censorship issues, public policy initiatives, and college/university relations. At lunchtime we will have our popular counterpart sessions for branch leaders.

Rising food costs have caused the registration fee to increase to \$75 before April 17 and \$85 after that date. A continental breakfast and Saturday lunch are included. AAUW MO is working to provide each branch with stipends through the **Branch Incentive Fund** to assist members to attend.



Gloria Blackwell



Denise Lieberman

An exciting, sad, and meaningful addition this year is a tribute activity to the AAUW Fund for our own **Amazing Grace (Butler)** who passed last October. Each branch can participate. See the article on page three for full details. Though Grace was little in size, let's help make her tribute gift a BIG one!

The Holiday Inn Executive Center is a great location in the center of the state, and they are excited to host us again. Due to costs, we do not plan to have a virtual component for remote attendance. The official registration form with agenda will accompany distribution of this newsletter and sent electronically to each branch president in late February. For questions about the state meeting, please contact either co-state program vice president, **Su Bacon** or **Diane B. Ludwig** via <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/connect/board/>. We look forward to seeing you in Columbia on May 4, 2024, for some great AAUW time together!

#### AAUW Table of Contents

##### Page

2. From AAUW MO President
3. Legislative Retreat, Grace Butler Tribute
4. Officer Nominees, College/University
5. DEI, Incentive Grants
6. Woman of Distinction, Membership
7. STEM, Succession Planning
8. Records Management, National History Day
9. Public Policy, Missouri Trail
10. Missouri Trail, continued, Calendar
- 11–14. *Leaves from the Branches*
15. AAUW Officers & Information

## From AAUW MO President Karen Francis

When people ask you about AAUW and why are you a member, what do you say? I hope all of you share “we advocate for women and girls...” and we have fun! This spring we can Open Up AAUW—Break Our Own Barrier by welcoming women and men to join as we vote to eliminate the degree requirement. The National AAUW Board and your AAUW MO Board have endorsed this bylaw change. You may be asking yourself:

- Why are we voting on this?
- What does it mean to our AAUW image?
- How will I vote?



AAUW has been evolving since 1881. In the 1940's we did away with members must have a degree from a small list of accredited schools and prospective members had to be voted on to become a member; in 1963 AAUW accepted members who had degrees in education, nursing, and home economics; in 1987 we welcomed men, and in 2005 we allowed members with associate or equivalent degrees. Now it's time in 2024 to welcome anyone who supports our purpose of advancing equity for women and girls, and our vision of equity for all. If this proposed change to the bylaw passes, as we share our enthusiasm for AAUW with others, we will no longer have that awkward ask “where did you go to college?”

AAUW's current degree requirement bars more than 60 percent of women from joining us as we fight for women's reproductive rights, equal pay, maternity leave, and against sexual violence and harassment. **“Open Up AAUW”** would eliminate the membership requirement to have a college degree. Before you vote on “Open Up AAUW”, join with other members in your branch for a respectful, informative, and inclusive discussion about this vote, what it is, and why it is being seriously considered. The state board and branch presidents have had these discussions and voted to support the change. Now it is time for the membership to vote. We want a large voting turnout on this change to truly reflect the membership's preference. In 2021, only 25 percent of all AAUW members voted, with 63 percent of those voting to eliminate the requirement. In Missouri, only 37 percent of branch and national members voted, with 70 percent voting to eliminate the degree requirement. To pass this bylaw change, 2/3 of those voting must vote to eliminate the degree requirement.

How will your voice be heard? Voting will take place online starting April 3, 2024. AAUW is utilizing an independent, third-party voting system for the vote. To vote, you will receive an email from [vote@simplyvoting.com](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.com) with your unique Elector ID and Password. Members without an email on file or who have unsubscribed from AAUW national emails will receive a paper ballot by mail. PLEASE check your information on the community hub to make sure your current information is accurate. Voting will close on Wednesday, May 15 at 11 p.m. CT. If you have any questions about this important vote, go to [openupaauw.org](https://openupaauw.org) or contact me, <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/connect/board/>.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Spring Conference on May 4, to celebrate all the great work done this year! It truly is an honor and privilege to know and work with you as we advance equity for women and girls together.

### More than an acronym

Like our friends at the Y,  
the letters in our name no longer define  
who we are.

[OpenUpAAUW.org](https://OpenUpAAUW.org)

## Vote YES



## 2024 Legislative Retreat

AAUW MO will facilitate the Legislative Retreat on Saturday, February 24, via Zoom, from 9 a.m. –11:30 a.m., and you are invited to attend. The leaders of 15 Missouri organizations will give a brief description of their group, an explanation of their main legislative priority, including bill number, title, and author of two bills they would like us to monitor. Activists from organizations across the state will share information about pay equity, ERA, book bans, sensible gun safety, LGBTQ+, abortion action, voter protection, and much more. Please use this link for access to the 2024 Legislative Retreat.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81145384169?pwd=OhRkbsDzmdCsgJpr680HwSbjl3gcDH.1>  
Meeting ID: 811 4538 4169 Passcode: 589130

## A Tribute to Grace Butler

*And though she but little, she is fierce* (William Shakespeare) perfectly described **Grace Butler**. So much so that her family incorporated it into her memorial service. Grace was small in stature, just under five feet, but fierce in determination. To know Grace was to respect her. She worked tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of women and girls.



In her more than six decades of service, Grace held many AAUW positions. She was president of AAUW Missouri from 1991-1993 and went on to become Southwest Central Regional Director for two terms covering Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. In that role, she also served on the national level. Most every state president in Missouri that worked with Grace has high praise for her. She was filled with enthusiasm, wonder, excitement, and passion. She could enthral a crowd with one of her stories of life on her farm and then give another life-lesson about the issues facing women and girls. Thus, she was frequently called ‘Amazing Grace.’ To those who knew and worked with her, she certainly was! Grace passed on October 11, 2023, just one month shy of her 97th birthday – still little and still fierce!

**It is an honor for AAUW MO to present this tribute for Grace, an AAUW leader, mentor, tireless worker, champion of women, and dear friend. We hope you will join us.**

## Wall Quilt of Quotes Drawing

The printed wall quilt shown here was created by an AAUW family member. One of the quotes is the Shakespeare quote selected by Grace’s family (second row, second from right, in white box). Wall quilt measures 37”x37” with a colorful backing of the same colors as the front.

**Tickets \$2 each; 3 for \$5, 6 for \$10, 12 for \$20**

Drawing will be at the AAUW MO State Conference on May 4, 2024. Branches will receive a packet of tickets and flyers in early March. All tickets and money may be returned to Susan Barley at the State Conference by 10 a.m. that day.

If you wish to honor Grace but do not wish to be in the drawing, Tribute gifts may be made directly to **Susan Barley**, State AAUW Fund Chair, 4 N. Kingshighway Blvd, 5-D, St. Louis, MO 63108. Please make checks payable to AAUW FUND and put ‘Grace Butler Tribute’ in the memo line.



## 2024–2026 Slate of Officers

The AAUW MO Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers. Both currently hold their position and are eligible to serve another term.

### Membership Vice President–Susie Watson, Kansas City Northland Branch

Susie is a 21-year member of the KC Northland Branch where she has served as president, secretary, newsletter, and social chair. She is active in the Morning Book Group. Susie has a degree from the University of Central Oklahoma with majors in English and journalism. She was a full-time mom for 12 years and worked at the *Kansas City Star* for 13 years in circulation doing "Newspapers for Education."



### Finance Vice President –Lois Domsch, Independence Branch



Lois attended St. Paul's Junior College, Concordia, MO, and graduated from the University of Minnesota-Mankato with a bachelor of science degree. She earned her master's degree from the University of Missouri–Kansas City. Lois taught cumulatively 32 years, most of the time in North Kansas City School District Middle School's Gifted Program. She has been a member of the Independence Branch of AAUW for almost 50 years, serving in several positions including recording secretary, president, and treasurer, and was administrative assistant of the AAUW MO Board.

Nominating Committee members are **Lynne Roney**, Acting Chair, Kirkwood–Webster Groves Branch; **Jane Biers**, Columbia Branch; **Patt Braley**, Independence Branch; **Kay Meyer**, Kirkwood–Webster Groves and Ballwin-Chesterfield Branches; and **Sandra Murdock**, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch.

## College/University Relations Committee

**Debra McArthur, C/U Relations Chair**

With the start of the winter term, our committee members have returned to campuses to network with students and staff. Committee members have held events at Maryville University in St. Louis, Park University in Parkville, and University of MO-Kansas City. We are currently promoting our National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at our member schools. Heather English (Nevada Branch) reports that the new student group there is planning to send some students to NCCWSL, and the St. Louis-area branches are again offering NCCWSL scholarships. At Park University, plans are in the works for a Women's History Month event which will include participation from AAUW student members as well as an information table to promote AAUW membership for attendees.

Kansas City IBC is actively promoting the Reentry Scholarship program, which will again offer \$1000 scholarships to several women from our member schools who have entered degree programs after a lapse of five or more years in their education.



## AAUW Central Regional Conference 2023 and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Luna Mukherjee, PhD

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) was a theme at the AAUW Regional Conference 2023. A total of 156 members from 14 states and D.C. attended the conference. There were a variety of programs: keynote speakers, Swap Shop workshops, presentations, panel discussions, Inclusion Infusion exercises and fun activities.

There were also diverse speakers for "Reaching New Heights Together." Women of different backgrounds, professions, race, color, age, and so forth came together to discuss different issues that affect women and other people as well. Men also joined in. AAUW Missouri members and leaders presented 10 Swap Shop programs, two Swap Shops display boards and Inclusion Infusion exercises. AAUW Missouri and National presented three Swap Shop programs specifically on DEI.

Missouri and Kansas City also presented on Gender Study, finance review, and the Wall of Women's Achievements. There was a special Swap Shop Sit-in with the **AAUW National DEI Committee Chair Melissa LaDuke**. AAUW Illinois and Michigan presented on DEI topics too. There were presentations on Gender Pay Gap, Intersectionality, and Tribal lands. AAUW Missouri presented on elimination of salary history and CEDAW (Convention for Elimination of Discrimination Against Women).

AAUW Arkansas and Minnesota presented on Equal Pay Day. AAUW National board members discussed and answered questions on membership and degree requirement vote, leadership and succession planning, and related matters. AAUW Senior Public Policy Director presented on Equal Rights Amendment and other matters. AAUW CEO presented on "Advancing Equity Together: Manifesting AAUW's Mission for a Strong Future."

Song, dance, food, photo shoot, and networking made it even more fun. It was educational, informative and entertaining. It was time to make new friends, celebrate the successes, and prepare for continuing work. Those of you who were not able to attend - we thought about you too. AAUW MO web manager posted the presentations materials for your review at <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/swap-shops-sharing-branch-projects/>

Have fun viewing the Missouri in Motion newsletter that covers the regional conference at <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/files/2023/11/2023-Fall-Missouri-in-Motion.pdf>. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion unite us and make us stronger – at the conference we reached new heights together.

### Incentive Grants

Teri Brecht

It's time to prepare for 2024 special projects. Get funds from Incentive Grants.

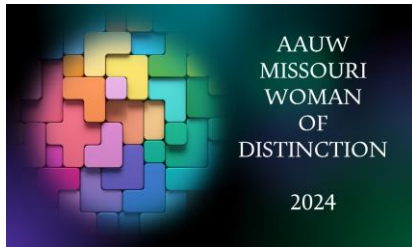
It's easy to apply at <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/incentive-grants/>

Stipends to help attend the state conference....GOTV...STEM Awards and Recognition...

Special Speakers...Branch Bookmarks...Membership Events....and more!

## AAUW Missouri Woman of Distinction

President-Elect & Women of Distinction Chair Sue Shineman



I hope you have been thinking about a nominee for the 2024 Woman of Distinction. Your nominee must be a member of AAUW and one who has promoted the mission and values of AAUW in her branch and community. We all know 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. The application and nomination form are on the AAUW MO website, [aauw-mo.aauw.net](http://aauw-mo.aauw.net).

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 award will be presented at the AAUW Annual Meeting in Columbia on Saturday, May 4.

## Membership

Missouri Membership VP Susie Watson

**When Opportunity Knocks...Be Prepared!**

[OpenUpAAUW.org](http://OpenUpAAUW.org) gives all Missouri branches an opportunity to gain new members. We should have tools to generate interest in joining our organization. Be creative with ideas.

Bookmarks or Tri-Fold Brochure

These could include branch meeting dates, programs and Mission & Vision, list of officers, contact emails and numbers.

PowerPoint Presentation

Education and training for potential new members is key—this is what we are working toward. Public Policy, STEM education, freedom from sex discrimination, Title IX, Gender Pay Gaps, economic security. Include pictures of past events and speakers.

Guest & New Member Info

Create an application to include name, street address, city, state, zip, phone, and email. List dues for national, state, and branch membership. For those joining, make check payable to branch. If not joining, retain to notify via email next month and include in newsletter blast.

Event to invite new members

- Luncheon at local college with a presentation by a local author, musician, female politician which could have been a former mayor, senator, human interest storyteller.
- Parks & Rec plans for new statues about historic women in Missouri.
- Plan more than one seasonal date. Include a Meet & Greet at a venue with Happy Hour appetizers. Have some fun! Highlight quotes from notable women and award small gifts for those who can name the person quoted.

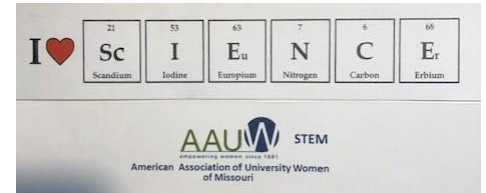
Be Friendly

Introduce yourself to women business owners. Get involved with those in the Chamber of Commerce and STEM educators in your local school district.

## AAUW MO STEM

AAUW Missouri STEM Chair Sandra Murdock

The AAUW MO STEM committee met in January 2024. Branches have provided Missouri communities with scholarships, science programs, and activities for girls. The STEM Committee has Science AAUW bookmarks to be distributed in schools. These were designed by Pam Kulp. The committee asks branches to continue to submit projects, activities, photos, and STEM programs to the state website, [aauw-mo.aauw.net/stem-branch-programs/](http://aauw-mo.aauw.net/stem-branch-programs/).



Women in STEM careers have made gains, from 8 percent to 28 percent. **Erin Lear** has launched The First Female Aviation Academy, named BIRDE. This company is addressing the female PILOT shortage. Females account for only 7 percent of pilots.



Shirley Ann Jackson PhD

Physicist **Shirley Ann Jackson PhD**, was the 18th President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She is the former head of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Ms. Jackson is the first Black woman to receive a doctorate from MIT. Ms. Jackson's research led to the development of the FAX machine, fiber-optic cells, and caller ID.



Erin Lear

## Succession Planning

President Elect Sue Shineman

We must be proactive about developing board leadership! Every branch is challenged with filling board positions. We tend to 'recycle' or play musical chairs with leaders. Succession planning is a proactive strategy for identifying and fostering new leaders. Seasoned leaders are vital, but new leaders with new ideas are equally as important. As soon as a new person takes office, we know when their term will end. We must plan for leadership succession and build a pipeline of talent.

Branch leaders are the ones who success is based on members' a member's strengths and working on an *Opportunity to Serve* about members' interests, skillsets, branch board is encouraged to use positions. The form will be shared month.



fill state board positions. Our strengths. It is important to know weaknesses. Your state board is *Form* that will gather information experience, and expertise. Your this tool to help in filling branch with branch presidents this

Leaders must 'ask' members to become more involved, to serve on a committee, and to share their expertise. Too often we expect our branch leaders to work solo instead of with a team. Collaborative projects enable members to bounce ideas off one another, share experience, and help improve each other's strengths. Engage members in discussion. The feeling of belonging and that we are making a difference in the life of our branch is critical to building leaders.

Once we have identified the next-in-line to fill a position, we must always keep an eye out for our next leaders. The succession-planning process is never completed, and it should be continuously reviewed and updated. Succession planning takes continuous effort and evaluation. It is never a one-and-done.

## Records Management Guidelines

### *Suggestions to AAUW Missouri Branches for What to Keep*

Jane Biers, AAUW-MO Historian

In deciding what records to keep, consider the following: does the information illustrate branch activities, does it show that events did or did not occur, is it required for legal purposes, needed to document important programs, issues or events, or has intrinsic historical value? Such information might include the following:

- President's records (correspondence, speeches)
- Publications (branch newsletters, arranged chronologically, brochures, and other publications)
- Financial records (statements, review reports, ledgers or spread sheets, budgets)
- Founding documents (articles of incorporation, bylaws and revisions, charter, tax-exempt certificate)
- Minutes from meetings such as membership, board of directors,' executive committee, committee, and task forces
- Annual reports from branch officers
- Fellowship records (accepted applications [discard rejected ones], minutes of scholarship meetings, scholars' publications or products)
- Project records (summaries)
- Photographs (only if identified) and news clippings of events, programs, and members. Copy news clippings onto acid-free paper and discard the clippings.

After seven years discard bank statements and canceled checks, tax returns, and receipts of purchases. Retain routine correspondence only as long as needed for reference, then discard. Discard publications from AAUW national. Because the history of AAUW Missouri from 1976–2020 has been published, branches could discard state newsletters and directories issued before 2020.

The next publication of AAUW Missouri history will cover the years 2020–2030. For this publication branches will need access to their financial reports, newsletters, lists of programs, directories, records of awards given by, or received from, the state or the branch, perhaps lists of past presidents and office holders during the decade, and accounts of other important activities; names of deceased members during that time might also be maintained. Some of this information is published in the annual state directories, so it is good to keep them for the relevant years.

## National History Day in Missouri

### National History Day AAUW Chair Betty Takahashi

The event will be held at the University of Missouri in Columbia on April 27, 2024. The theme is "Turning Points in History." AAUW of Missouri will award three \$100 awards to Junior and Senior Performances and a Documentary award.

Branches are encouraged to promote the contest in local middle schools (6, 7 and 8) and local high schools. Anyone wishing to serve as a judge may contact the committee chair Betty Takahashi via <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/connect/board/>.



## AAUW MO Public Policy

### Chair Alice Kitchen

Our Public Policy Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 5 p.m. except for holidays and then we pivot to the second Monday. In the past year we focused on six initiatives and responded quickly to new issues that commanded our attention. Those initiatives were focused on local cities and counties. The elimination of the use of salary history in the hiring process, process to achieve a City for Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) designation, securing a gender wage study, Title IX policy changes, voter education and engagement, and responded to the move to remove library funding from the state budget. We gave support to supporters of LGBTQ/trans persons proposed bills in the General Assembly.

We followed the abortion lawsuit sponsored by the Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the National Women's Law Center, and ACLU with 13 faith leaders as plaintiffs. **Carol Cowles** of the KC Branch secured space for the Americans for the Separation of Church and State Abortion Stories exhibit at her All Souls Church.

Tangible steps on how to engage local elected officials were given to our committee by Commissioner **Scott Wagner** of Clay County. His tips were about timing, who to approach, topics, and consideration of whether the issue is legislative, regulatory, or just an administrative ask.

The AAUW Student Loan Webinar needs to be shared with university and postgraduate students in debt. Please share widely. <https://youtu.be/pOPUih3jTDA>.

Public Policy participated in three Swap Shops presentations at the AAUW MO Regional Conference:

1. Cities for CEDAW,
2. Gender Wage Study process,
3. How to secure a Salary History ban.

With the passing of the *Pregnant Worker Fairness Act* in June 2023, our committee has discussed and will work with the City of Kansas City (and any branch) towards the goal of creating local education and enforcement of the federal law.

The committee has taken on a Get Out the Vote project at local Senior Living Communities to do a voter education on absentee voting and curbside voting and assist with voter registration for those who have changed their address. **Marian Bauer** of the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch will lead this GOTV project.

## Suffragists Added to the Missouri Trail

AAUW MO National Votes for Women Missouri Trail Coordinator Pat Shores

AAUW MO 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial Celebration Task Force Chair Ellen Irons

Since 2021, our statewide AAUW MO "Votes for Women Missouri Trail" project has encouraged branches to submit names of local suffragists to the National Collaborative for Women's History website. In December of 2023, Marilyn McCleod, AAUW Columbia, added **Luella St. Clair Moss** to the website and AAUW St. Louis members **Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo** and **Ellen Irons** added **Victoria Clay Haley** and **Cynthelia Knefler**.

The addition of these three women brings our AAUW MO contribution to the Missouri Trail total to seven. The previous submissions were **Maria L. Harrison**, **Mary Alice Ford Pitts**, **Arsania Williams**, and the **Greenwood Cemetery of Hillsdale MO**. To view the trail, visit the website at: <https://ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail-2/>.

## Suffragists, *continued*

Here is the story of each of these women:



- **Luella St. Clair Moss** was one of very few female college presidents in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. As President of Christian College (later Columbia College), she was an outspoken supporter for the college education of young women and involved in the local and state suffragist movements. Along with the President of the University of Missouri **Dr. Richard Jesse**, she was instrumental in the establishment of the Columbia Equal Suffrage Association in 1912.

- **Victoria Clay Haley** was an extraordinary leader, businesswoman, and activist. She was president, in 1913, of the Federated Colored Women's Clubs of St. Louis when the city hosted a large regional suffrage conference where her attendance was challenged but successfully accepted. She was active in the 1914 National Association of Colored Women when her motion carried for them to endorse the work of her friend, **Madame C. J. Walker**.



MRS. V. C. HALEY.

- **Cynthelia Knefler** was involved in social work in St. Louis, which led to her meeting **Hannah Hennessey**, a local garment worker. In 1907, Knefler and Hennessey created the Women's Trade Union League (WTUL) of St. Louis. Cynthelia also served as auditor in the St. Louis Equal Suffrage League and was able to utilize her positions in both organizations to create overlap between the labor and suffrage movements.



Women's Trade Union League (WTUL)

### Save the Date

#### Labor, Suffrage, and Social Justice

Cynthelia Knefler's Contribution to Our St. Louis History"  
Presented by Rosemary Feurer

Sunday April 7, 2024, 1 p.m. – 2:30pm  
The Griot Museum of Black History  
2505 St Louis Ave, St. Louis, MO 63106

### 2024 AAUW MO Upcoming Events

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

#### February

Black History Month

24 Legislative Retreat Date 9 a.m.

#### March

Women's History Month

6 Last day to register to vote

8 IWD Event 7 p.m. [IFUMC](http://IFUMC)

9 AAUW MO board meeting on Zoom

#### April

2 General Municipal Elections

17 Early Bird Registration Deadline for  
AAUW MO Annual Conference Meeting

#### May

3 AAUW MO board meeting, 2 p.m.

4 AAUW MO Annual Conference Meeting

## Leaves from the Branches

### The Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch



At the **Martin Luther King Day** event at Kirkwood High School on January 15, KWG members staffed an information table to highlight AAUW's work on pay equity. As a member of the Kirkwood Human Rights Commission, branch co-president **Jeanne Webdell**, helped organize the event.



Judge Robin Ransom

Guest speaker, **Missouri Supreme Court Justice Robin Ransom**, the first Black woman appointed to the Supreme Court, was invited by a contact who met her when she spoke at the KWG Branch's 50th anniversary luncheon. Other members who trekked through the cold to help with tabling were **Deb McWard**, **Lesli Moylan**, **Charlotte Parsons**, and **Lynne Roney**.



Rev. Mary Haggerty



Jill Fahrenholtz

January and February branch meetings are by Zoom to minimize weather issues. Both speakers have Kirkwood connections. Mechanical engineer **Jill Fahrenholtz** of Rolla, a Kirkwood High School grad, updated us in January about new after-school STEM programs for elementary, middle, and high school students. Coming up in February is a presentation on gun violence prevention by the **Rev. Mary Haggerty** of the Gun Violence Prevention Advisory Committee for the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. **The Rev. Haggerty** is a priest at Grace Episcopal Church in Kirkwood.

### The Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch

Ballwin-Chesterfield continues to work on issues relating to AAUW branch, state, and national priorities. On the national level, we are preparing activities to assure that branch members are well informed when it is time to vote on the issue of *Open Up AAUW*. On the state level, B-C Public Policy co-directors **Marian Bauer** and **Angela Janik** keep us informed with issues arising from the current legislative session. As part of GOTV, they are assisting with voter registration at several area nursing homes and senior living facilities since people must have a current address to vote. At the branch level, we work hard to keep our members engaged and informed through communication and meetings.

The B-C speaker for January was **Dr. Erin Schulte**, **Parkway School District Coordinator of Counseling and Character Education**. She centered her talk on the numerous school district initiatives to care for the mental health of students. **Ellen Irons**, **AAUW MO leader**, spoke about *Unconscious Bias and Microaggressions: How to Handle in Real Time* at the February branch meeting. On March 14, **Rebeka McIntosh**, **Vice President of MNEA**, will speak about *Educators Fueling the Fight for Freedom*.

The branch has a busy schedule of activities to raise money for scholarships through the Dollars for Scholars (DFS) program. Members attending the International Relations Speaker Series at the Ethical Society donate money to DFS to attend this otherwise free event. Several coffee concerts at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center are on the calendar, as is a tour of the Sammy Soap Factory.

## Leaves from the Branches

### The Kansas City Northland and Parkville Branches



The Kansas City Northland and Parkville Branches welcomed **Mary Messner**, board chair of **Madam President Camp** to share information about this program that offers leadership training for girls ages 11–13 in a day camp setting. In the past few years, the program has grown from one camp per year to five, with growth fueled largely by camp participants who told friends. AAUW members offered suggestions for ways they could help the organization through contacts with local schools.

Pictured (l to r) are **Diana Curry-McGuirk**, KCN president; **Su Bacon**, Parkville president; **Mary**

**Messner**; **Dr. Laura Sellers**, director of operations of MPC; and **Jeanne Latz**, board member of MPC.

The Parkville Branch has lost our longest-tenured branch member, **Betty Dusing**, who passed away on Thursday, January 25, 2024. Betty was a guiding force in our branch for over 60 years. When the Parkville Branch celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015, members shared how they came to join the organization. Most of those present said, “Betty invited me to come to a meeting.” Betty’s obituary is online at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/betty-dusing-obituary?pid=206206721>.



### The Canton Branch

This fall the Canton Branch continued the tradition of co-sponsoring a table with the student organization Women of Promise to talk with students about e-members in AAUW. We also co-sponsored a lunchtime event to review and analyze *Post Roe v Wade* a year later. We have many activities planned for women's history month.

### The Boonville Branch

**Carol Norman** and **Karen Niederjohn** spoke at the most recent branch meeting about their April 2023 trip to Israel and Jordan. They gave their impressions of historic sites, culture, and the geo-political climate. On the lighter side, they shared some of their favorite travel clothes, phone apps, and laundry products.

Upcoming meetings for the remainder of the year will focus on pay equity, climate change and a group discussion of the book, ***Educated***.



## *Leaves from the Branches*

### **The St. Charles Branch**

In December, pianist **Sheila Fletcher** entertained branch members with unique and traditional versions of holiday and classical music. Sheila accompanies a variety of singers and performs with Friends of Music and Morning Etude. Branch members in attendance, including five of the newest members, were decked out in holiday white, red and green.



**Standing:** Rose Ann Weeks, Judy Johnson, Barb Prideaux, Bonnie Dillard, Charlie Daniels, Barb Olive, Jeanetta Beckley, Dulcie Couillard, Virginia Beckley, Linda Dencker, Karen Schneider, JoAnne Vieweg, Teri Brecht.  
**Seated:** Grace Poertner, Betty Takahashi, Gerry Jacobs, Carolyn Newcomb.



**Shelia Fletcher**

### **The Nevada Branch**

#### **But We've Always Done It That Way**

The Nevada Branch has always 'skipped' December with no meeting or program. For the first time in over 40 years the Nevada Branch gathered in December 2023 for a Christmas social. The idea was suggested by a new branch member. A good turnout of members gathered to share snacks, visit with each other, and participate in a fun game. The only rule for the evening was no AAUW business. Gee, who'd have thought that trying something new would work? The branch members enjoyed the event so much a summer social is being planned.

## *Leaves from the Branches*

### The Columbia Branch

The Columbia Branch had a very busy fall, filled with AAUW activities. We held our 9<sup>th</sup> annual **Holly Burgess Public Policy Forum** with the League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County at the Daniel Boone Regional Library on “The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sunshine Law.” **Kathy Kiely**, journalist, noted the importance of public meetings being open to the public. This was eye-opening how the law came about and how important it is to democracy.

Our look at today’s women’s issues led us to the movie ‘Barbie’ and **Heather Carver, MU Theatre Department**. Heather did an excellent job of giving us a behind the scenes look at WHO put the movie together and WHAT they wanted to say. We encourage you to see the movie if you haven’t. It is not a children’s movie!

We then turned our attention to student athletes and the issues of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL), that is, who owns them and how you handle endorsements. Our thanks to **Marcy Girton, Senior Associate AD for Football Administration and Special Projects**, of the **MU Intercollegiate Athletics** for an inciteful program. In December we held the annual Red Stocking Fund Raiser at a local restaurant and enjoyed holiday word games and activities to celebrate the season.



**Photo: Holly Burgess Public Policy Forum Event (L-R) Mahree Skala president LWV-Columbia, Diane B. Ludwig, AAUW Columbia co-president, and Lauren Williams, Community Relations, Daniel Boone Regional Library at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Holly Burgess Public Policy Forum.**

Journalism professor **Kathy Kiely, Lee Hills Chair of Free Press Studies at the MU School of Journalism**, discussed importance of the Sunshine Laws with a most interested audience.



**Professor Kathy Kiely**

## AAUW MO State Board 2023–24

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

<b>President</b> Karen Francis Ballwin-Chesterfield	<b>Program-Co VP</b> 10- Star Award Diane Ludwig Columbia	<b>Program-Co VP</b> 10-Star Award Su Bacon Parkville	<b>Public Policy Chair</b> Alice Kitchens Kansas City
<b>President Elect/ Past President Advisor</b> 5-Star National Recognition Program Sue Shineman Independence	<b>Communications/ Newsletter Editor</b> Mary Jermak Ballwin-Chesterfield	<b>Secretary &amp; Directory</b> Patty Murray Ferguson-Florissant	<b>Governance/Bylaws Parliamentarian</b> Linda Berube Kansas City
<b>Finance Officer</b> Lois Domsch Independence	<b>Historian</b> Jane Biers, Columbia	<b>MO Action Plan Facilitator</b> Pay Equity Advocate Chair Pat Shores Ballwin-Chesterfield	<b>Administrative Assistant</b> Pat Shores Ballwin-Chesterfield
<b>Membership VP</b> Susie Watson KC Northland	<b>College/University Relations Chair</b> Debra McArthur Parkville	<b>Missouri History Day</b> Betty Takahashi St. Charles	<b>Nominating Committee Chair</b> Lynne Roney Kirkwood-Webster Groves
<b>AAUW Fund and National Liaison</b> Sue Barley Ballwin-Chesterfield	<b>STEM Chair</b> Sandra Murdock Ballwin-Chesterfield	<b>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)</b> Luna Mukherjee Kansas City	<b>Kansas City IBC Co-chairs</b> Sue Shineman Independence and Corrine Mahaffey Kansas City
<b>Web Manager/Facebook Administrator</b> Joyce Katz Ballwin-Chesterfield	<b>Google Doc Manager</b> Directory Marsha Koch Kirkwood-Webster Groves	<b>St. Louis IBC Co-chairs</b> Betty Takahashi and Teri Brecht St. Charles	
	<b>Branch Incentive</b> Grant Chair Pam Kulp St. Charles		

### **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](https://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/](https://aauw.org/). The Community Hub now serves as the former member services database.