

February 29, 2024



## Kansas City Northland Branch Parkville Branch

### 2023-24 Officers

#### KC Northland Branch

President: Diana Curry McGuirk

Finance Officer: Mary Seidt

Secretary: Melody Shoger

Membership Chair: Susie Watson

#### Parkville Branch

President: Su Bacon

Finance Officer: Lindsey McArthur

Secretary: Ann Schultis

Membership Chair: Debra McArthur

## Our next event:

**Saturday, March 16, 12:30 pm**

**Park University, 8700 NW River Park Dr., Parkville 64152**

**Watson Literacy Center**

Rachelle Morgan, music therapist and author of *Listen Sing Dance Play* will be our featured speaker for a gala event at Park University!

Thanks to the generosity of Park University in hosting this event, the cost is just \$25 per person and both our branches will benefit. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce others to AAUW. The Shape the Future program allows new members to join for half the usual cost of their National dues.

Come celebrate spring and learn how music therapy can enrich our lives. Books will be available for purchase. Invite a friend to join you for this exciting program!

The deadline for reservations is March 6! See the attached flier for reservation details. Parkville members can bring reservations to our business meeting on March 4. If you are mailing the form and payment, let Lindsey McArthur know before the deadline, so she can add you and your guests to the lunch count for the caterer. [newlinzey@gmail.com](mailto:newlinzey@gmail.com)

**Note:** This is an in-person event; no Zoom link will be available.

## Recap of our last event:

Our speaker, Mary Messner, Executive Director of Madam President Camp, told us more about this leadership program for girls ages 11-13. In her talk, she referred to statistics from AAUW research showing the decline in girls' self-confidence in this age group, an indicator of the need for this kind of program. Many of our members signed up to receive more information and offered suggestions for recruiting participants and obtaining grant funds.

## March is Women's History Month

Several events are scheduled around the area.

The Independence Branch will celebrate International Women's Day with a special event on **Friday, March 8**. Flier attached with more information.

UMKC's Women's Center is again having a Pay Equity Day event on **Tuesday, March 12**. We will have a table with an interactive game for students with facts about the Pay Gap. If you would like to help with this event, contact Debra McArthur.

William Jewell is hosting an event on **Sunday, March 24** to discuss "African American Women in Higher Education." Flier attached with more information.

Park University is holding a student event on **Friday, March 29** to celebrate women's contributions in business. We have been invited to set up a table to tell students about AAUW membership. This is a lunchtime/afternoon event. If you would like to help with the table, please let Debra McArthur know.

## Missouri AAUW

The winter edition of our state AAUW newsletter is now available. To read all the news of things happening around the state, go to <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/files/2024/02/2024-Winter-Missouri-in-Motion.pdf>

**2024 AAUW MO state meeting** Our annual state meeting is coming up: May 3-4 in Columbia, MO. I've attached a flier with information about the conference and how to register and reserve a hotel room. Don't miss out!

## Member updates:

KC Northland member, Francis Foerschler, will turn 102 on March 15. Susie Watson has suggested that we celebrate with a card shower. Members may send cards to her at 634 N.E 42nd Terr. KCMO 64116.

## Committee Updates:

### Issues Activist Team/ Public Policy Committee

Our state organization has signed onto the Right to Read Coalition. According to their website, “The statewide Right to Read Coalition supports Missouri’s libraries to remain an open, accessible resource for books and other materials available free-of-charge to the public. We oppose attempts to restrict access to public and school libraries.” If you would like to also join, there is no financial commitment. See <https://ncjwstl.org/right-to-read-coalition/#:~:text=The%20statewide%20Right%20to%20Read,to%20public%20and%20school%20libraries.>

The annual legislative retreat was held February 24. We heard from representatives of over 10 statewide organizations that are working to retain and expand the rights of MO citizens.

### College/ University Relations Committee

In the KC area, we also promoting our Reentry Scholarship Program that awards scholarships to women who have returned to school after a gap of five years or more in their education. The scholarship application period is open now, and we are planning to award six or seven \$1000 scholarships this year to students at our partner schools. **Save the date: Saturday, April 13**, for our annual Reentry Scholarship Celebration luncheon. Flier attached with details and reservation form.

## Upcoming business meetings:

Parkville Branch will have a business meeting on **Monday, March 4** at Parkville Presbyterian Church at 7 pm. We’ll meet upstairs in room 307. Business will include voting on nominated officers for the coming year. **We continue to support the SPEAC food pantry at Parkville Presbyterian with monies designated for feminine hygiene products.** At our business meeting, we will collect donations for this. If you wish to send a donation by check or money order, please send your donation made out to SPEAC Food Pantry, 819 Main Street, Parkville, MO, 64152. You may also donate online at <https://speacpantry.com/donate/>

KC Northland Branch will hold a business meeting in April. Details TBA.

## Put **YOU** in **AAUW**:

We appreciate our branch members who serve on state committees!

- Parkville Branch needs a representative for the DEI committee and also for STEM.
- KC Northland needs a representative for the C/U committee.

If you are interested in any of these committees, please let our leadership team know.



Morning book club will meet **Wednesday, March 13, 9:30 am**. Our book for discussion is *Horse: A Novel* by Geraldine Brooks.

Evening book club will meet **Monday, March 18, 6 pm**. The book will be: *The Girl Puzzle: a Story of Nellie Bly* by Kate Braithwaite.

**\*\*Both groups meet at Panera, Englewood and North Oak Streets\*\***

## **AAUW News You Can Use!**

AAUW has recently added live webinars for three programs of vital importance for women: Work Smart (our salary negotiation training program for working women), Start Smart (similar to Work Smart, but especially tailored to college women who are nearing graduation), and Money Smart (a personal finance course). There are several dates to choose from in the coming months for all programs. More information and a link to enroll are included in the attachment to this newsletter. All programs are free.

## **National Update: Upcoming National Election**

We want to be sure that all members are aware of the upcoming election, including the proposed change in our bylaws to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. This change is strongly endorsed by our national board and our state AAUW board. To find out more about the issue, see <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>

The issue has been presented several times in the past but has not yet been passed by a vote of the membership. The link above shows the rationale of our national leaders. We encourage all our members to review this and to vote in the election. Parkville President **Su Bacon** reminds us, "Open membership is a campaign created by the national office of AAUW. Branch members are encouraged to vote in keeping with their personal beliefs."

As outlined on the AAUW webpage, voting will open on April 3 and close on May 15. Members will receive an email with a link to the ballot. This is an individual link for each member. The election will be conducted by an independent company, not by AAUW, so please be looking for that email. We encourage all members to participate.



## Planned programs for the year

Guests are always welcome and encouraged! We are still working out details on some of these, but here are dates and proposed programs for the coming year. Meeting locations are Church of the Good Shepherd, 4947 NE Chouteau Drive, KC, MO 64119 and Green Hills Library Branch, 8581 N. Green Hills Road KC, MO 64154

**Monday, February 5, 7 pm    Location: Church of the Good Shepherd**

Where Girls are Leaders: Madam President Camp. Speaker: Mary Messner, Executive Director.

**Saturday, March 16, 12:30 pm\* Location: Park University**

This will be a luncheon event, hosted by both branches and Park University. Bring guests to enjoy a lively program about music therapy. Speaker: Rachele Morgan, music therapist and author of *Listen Sing Dance Play*.

**Monday, April 1, 7 pm                      Location: Church of the Good Shepherd**

Martha Wright Griffiths: Mother of the ERA. Speaker: Jane McClain

**Monday, May 6, 7 pm                      Location: Green Hills Library**

TBA

**June: (TBA)    A year-end social event to celebrate together!**

Newsletter editor: Debra McArthur, Parkville Branch