



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

AAUW St. Charles Branch

June 2024 Bonus Newsletter

90 Years Young! St. Charles Branch AAUW held its first meeting on October 27, 1933.

This **Bonus Edition** includes both the latest news and other items of interest.

AAUW St. Charles Presents 2024 Local Scholarships AAUW St. Charles Branch was chartered in October of 1933 and has awarded scholarships to high school senior women since 1938. Applications which meet the qualifications were accepted from any public or private high school in St. Charles County. The committee reviewed over 40 applications and selected two recipients who attended the May AAUW Branch meeting. Committee chair Rose Ann Weeks presented the scholarship awards to senior Kate Baranoski from Francis Howell Central High School and senior Claire Gwak from Fort Zumwalt East High School. Both young women will graduate with distinction and aspire to earn degrees in the medical field. Photo with short article was in the *Community News* on May 29.

STEM/STEAM Awards – Pam Kulp Girls in grades 6-7-8 at Orchard Farm and Fort Zumwalt Middle Schools were honored by AAUW for math and science excellence. Acknowledging and encouraging girls at middle school ages will inspire them in their studies in STEM/STEAM. Principals or counselors presented certificates from AAUW at year-end awards assemblies.

MO State Conference May 4

The St Charles Branch was honored in the following:

Ten Stars Award Certificate

5th Place in 2023 MO Giving 5th Place in Per Capita Giving

Over 50% Giving to AAUW Funds with 58% of members

Eight Members in Century Club

Two Members in the Century Club Plus

Pam Kulp- Legacy Circle Member

Winner of National AAUW Notecard Contest

The St Charles Branch is thrilled that **Pam Kulp's** lovely notecard was selected as one of four for National AAUW recognition with notecards sent to all members.

Teri Brecht drawing won the quilt fundraiser with proceeds going to AAUW FUNDS. The quilt was donated in honor of longtime AAUW-MO member Grace Butler from Columbia Branch who passed recently. The quilt was created and pieced by the sister of Kirkwood-Webster Groves member Kay Meyer. It features many clever quips and quotes stating the importance and power of women. The machine quilting was also donated by a friend. The quilt will be on display at various branch meetings for all to see.

Vote on Education Requirement Change. 66.6% of membership voting yes was needed to drop the college requirement. The final vote was 65.1%, just short of the 2/3 majority needed. The biggest ramification of not passing includes lesser chance of grants and sponsorships from corporations who evaluate upon the words 'inclusive' and 'diversity' in AAUW statements.

Great Decisions- The eighth and final session for 2024 will be held on Monday, June 10 at 10 am at Faith UMC at 2850 Droste. If you are curious about the discussion group, come to this meeting, watch the topic video, and consider signing up in October for 2025's sessions.

The **June 20 branch board meeting** is open to all. We will review the past year and make plans for 2024-25. If you are interested in a future office or committee, please attend. Meet June 20, 12:30 pm at Faith UMC at 2825 Droste Road. Enter on Norwich.

2024-25 Branch Officers:

VP Program- Rose Ann Weeks

Secretary- Rose Ann Weeks

Co- Presidents- Betty Takahashi & Teri Brecht

VP Membership- Karen Schneider

Financial Officers- Gerry Jacobs and Grace Poertner

Time to Renew! Send your renewal check for \$92 to AAUW to Gerry Jacobs or renew on-line by June 30. Please fill out the St. Charles Branch form for 2024-25 to sign up for hostess, program, scholarship, and/or auction committees. Most committees meet once or twice, so they are not a long commitment. Send any address, phone changes, or cell phone numbers to Teri no later than August 31 to make corrections in the 2024-25 branch directory.

Adelante Book Group had a great discussion in May on the book *The Chemistry Lesson* by Bonnie Garmus. The book is highly recommended. The next Zoom discussion will be on September 26 at 1:30 pm. Jan Barrett will lead the discussion on *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.

Great Decisions 2025 Topics

(Meets 2nd & 4th Mondays at 10 am in February-May)

American foreign policy at a crossroads. Author: G. John Ikenberry

U.S. changing leadership of the world economy Author: Daniel Drezner

U.S.-China relations Author: Jessica Chen Weiss and Ali Wyne

International cooperation on climate change Author: Josh Busby

The future of NATO and European security Author: Kori Schake

AI and American National Security Author: Julie George

India: between China, the West, and the Global South Author: Leslie Vinjamuri

After Gaza: American policy in the Middle East Author: Daniel Kurtzer

Mark your calendar for **Thursday, September 5.** We'll meet at 1:00 pm at First UMC. We are looking forward to another great year!! Invite some friends to join us.

FYI- Former member **Wanda DeForest** passed away on 1-25-24. Her granddaughter was a Science Award recipient years ago. She is now a prominent dentist, following the family's tradition (father and grandfather).