

Missouri in Motion

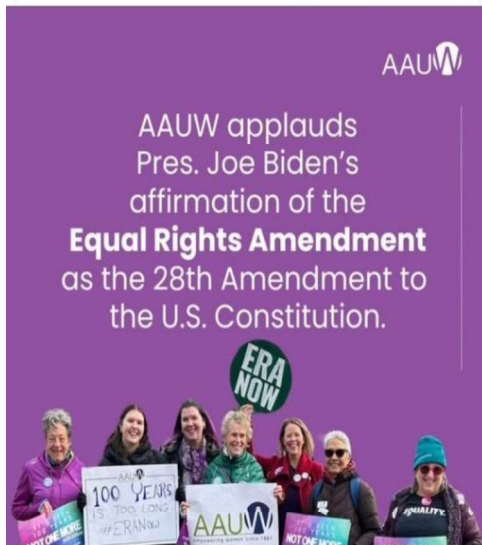
Our Mission: AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Our Vision: Equality for all.

Our Values: Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering.

President Joe Biden on the Equal Rights Amendment, January 17, 2025

While there will be challenges ahead, AAUW remains steadfast in our fight to ensure full recognition of equality that cannot be undermined on account of sex. #ERANow



“I have supported the Equal Rights Amendment for more than 50 years, and I have long been clear that no one should be discriminated against based on their sex. We, as a nation, must affirm and protect women’s full equality once and for all. On January 27, 2020, the Commonwealth of Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The American Bar Association (ABA) has recognized that the Equal Rights Amendment has cleared all necessary hurdles to be formally added to the Constitution as the 28th Amendment. I agree with the ABA and with leading legal constitutional scholars that the Equal Rights Amendment has become part of our Constitution. It is long past time to recognize the will of the American people. In keeping with my oath and duty to Constitution and country, I affirm what I believe and what three-fourths of the states have ratified: the 28th Amendment is the law of the land, guaranteeing all Americans equal rights and protections under the law regardless of their sex. “

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, NY, led the effort to enshrine the Equal Rights Amendment in the constitution. On January 17, she issued the following statement:

“I want to praise President Biden for declaring that the Equal Rights Amendment is now a valid part of the Constitution. I am in full agreement with his argument, given that the ERA has met every requirement laid out in Article V of the Constitution. This fact, together with the president’s proclamation and the backing of numerous legal experts, makes it clear that the ERA must now be considered the law of the land. This is an important day for reproductive freedom and a historic day for equality.

Now, millions of women living in states with restrictions on their reproductive freedoms can file lawsuits to overturn these unconstitutional laws that discriminate against people based on their sex. I urge them to do so, and I know they’ll have abundant support for these efforts.

Our opponents will doubtless challenge us in court. But there is strong legal backing for our position, including from the American Bar Association, which has urged federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to implement the 28th Amendment. The time for procedure is over—we must now move to implementation.” To listen to the full news conference, click on <https://www.c-span.org/program/news-conference/senator-gillibrand-on-equal-rights-amendment/654604>

AAUW MO Contents

Page

- 2 President Sue Shineman, AAUW MO Annual Meeting
- 3 AAUW MO Slate of Officers
- 4 AAUW MO Legislative Briefing
- 5 Fellowships & Grants, Legacy Circle
- 6 Donna Medlin, Equity & Inclusion
- 7 C/U, Events Calendar & Opportunity Grants
- 8 STEM, AAUW Action Information
- 9 Membership, AAUW MO Facebook
- 10–13 Leaves from the Branches
- 14 AAUW MO Board

From AAUW MO President Sue Shineman



How can you share your talents with AAUW MO? Let us count some of the ways!

We have many opportunities for you to be involved. You can do as much or as little as you have time to give. Volunteering to be on a committee or helping with a project doesn't mean it's a life-long commitment. It could be as short as a day, a week, or a month or two. Every person reading this newsletter, regardless of age, physical ability, or time constraints, can do something that supports AAUW.

1. The new state Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee will have plans for six months, and for one, two, three, and four years. Some of you have already volunteered, but many more are needed. Please consider joining us and working toward a future that continues to support the Vision and Mission of AAUW. The initial meetings (via zoom) will be brainstorming sessions, and your brain has thoughts and ideas to share. We will be working closely with our Public Policy Committee to formulate plans and keep us focused. After we have some specific plans in place, there will be many sub-committees with various tasks that will need volunteers that look just like you!
2. Your participation is needed on our state committees. The invitation is always open to attend the zoom meetings of Public Policy, College University, Inclusion and Equity, and STEM. Merging your ideas and experiences with those of others helps us expand our outreach opportunities.
3. The Membership Committee would also welcome your input on new ideas and ways to invite prospective members.
4. Are you a history buff? Does your branch have a designated Historian? If not, this is a great opportunity for you to help our state Historian. Compiling the activities, programs, and community involvement into a report would save her time and provide an exact account of each branch. There are guidelines about the information needed.
5. Do you have connections with other organizations that offer great programs? We would like to have you share those with the Program Committee. They can share them with all Missouri branches. AAUW MO will begin offering state-wide zoom programs that can be used as a branch program or a special interest group. What topics would be of interest to you?

You can see there is a wide range of places you can be involved, even from your recliner, with just your computer, your thoughts and ideas, and a willingness to help change the climate for women and girls in the months and years ahead. Please let me know where you want to serve.

Save the Date – State Meeting on May 3, 2025

Program VPs Su Bacon and Diane B. Ludwig

Plans for the 2024–25 AAUW MO May state meeting are underway for
Saturday, May 3, 2025, 9 a.m.–noon via Zoom.

Please mark your calendars for this morning event. AAUW MO is alternating its state meetings with in-person meetings in even-numbered years and Zoom meetings in the odd-numbered years.

The May 2025 meeting will include a state business meeting, elections, state awards, a presentation by an AAUW national leader, and a keynote presentation on AAUW MO vital issues. Full details will be in a special supplement edition of *Missouri in Motion* available early in March.

2024–26 Slate of Officers

The AAUW MO Nominating Committee is pleased to present this slate of officers. Voting will take place May 3, 2025, via Zoom at the state conference. The Nominating Committee members are **Jane Biers**, Columbia Branch; **Patt Braley**, Independence Branch; **Kay Meyer**, Kirkwood-Webster Groves and Ballwin-Chesterfield Branches; **Sandra Murdock**, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch; and **Lynne Roney**, Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch, chair.

President-Elect Pamela Meyers, Ferguson-Florissant Branch. Pam has been a member of this branch since 2014 and has been president and finance officer. She has volunteered for many committees—Public Policy, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, STEM, and Program—and helped select speakers for the International Relations Lecture Series. She is a member and finance officer of the National Women’s Political Caucus–St. Louis Training Institute, manages voting precincts, and works as a voting judge in St. Louis County. Pam has a bachelor of science degree in education from Northeast Missouri State University (Truman State), received a middle school certification from Maryville University, and was a music educator for 23 years in Shelby and St. Louis Counties.





Co-Vice President Program, Su Bacon, Parkville Branch. Su is completing her first two-year term as co-vice president for programs. She has been a member of the Parkville branch for nearly 30 years. She has served as president, vice president–programs, and recording secretary. Previously, she served on the state board as vice president–membership. Su holds a master's degree in journalism from Kansas State University and works full-time as a freelance journalist in the Kansas City area.

Co-Vice President Program Debra McArthur, Parkville Branch. Debra, a member since 2010, has served the Parkville Branch as secretary, president, and membership vice president. She has participated in the Kansas City IBC since 2017 and has served on the state board for two terms as college/university relations chair. She is a graduate of the University of Missouri–Kansas City and Hamline University (St. Paul, Minnesota).





Secretary Gail Metcalf Schartel, Independence Branch. Gail has a bachelor of science in secondary education/social studies and master of arts in history degrees from Northwest Missouri State University and an educational specialist degree in higher education administration from the University of Missouri–Kansas City (UMKC). She taught high school social studies and worked at the UMKC School of Pharmacy as secretary, then academic advisor, and finally coordinator of student services. She was then manager of student services and certification and data manager for the UMKC School of Education. Gail is secretary of the UMKC Retirement Association and has held several other offices in the organization. Gail joined the Independence Branch in 2019. She is currently branch secretary and college/university representative.



2025 Virtual AAUW Missouri

– *Legislative Briefing* –

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025

via Zoom: 9 am–noon

Join with leaders from organizations with strong advocacy positions who are working to influence Missouri Legislative action.

The **Legislative Briefing** allows Missouri organizations with common missions to share their activities with others at this free public event. Leaders will briefly overview their organization and explain their main legislative priority, along with two bill numbers, titles, and authors they want us to monitor.

Participating Organizations

- AAUW Missouri
- Abortion Action MO
- Coalition of Labor Union Women
- Empower Missouri
- Jobs With Justice
- Kids Win Missouri
- League of Women Voters of Missouri
- Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
- MO Equity Education Partnership
- Missouri NEA
- MO Voter Protection Coalition
- Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
- National Council of Jewish Women
- Planned Parenthood
- PROMO Missouri
- Respect Voters Coalition
- Right to Read Coalition
- Women’s Voices Raised for Social Justice

Please join us as we strive to do what Ruth Bader Ginsburg suggests:
“Fight for things you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89911952509?pwd=DNL3tqU1O6SUEfPHjYjvKbt5UbKZFI.1>

Meeting ID: 899 1195 2509 Passcode: 126137

For more information contact Karen Francis at 314.223.4235 or karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com.

Sponsored by the American Association of University Women of Missouri

AAUW 2024–25 Fellowships and Grants

In the 2024–25 academic year, AAUW awarded \$6.2M in fellowships and grants to 261 women and community-based organizations. The recipients were chosen from over 3000 applicants. There are 14 endowments established by AAUW Missouri state, branches, and individuals. View the list of recipients and sponsors on the AAUW Missouri website: <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/give/>. Sponsored by the Ballwin-Chesterfield Silver Anniversary and the Ferguson-Florissant/Shirley Breeze endowments is *Almost Home* located in St. Louis, whose grant will support transitional housing and job readiness for young moms and their families. Additional Missouri recipients are:



Jennifer Bean (University of Missouri-Columbia) who received an American Fellowship to support her studies in vitamin D3 trafficking in lipoprotein species.

Onyekachi Okpasuo (University of Missouri-Columbia) received an International Fellowship to help her achieve a doctorate degree. Her project is Anti-Tumor Efficacy and Toxicity of a Novel Immunotherapy Anti- CD3e Fab Fragment (Mono-Fab), as a Monotherapy and in Synergy with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICIs).



Jolie Sifa Kpaka (Missouri State University–Springfield) received an International Fellowship to help her achieve a master of business administration. Her master's thesis proposal will explore the impact of policy interventions on women's access to education in conflict-affected regions, with a particular focus on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

AAUW Legacy Circle

Looking to the future with a commitment to help achieve gender equity for women and girls, has inspired many AAUW supporters to make plans to support AAUW National in their estates. These supporters are welcomed into the AAUW Legacy Circle. AAUW thanks these Missouri visionaries:

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch

Susan B. Barley, Bette Bude, Theresa A. Ciccolella, Erlaine Eltomi, Karen Francis (and Ferguson-Florissant), **Darlene Harris, Jayne A. Kasten, Yvonne Morrison, A. Patricia Shores, and Julia Triplett**

Columbia Branch

Diane Ludwig

Ferguson-Florissant Branch

Shirley Breeze

Kirkwood–Webster Groves Branch

Lucy Barrington, Nancy Hutchins (and B-C)
Eugenia Webdell (and B-C),
Charlotte Parsons (and Jefferson City Branch)

Independence Branch

Patricia H. Braley and Sue Shineman

Kansas City Branch

Linda Berube, Jane Crigler, Joanie Shores, and Karen Smith

National Member

Jeannie Latz

St. Charles Branch

Pam Kulp (and B-C)

Winnie Weinrich (Former member)

If you want to know more about the Legacy Circle, **Susan Barley**, barley702@gmail.com, will help you or you can use this link: <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/give/the-legacy-circle/>.

AAUW State President Passes



Donna Medlin, past president of AAUW MO from 2002–04, passed away on December 13, 2024, in Springfield, Missouri at age 69. Donna was an active AAUW member in her Springfield Branch (now disbanded) and then enjoyed being a virtual member of the Boonville Branch in her hometown area.

Donna left quite an AAUW legacy. She was president of the Springfield Branch in 2012–13, served the branch as finance officer, membership and program vice president, AAUW Funds, and other roles. At the state level she served as program vice president and focused on branch and leadership development from 1999–2000. In that role, she helped develop the first state STAR Award program. It began with six areas for stars and set Missouri on a path for accountability and success. She was also co-editor of *Missouri in Motion*.

Donna served as AAUW MO president at a time when there were 27 Missouri branches. She loved using the AAUW Daisy Girl who believed that “Only those who attempt the absurd can achieve the impossible!”

She earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Missouri and a master’s degree from the University of Central Oklahoma. Donna was a registered dietician and was involved with the American Dietetic Association, MU Alumni, and AAUW. We will all miss her sweet smile, her generous spirit, and her wonderful enthusiasm.

Equity and Inclusion

Recent Findings for Cancer & its Prevention for Women and Younger Adults

Health Equity is a continuing work. Awareness is one of the critical factors to achieve health equity. The purpose of this article is to generate awareness about the recent findings for prevention of cancer. While there are many preventative steps one can take, this article highlights the new advisory on links between alcohol and cancer by the **US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy MD**. “Cancer rates are rising among women and younger adults.....Alcohol is a well-established, preventable cause of cancer that is responsible for about 100,000 cancer cases and 20,000 cancer deaths annually in the United States – greater than the 13,500 alcohol-associated traffic crash fatalities per year in the U.S. – yet the majority of Americans are unaware of this risk,” said Murthy. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2025/01/03/us-surgeon-general-issues-new-advisory-link-alcohol-cancer-risk.html>.

Here are highlights from the new advisory:

- “Less than half of Americans are aware that alcohol consumption increases cancer risk.”
- “Consuming alcohol increases the risk of developing at least 7 types of cancer– mouth, throat, esophagus, voice box, breast, liver, colon and rectum.”
- “Higher alcohol consumption increases alcohol-related cancer risk in women and men.”
- “About 5 more women out of 100 would develop cancer due to consumption of two drinks a day.”
- “About 3 more men out of 100 would develop cancer due to consumption of two drinks a day.”
- “Higher consumption of alcohol increases breast cancer risk in women”.
 - “About four more women out of 100 would develop breast cancer due to consumption of two drinks a day.”

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/oash-alcohol-cancer-risk.pdf>

Findings indicate limiting alcohol consumption to be a preventative measure for cancer. Wishing all members a long and healthy life! **Luna Mukherjee, PhD**

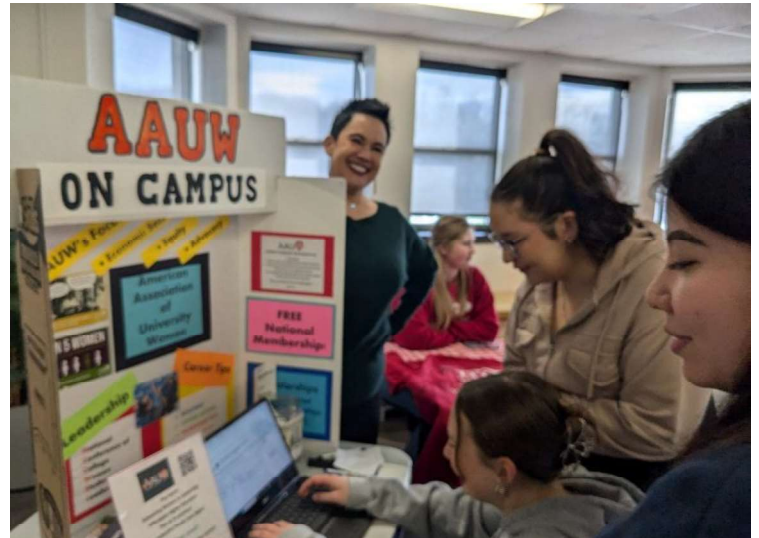
College/University Relations

C/U Relations Committee Chair Debra McArthur

Committee members are back on campus for the winter/spring term. On January 17, Park University held their spring Activities Fair. **Debra McArthur** set up our AAUW display with help from **Celeste Lupercio**, the new club advisor for the AAUW student group. Twelve students signed up for AAUW membership that day, and Celeste is eager to get the new group going.

Events are also being planned at Blue River Community College, UMKC, and other campuses.

We are eagerly awaiting information from NASPA with details about this year's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).



AAUW at Park University Spring Activities Fair

2024–25 AAUW MO Events

aauw-mo.aauw.net

February

- 15 State Board Check-in Call via Zoom 9:30–10:30 a.m.
- 19 National Governance Committee Leaders Liaison Support Call 6–7 p.m.
- 22 AAUW MO Legislative Briefing via Zoom

March

- 5 National Equal Pay Day
- 8 International Women's Day
- 15 State Board Meeting via Zoom 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

April

- 14 Lilly Ledbetter Birthday April 1938
- 19 State Board Meeting via Zoom 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- 28 National Governance Committee Leaders Liaison Support Call 6–7 p.m.

May

- 3 AAUW MO State Meeting via Zoom

July

- 19 State Board Meeting and Retreat - Columbia 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

AAUW Opportunity Grant Funds

Carol Cox chair

This is the new name for Incentive Grants, but it is the same great program. Does your branch have plans for a program, an event, STEM awards, a speaker, and you could use some help with funding?

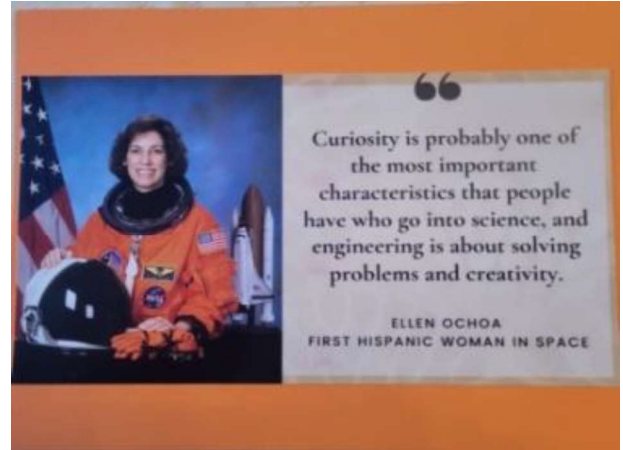
Hint, hint: for example, Equal Pay Day is March 25. There are many ways you can use Opportunity Grants (and a few you can't). For more information follow this link, <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/incentive-grants/>.

For questions: Carol Cox, cjc_51@yahoo.com.

STEM

AAUW MO Chair Pam Kulp

The STEM committee has perused your branch surveys, and we are starting to compile projects that you have requested. Shown are some of the projects to be listed on our state website soon. Featured are small posters of quotes from famous STEM females: some simple and short, some more lengthy, some unknown female STEM leaders. We will post more of these soon. In addition, jokes have been requested such as, What does a computer eat?.... “chips, of course!”



Enjoy this YouTube TED talk, *Technology, Entertainment & Design*, about the NASA human computer, Katherine Johnson. There is a lot about her in this 50-minute video that was not presented in the movie *Hidden Figures*. To open the video (copy and paste following link into your browser) <https://youtu.be/0lrCEBgj5dY?si=kHRbfiiqIFgmyQ25>. If that doesn't work, click on the link. You may be asked to select a browser. After doing that, the video should open.

Be an AAUW Activist

Federal Bill Tracker link

Use this site if you would like to find out the status of bills and their progress through both Houses, presentation to the President, if he signs the bill, and when the bill becomes a law. Check out this fascinating website <https://www.congress.gov>.

Dates to remember

February 19 – AAUW National Liaison Support Call 6 p.m.
February 22 – Legislative Briefing 9 a.m.– noon
April 28 – AAUW National Liaison Support Call 6 p.m.

Link to Join AAUW National Liaison Support Calls Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87646643179?pwd=yI6efBC159aap5wsg1hbdvQI8EfKLd.1>
Meeting ID: 876 4664 3179 Passcode: 122456

Become a 2-Minute Activist

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

You provide the voice. AAUW will provide the megaphone.

This is absolutely the easiest way to support the advocacy work of AAUW. Please sign up if you have not already done so. Also share the link with your friends. You don't have to be a member of AAUW to participate in this important work. AAUW provides all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, contact your state legislators about pressing issues and more.

Send emails and texts to your legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education and more. Sign up to get regular alerts to be able to take timely action.



AAUW MO Membership

Membership Vice-President Susie Watson

AAUW Proposes an Increase to National Dues

“The Board of Directors is considering a change to AAUW member dues to help meet rising costs. AAUW member dues have not kept pace with the cost of supporting AAUW’s membership and the Board will consider a \$5 per year increase in dues from 2025–29. The dues change supports AAUW’s commitment to financial sustainability, the financial strength of the national office and our ability to support branches and states.” Current National dues are \$72. All members had an opportunity to respond and to review and comment on the proposed changes to membership dues by January 29. The AAUW Board of Directors will review comments and decide after that date. **AAUW Managing Director and Chief of Staff Shannon Wolfe**, email, January 8, 2025

GROWING our Membership is our goal.

- **Consider creative partnerships.** Introduce AAUW and our programs to groups like the League of Women Voters, STEM teachers in your community or interaction with your local Chamber of Commerce.
- **Create Save-the-Date** handouts that include meeting dates/time, topic/speaker, and meeting location. These can be sent in a branch newsletter for members to forward to invite friends to attend. Carry a few extra copies and share with people who might be interested in joining. When meetings are on ZOOM forward the link and invite!
- **Make a New Year’s Resolution** for each member in your branch to bring in a new member! Be intentional and proactive. Our organization has a lot to offer, i.e. book groups, outings, marches, history, shared goals, and outstanding meeting programs!
- **Think Spring!** The movie *Lilly* is to be released in spring 2025. Lilly Ledbetter previewed the movie with a room full of friends in Birmingham, AL, before her passing on October 12, 2024. AAUW was a proud financial supporter of her legal case against Goodyear. **The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act** was passed into law in 2009. She fought for equal pay after discovering her employer paid her less than men for the same job. I hope each branch will plan an outreach event to see the movie and encourage everyone to wear a Lilly T-Shirt.

For 143 years, AAUW has been at the forefront of breaking barriers for women and girls. As we celebrate t... See more

143 YEARS

AAUW



FB post AAUW Missouri 11.18.24

Follow AAUW MO on Facebook!

Help AAUW Missouri get more visibility! Be sure to Like and click “Follow” on our page. If you are already following and not seeing our posts in your feed, go directly to the page and click “like” or comment on one or two posts you see there.

Even better, share a post to your own page! The more you interact with our posts, the more often they will appear in your feed. If you are not seeing our posts on FB, search for AAUW Missouri, click Follow and Like.

FB post AAUW Missouri 12.24.24



Leaves from the Branches

The Canton AAUW Branch focused on co-sponsoring a self-defense program for women students at Culver Stockton College. This program hadn't been offered since COVID 19 began. The city's chief of police has the training and teamed up with the chief of campus security for C-SC, so a couple dozen women students had plenty of time to learn from their expertise and experience. A new addition to the program was that the C-SC Fencing Club volunteered to demonstrate what potential victims could experience and should do to protect themselves. We also contributed to the annual Dress for Success event, where community citizens donate slightly used professional clothing for college students to wear to interviews.

The AAUW St. Charles Branch and **SCREE (St. Charles Retired Educational Employees)** collaborated on a GOTV project to encourage and remind people to vote in the November election. **Bonnie Dillard** and **Barb Prideaux** headed this project.

The branch held its annual UN-Auction for AAUW Funds Greatest Needs in November. Members provided a great variety of items to raise funds, then enjoyed a relaxing afternoon of snacks, socializing and sharing.



Harmony Honeys A Capella singers **Jamie Bruen, Brenda Wheeler, and Teri Brecht** ushered in the holiday season in December (pictured on the right.)

The Columbia Branch

The Columbia Branch is getting back to face-to-face meetings, which we are all so happy about. We began in September with an interesting presentation on women in the labor force by a local union representative. Then we moved on to our **2024 Holly Burgess Public Policy Forum** on *The Electoral College: Origins, History and Problems*. More than 48 people attended in person. It was also available via ZOOM with another 80–90 viewers. The forum was held in conjunction with the League of Women Voters of Columbia and Boone County and the Mid-Missouri Civil Liberties Association.

Another well-attended meeting was a history of Missouri Indian tribes. In November we switched back to ZOOM for an introduction to the new Women's Apprenticeship Program at Stephens College, and in January we were VERY happy not to have to go out for our program on Women in the Hall of Famous Missourians and the Capitol. In between, we all enjoyed our annual Red Stocking Fundraiser for the AAUW Fund in December.

The Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch



KWG's pecan sale at the Affton Holiday Craft Fair to support our STEM scholarships was very successful.

At left, **Barb Johnson** and **Kay Meyer** sell pecans at the Affton Craft Fair.

In December a group of members attended the Boar's Head Festival Concert at Peace Lutheran Church in St. Louis. This medieval-themed event provided a colorful, joyous beginning to the holiday season.

Pictured on the right are **Marsha Koch, Lynne Roney, and Carol Davis McDonald** with Boar's Head Festival actors.



Our January Zoom presentation featured **Jessica Meyers**, director of the St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission as guest speaker. She described the commission's coordinated approach to addressing violence. Statistics show they have achieved remarkable results for a surprisingly modest investment. We highly recommend her presentation.

The Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch of AAUW

The B-C Boosters, our annual fundraiser for the branch, had a great start with 34 donations since the kick-off at our December Party. Donations are collected through April. These very important contributions help keep our branch going. Proceeds will be allocated first to the Operating Fund and then to scholarships.

January's speaker **Joe Regenbogen** presented *Our Controversial Supreme Court, Past, Present, and Future*. The presentation examined the reasons behind periods of dysfunctionality, and offered thoughts about what would improve its effectiveness within our system of checks and balances.

Dollars for Scholars, our scholarship fund raising program, is sponsoring two events in February. There is a Tai Chi demonstration, that will include a simple form of Tai Chi which can be done standing or in a chair. There is also a Clark Family Library tour. The tour includes a visit to the Memory Lab where you can digitize photos, videos and audio formats to a flash drive. Both events should be fun and educational. If you would like to attend either of these events, contact **Carol Anthony** or **Sage Taber** for more information.

A small group of women from the B-C branch will attend the League of Women Voter's Metro STL Trivia Fundraiser on February 22. It is important to support other local organizations that share some common goals with AAUW. By collaborating we hope to support and to learn from one another, to make both groups stronger as we strive to improve the lives of others through our mission of equity for all.

The Kansas City Northland and Parkville Branches



Parkville and KC North branches celebrated the holidays with a potluck brunch on Saturday, December 6. Members brought food to share, feminine hygiene products to donate to a local women's shelter and gently used books for a book exchange.

We also had a raffle for jewelry, body care items, and a quilt, which raised over \$300 for the Greatest Need Fund.



The Independence Branch of AAUW – Service in Action

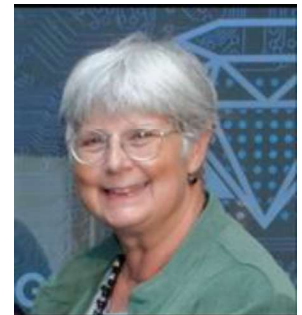


On December 17, 2024, the Independence Branch participated in a joyful and rewarding service opportunity in the community. Several members helped host the Christmas party for the residents and babies at Mother's Refuge. The mission of Mother's Refuge is to shelter and educate homeless pregnant and parenting young women and to provide services that include a maternity home, transitional living program, education, medical care, and after-care program.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the party which included holding babies, pouring hot chocolate, serving cookies, decorating cookies, and helping write thank you notes. The members in attendance were **Sue Raymond, Sue Shineman, Jane Campbell, Karol Palmer, Lisa Cox**, and pictured on the left, **Patty Chadwick** and **Jan Keeler** with **Buddy the Elf**.

The St. Louis Branch of AAUW

St. Louis Branch members, and AAUW members across the state, pay tribute to St. Louis branch president Ellen Irons who died January 15, 2025. Her life was filled with creativity, love of learning, and a deep commitment to her friends and community. Originally from Chicago, she went to California after high school to attend Pomona College for a year before spending several years living in San Francisco's "Project One." In 1978, Ellen earned a bachelor of science in civil engineering from Washington University. Her warmth, intelligence, and generosity touched all who knew her.



Ellen was passionate about improving her community (and the world). As an active AAUW member, she held leadership roles locally for her branch, IBC, and statewide. Ellen was kind, organized, and passionate about equity for women and girls. She volunteered extensively, including invaluable work for the community radio station, KDHX FM; and over 350 hours at the Missouri Botanical Garden, helping to digitize the GPS mapping of the Gardens.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate Ellen's life on Saturday, March 1, 2025. Please see <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/st-louis-mo/ellen-irons-12201161>.

AAUW MO State Board 2024–25

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

President Sue Shineman Independence	Program-Co VP and 10- Star Award Su Bacon Parkville Diane Ludwig Columbia	Secretary Diana Curry-McGuirk Kansas City Northland	Public Policy Chair Alice Kitchen Kansas City
Past President Karen Francis Ballwin-Chesterfield	Communications Pam Meyers Ferguson-Florissant	Directory Editors Diane Ludwig Columbia Marsha Koch Kirkwood-Webster Groves	Governance/Bylaws Parliamentarian Marianne Fues Columbia
5-Star National Recognition Program Pat Shores Ballwin-Chesterfield	Newsletter Editor Mary Jermak Ballwin-Chesterfield	MO Action Plan Chair Pat Shores Ballwin-Chesterfield	Administrative Assistant Karol Palmer Independence
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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, AAUW MO President Sue Shineman, and Missouri Action Plan Chair Pat Shores**.
- For website additions or corrections, contact **Lynne Roney** via the website contact form.
- Update your contact information at aauw.org/. The Community Hub now serves as the former member services database.