**AAUW MISSOURI STATE BOARD MEETING**

January 18, 2025

Zoom Meeting

**Attendees** (Bolded names are voting members)

**Su Bacon**, Jane Biers, Carol Cox**, Lois Domsch**, Karen Francis, Marianne Fues, **Alice Kitchen**, Mary Jermak, Pam Kulp, **Diane B. Ludwig**, Carol McDonald, April McArthur, **Debra McArthur**, **Diana Curry McGuirk**, Pam Meyers, Luna Mukherjee, Karol Palmer, Lynne Roney, Diane Sher, **Sue Shineman**, Pat Shores, **Sage Taber**, **Susie Watson.**

**Unable to Attend:**  Marsha Koch, Corinne Mahaffey, Betty Takahashi.

**Motion Log from Meeting**

**Motion Approved: To add the name AAUW Missouri to a letter to the Missouri Budget Project in support of no budget cuts to Medicaid.**

**Motion Approved: To accept the minutes of October 19, 2024, meeting as presented.**

**BOARD MEETING**

**Quorum: Marianne Fues, Governance/Bylaws Chair**

Nine voting members were present constituting a quorum. Fourteen position members were present.

**Call to Order: Sue Shineman, President**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M.

**President’s Report: Sue Shineman**

The death of three members was announced: Donna Medlin, past Missouri State President; Margaret Hopkins, and Carolynn Henning. Diane B. Ludwig and Carol McDonald offered to write an item for *Missouri in Motion* about Donna Medlin.

Sue shared the news that President Biden declared the Equal Rights Amendment is validly ratified and affirmed as the 28th Amendment. Alice Kitchen added this was only a symbolic act. The amendment was not published. Legal experts will parse the meaning of this act in future court decisions. A thank you was expressed to Marsha Koch and Diane B. Ludwig for creating the 2025 State Directory. Inaccuracies will be corrected in a timely manner. The directory is not published online to protect personal information. An Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee has been established to work on initiatives like education and voting rights. It will follow the timeline of a six-month plan followed by a 1,2,3,4-year plan. Members and branch leaders are welcome. The first meeting will be in February. The National Governance Committee is reviewing the wording of bylaws regarding membership qualifications. The words "degree equivalence" are being expanded and defined more clearly. On January 8, 2025, a notice was sent from AAUW National regarding proposed Bylaws changes, proposed Public Policy changes and proposed dues increases. Sue Shineman requested each member carefully read the proposed changes. Respond with comments by January 29, 2025, at 4:00 P.M. Central Time. These changes impact every state and branch. Your response is important.

**Past President’s Report: Karen Francis**

A legislative briefing Zoom meeting will be held on February 22, 2025, from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. This briefing allows organizations with common missions to share their actions/activities. Each speaker will give an overview of their organization and its legislative priorities. All members are encouraged to attend. The application form is now available for the “Woman of Distinction Award.” Submit the application by April 5, 2025. A report was posted to the Google Group Website on January 12, 2025.

**Secretary: Diana Curry-McGuirk**

The draft minutes of October 19, 2024, meeting were presented on the Google Group Website and sent to members by email. Lois Domsch moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried. The two readers appointed for January 18, 2025, minutes are Su Bacon and Lynne Roney.

**Finance Officer: Lois Domsch**

Four documents were posted on the Google Group Website on January 11, 2025, for review: 2nd Quarter Budget Report, Asset Summary, 2nd Quarter Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet. The Contingency Fund balance as of December 31, 2024, is $5,436.28. The 2nd Quarter had minimal transactions. A loss noted was due to the stock market downturn.

**Branch Impact Survey: Pat Shores**

This past year every branch, except St Charles and Jefferson City, completed the National Five Star survey. A list of the stars awarded and in what areas for each branch will be published when received. Multiple questions and concerns remain regarding the function of this survey. Next year, assistance will be available to branch presidents if requested in completing the survey. A report was posted to the Google Group Website January 10, 2025.

**BOARD REPORTS** Reports were submitted prior to the meeting and posted on the Google Group Website.

**Programs: Su Bacon and Diane B. Ludwig, Co-Vice Presidents**

Planning for the annual state conference to be held on May 3, 2025, on Zoom continues. The committee asked for feedback regarding a keynote speaker and the conference theme. Areas and topics considered are public policy priorities for 2026 midterms, the ERA, reproductive rights, public education, civics, DEI changes. Due to political action occurring rapidly at this time a final topic choice will be made later. Mary Jermak offered to publish a special conference edition of *Missouri in Motion* later. Beginning in April the co-chairs will review the Star Awards forms sent by each branch. These forms are due by April 1, 2025. When filling out the form activities are considered by branch year and monies donated by calendar year. A report was posted to the Google Group Website on January 11, 2025.

**Membership: Susie Watson, Vice President**

The proposed AAUW National dues increase has raised membership concerns. The increase of $5.00 per year from 2025-2029 may have an impact. All members are encouraged to respond to the email sent by Shannon Wolfe. AAUW membership is aging. Members have been lost for multiple reasons. Each member is encouraged to bring in one new member. A report was posted to the Google Group Website on January 11, 2025.

**AAUW Fund: Sage Taber, Chair**

No meetings have been scheduled at this time. A detailed scholarship and fellowships list was posted. A report on the Greatest Needs Fund giving will be published when received. Sage Taber and Sue Barley will continue to review the impact of large financial donations to a single branch as needed. Reports were posted to the Google Group Website on January 13, 2025, and January 15, 2025.

**Communications: Pam Meyers, Chair**

Mary Jermak reported that many branches have not submitted articles for *Missouri in Motion.* She encouraged each branch to review their submission history. All articles must be submitted three weeks before publication. Use the editing guidelines provided. April McArthur, social media editor, reported ninety-one new posts on the AAUW Missouri Facebook page since July 1, 2024. Content interactions increased as well. She recommended sharing the posts to expand their view to non-members. Messages cannot be added to this site except through the editor. Email/message her if an item is requested to be added. Alternative social media platforms are being investigated and considered. A report was posted on the Google Group Website January 11, 2025. Lynne Roney, webmaster, reported on the AAUW website improvements. Updated design features and content features were added to both state and branch sites. The webmaster will manage requests for page changes and concerns. A report was posted to the Google Group Website on January 15, 2025.

**College/University: Debra McArthur, Chair**

A committee meeting was held on January 13, 2025. There are nine campus partnerships. The committee continues to look for opportunities to hold campus events at member schools. An event was held on January 17, 2025, at Park University. Twelve students signed up for membership. AAUW National has turned over operation of the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders, NCCWSL, to the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. AAUW will continue to have a presence at the conference and offer scholarships. No specific dates, costs or programming plans have been announced. This delays the ability to promote the event and provide scholarships locally. The next meeting is February 10, 2025. A report was posted to the Google Group Website on January 15, 2025.

**Public Policy: Alice Kitchen, Chair**

The committee reviewed an opportunity to sign on to a letter in support of Missouri Medicaid being continued without reduction in funding. Nine members of the committee voted to recommend this action to the Board of Directors. Alice Kitchen made a motion to add the name of AAUW Missouri to a letter in support of not cutting the Medicaid budget. The motion carried. The Public Policy priorities for 2024-2025 were published in the Missouri State Directory on page 25. A report was posted to the Google Group Website January 18, 2025.

**STANDING** **COMMITTEES**

**Inclusion/Equity: Luna Mukherjee, Chair**

Monthly meetings are held on Zoom on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. Presidents and members of branches are welcome to join. In coordination with the National Inclusion/Equity Committee a webinar will be presented January 29, 2025, titled “Tips for Bold Conversations.” The committee encourages bold and fun engagement to succeed in the AAUW mission of equity for all. A report was posted on the Google Group Website January 10, 2025.

**STEM: Pam Kulp, Chair**

Surveys were sent to all branches regarding their STEM activities. A summary of the results was posted to the Google Group Website along with the STEM report on January 7, 2025. Future committee plans include compiling suggestions for activities that are practical and simple for branches to implement.

**Branch Opportunity Grants: Carol Cox, Chair**

As of this time no grant money has been requested by branches. At the last Branch Presidents’ meeting the purpose of the grants was discussed and usage encouraged. The grants may be used to enhance programming, celebrate events, or provide education for example. All requests will be considered. A report was posted to the Google Group Website on January 14, 2025.

**Historian: Jane Biers**

Since October 16, 2024, multiple archival records were filed for 2024 and 2025. These include newsletters, state minutes and financial reports. A full report was posted on the Google Group Website on January 18, 2025.

**Nominating Committee: Lynne Roney, Chair**

The committee presented the slate of officers for 2025-2026 (President-Elect) and 2025-2027 (other officers): President-Elect Pam Meyers; Co-Program Vice Presidents Su Bacon and Debra McArthur; and Secretary Gayle Metcalf Schartel. The slate and candidate biographies will appear in the next edition of *Missouri in Motion.* The vote will be at the Annual Assembly meeting in May. A report was posted to the Google Group Website on January 15, 2025.

**Interbranch Council: St. Louis and Kansas City**

The St. Louis IBC meets quarterly. A metro luncheon is planned for March 29,2025, to present a service award and to celebrate. Each branch nominates a member for this award. Scholarship funds for the previously named NCCWSL are being held until further information is received. The Kansas City IBC currently meets monthly. The next meeting is January 27, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. by Zoom. The committee is waiting for information on NCCWSL before consideration of student scholarships. Communication between the five metro branches has improved through an events calendar newsletter. City wide program planning will be discussed in future meetings.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Schedule Change**

Sue Shineman requests a change of date for the April Board meeting due to a scheduling conflict. After discussion, the meeting was rescheduled for April 19, 2025, from 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

**Next Board Meetings/Dates to Remember**

* January 29 AAUW National Inclusion and Equity webinar
* February 15 Board Check-in Call
* February 19 AAUW National Liaison Support Call 6:00 P.M.
* February 22 Legislative Briefing by Zoom
* March 15 Full Board Meeting
* April 19 Full Board Meeting
* May 3 AAUW Missouri State Meeting by Zoom
* May 17 State Meeting Evaluation
* July 19 Full Board Meeting

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 P.M. by Sue Shineman, President.

Submitted by Diana Curry-McGuirk, Secretary.