

# 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.

## AAUW's New Strategic Plan A vital pathway to economic security

### Equity Through Education

"When a woman is educated, she unlocks not only her own power but the potential of entire communities. Education isn't just a right—it's the foundation of equity, the engine of opportunity, and the key to a future where every woman can thrive."

**Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW CEO** (pictured at right)



For several years, AAUW has been working from a strong strategic plan - - strong, but aging. Today, May 13, 2025, the NEWLY updated strategic plan was rolled out! It only took 19 minutes! Our key leaders, Cheryl Sorokin, outgoing AAUW board president, Diane Owens, incoming AAUW board president, and Gloria Blackwell, CEO, gave us the highlights and new focus areas to keep AAUW current with the times and the challenging issues we face.

It is time to narrow our focus a bit and make more meaningful impacts. Three priorities have been set: 1) Funding Higher Education; 2) Removing Barriers to Success in Education and the Workplace; 3) Strengthening AAUW's Reach. These three areas of emphasis were outlined as follows:

#### 1. Fund Higher Education

- Provide grants and fellowships for women in underserved communities and underrepresented fields like STEM.
- Support women in academia and research.
- Build networks for alumnae to lead and expand AAUW's impact globally.

#### 2. Remove Barriers to Success in Education and the Workplace

- Champion legislation supporting paid family and medical leave, paid sick days, pay equity, and workplace harassment protections.
- Promote inclusive, safe, and accessible educational environments through enforcement of Title IX and other civil rights laws.

#### 3. Strengthen AAUW's Reach

- Support an effective network of states and branches through aligned strategies and initiatives like the Five-Star Program.
- Grow organizational sustainability through member engagement and impact evaluation.

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## AAUW's New Strategic Plan, Continued

Just as we looked at current issues at our state conference, *Finding a Pathway Forward, NOW is the Time . . .*, here is a roadmap to do it. AAUW national has put a variety of helpful tools in the Strategic Plan Tool Kit on the website, AAUW.org, for us to use. Do visit the site and review the tools. You won't be disappointed. There are message guides, a new membership flyer, a newsletter blurb, a one-page overview of the new plan, a social media toolkit, and frequently asked questions (FAQs). There is a great new urgency to having national AAUW and all our branches working TOGETHER in this new fight to advance EQUITY for women and girls. The toolkit can help us all stay focused on the same messages and goals.

Look for national AAUW webinars in the coming weeks to help everyone understand these strategic changes in focus and efforts to leverage our collective strengths at the national and local levels. As our new "elevator pitch" in the toolkit says, "AAUW empowers women and girls by championing their success in higher education and pushing for bold policy solutions to create lasting change."

### From AAUW MO President Sue Shineman

Missouri predicted the future with our theme "FINDING A PATH FORWARD – NOW IS THE TIME!" ... and now national has introduced that path forward via the new strategic plan!

Your state board was well represented on national committees and participated in many national webinars. Our input to AAUW national has been well received and together with other state leaders, we have been heard. Now the new AAUW Strategic Plan has been launched. Webinars will begin in August to share all the details. I cannot begin to tell you how excited I am about this new focus and direction for AAUW!



Thank you for another outstanding year of Action and Advocacy for AAUW MO! Each one of you make a difference in the lives of women and girls. Our branches continue to work to support the mission and vision.

Thank you to the state board for your leadership and to all the committee members who were dedicated to "Finding a Path Forward" this year. They recognized "The Time Is NOW" and they have plans for moving us through the opportunities ahead of us.

Thank you to those who hosted and attended state meeting Pathway Parties. This is a new direction for AAUW MO. We will be offering state-wide educational programs via zoom next year.

I want to remind you that state committees are looking for additional members. Please let me know of your interest to serve. YOU are needed!

## Finding a Path Forward.... NOW is the Time



AAUW Missouri's 2024–25 State Conference, May 3, brought together 59 people from across Missouri via Zoom to hear great speakers, to conduct our business meeting, and to announce awards to branches and individuals.

**Linda Berube** showed us a few new Zoom tricks, which made the meeting more fun. We introduced the concept of branches holding “Pathway Parties,” to gather and experience the Zoom conference as a group. Three ‘parties’ were held representing 17 members.

National AAUW VP for Advancement, **Katrina Sun Breese**, delivered a key message regarding the new strategic plan being rolled out and shared current data and goals for 2025 and beyond. She also noted that with the new administration in Washington, D.C., many of AAUW's core issues are being threatened every day — staff and members are working hard to hold the line.



**Amber Bengé, Ed.D.**

We then turned our attention to the Missouri educational system and heard Dr. Amber Bengé speak of developments on the educational front in the Missouri legislature. Many of the AAUW priority issues are at risk. Dr. Bengé is the Co-Executive Director of the Missouri Equity Education Partnership and monitors key educational issues regularly. Both speakers had lively Q&A sessions with our members. Our thanks to both these dynamic presenters!



**Katrina Sun Breese**

The state conference always includes a time to celebrate our successes. Missouri branches received recognition for achievement in fulfilling Branch Action Plans via the STAR Awards, presented by **Su Bacon** and **Diane B. Ludwig**, co-program vice presidents. We are proud that we again have 14 of 16 branches receiving STAR Awards (see page 9). Of those, nine are 10-Star branches, one is a 9-Star branch, and three are 6-Star branches! Congratulations to ALL!

**Diane Ludwig** stood in for Legacy Circle state liaison **Susan Barley** to recognize 25 Missouri Legacy Circle donors and stated that Legacy Circle gift of the late **Ardy Pearson** will now be realized. AAUW Fund chair **Sage Taber** then announced the top five branches in total giving and per-capita giving as well as the 57 Missouri Century Club and 26 Century Club Plus members for 2024. Five branches were recognized for having at least 50 percent of members donating to the AAUW Fund (see page 9). Missouri had a 2024 total giving of \$34,451.13.

The AAUW MO Woman of Distinction Award, presented by **Past-President Karen Francis**, was awarded to two very worthy women (see p. 5). The awards were announced in advance to allow family and friends to be part of the recognition. **Ellen Irons**, of the St. Louis Branch, passed earlier this year and her award was given posthumously. The other honoree, **Pam Kulp**, of the St. Charles Branch and Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, was on the call to receive her honor. The **Outstanding Member Award** presented by **Membership Vice President Susie Watson**, was given to **Linda Evans** of the Columbia Branch. (see p. 6)

## Finding a Path Forward, *continued*

**AAUW President Sue Shineman** called the business meeting to order. **Parliamentarian Marianne Fues** stated there are 59 attending and conducted the voice votes needed during the meeting.

**Nominating Committee Chair Lynne Roney** presented the slate of officers for 2025–27 and the vote was unanimous. Elected were **President-elect Pam Meyers**, **Co-Program VP Su Bacon and Deb McArthur**, and **Secretary Gail Metcalf Schartel**. **Susie Watson** continues as membership vice-president and **Lois Domsch** continues as finance officer. All were duly installed by past president, **Linda Berube**.

### Congratulations to the 2025–26 AAUW MO Board Officers



**Sue Shineman**  
President



**Pam Meyers**  
President Elect



**Su Bacon and Debra McArthur**  
Co-Program Vice-President



**Susie Watson**  
Membership Vice-President



**Gail Metcalf Schartel**  
Secretary



**Lois Domsch**  
Finance Officer

### AAUW MO Opportunity Grants

#### St. Charles Branch in Action



Attendees adopted the budget for 2025–26 presented by **Lois Domsch**, listing income and expenses projected at \$13,915. (see p.11)

The Opportunities Grants Committee headed by **Carol Cox** reported that the St. Charles Branch received a grant of \$97 to assist in an outreach program which had some great results.

**Sue Shineman** shared her president's remarks on the great year it has been and how much work we have still to do. She encouraged branches to work with other like-minded organizations on our key issues and reminded everyone to continue to create **ADVOCACY** and **ACTION** in Missouri. It was a most successful conference.



## AAUW Missouri Women of Distinction

**Ellen Irons** is honored posthumously for her strong commitment to the AAUW mission. In her St. Louis branch, she served as president and program vice president and sponsored 20 projects. Ellen was especially proud of the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the Founding of St. Louis, which entailed researching 250 Notable Women of St. Louis. She was a leader in the STL IBC and revived the IBC College/University partnership Renewal Task Force.

Ellen chaired the AAUW MO Public Policy Committee, the 19<sup>th</sup> Centennial Celebration Task Force, and the Missouri Women's History Trail. Her colleagues said: "When she has an idea, she persuades others to join, do the research to produce quality programs that others could replicate."

In her professional life, Ellen had a distinguished career at St. Louis Community College, helped businesses develop training and quality improvement programs, and worked for leading manufacturers in St. Louis. Ellen volunteered with community radio station KDHX-FM and volunteered over 350 hours at the St. Louis Botanical Garden mapping the garden to help digitize the GPS of MOBOTG.

Ellen was honored as a AAUW MO Outstanding Member and with the St. Louis Metro Inter-Branch Council Barbara Lackritz Award. Her AAUW family and friends shared: "Ellen's warmth, intelligence and generosity touched all who knew her. She's an irreplaceable asset to AAUW- her absence will lessen our ability to fulfill our mission- she will truly be missed."

### 2025 Missouri Woman of Distinction

AAUW MO recognizes and honors

**Ellen Irons** *(posthumously)*

*St. Louis Branch*

for her commitment, dedication, and service to AAUW, AAUW MO, IBC-St. Louis, the 19th Amendment Task Force, her St. Louis Branch, and her many local community activities.

May her enthusiasm and spirit for leading and serving be an inspiration for all.



*Thank You, Ellen!*

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### 2025 Missouri Woman of Distinction

AAUW MO recognizes and honors

**Pam Kulp**

*St. Charles & Ballwin-Chesterfield Branches*

for her commitment and dedication to AAUW and for exceptional service to AAUW MO, IBC-St. Louis, Regional Conference, and to her St. Charles and Ballwin-Chesterfield Branches.

May her creativity, dedication, and joy for serving be an inspiration for all.



*Congratulations!*

**Pam Kulp** brings creativity, energy, talent, and dedication to both the branch and state AAUW. In 2007 Pam attended a AAUW St. Charles Branch meeting and joined on-the-spot! She was an elementary teacher and guidance counselor for 20 years. She chaired Opportunity Grants and is now state STEM chair.

Pam created the "Leadership Skills in Young Girls" Incentive Grant with two local Girl Scout groups in 2010, for 14-year-old girls that featured walking and running activities and culminated with a run in Forest Park with Olympian **Jackie Joyner Kersey**. The grant encouraged pre-teen girls to participate in service projects. Pam developed the Women in Courage STEM program to showcase FIVE Women in the STEM field. Branch

members portrayed the women and presented the program to 16 middle school math and science 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms.

Pam is the recipient of numerous honors including the St. Charles Branch Named Gift Honoree, Peg Witt Leadership Award, the IBC Barbara Lackritz Service Award, winner of 2024 AAUW Art Contest with her photo "Stunning Water Lilies at the MO Botanical Gardens."

**Linda K. Evans** is a long-time member of AAUW. When living in St. Louis, she joined the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch where she quickly became involved in the branch's activities, chairing LAF for the branch and participating in the Trivia fundraiser. After moving to Columbia, she joined the Columbia Branch and there initiated and maintained the Science Student Scholar Awards, a program in STEM for Middle School girls in the Columbia Public School (CPS) system. She works with the science coordinator who requests nominations from the CPS science teachers of fourteen seventh-grade girls, two from each school.

Linda organizes a ceremony at which the girls are awarded a certificate and medal. **Linda Godwin**, a former astronaut, gives a PowerPoint presentation "Pictures from Space" and then presents the girls with the medals and certificates. Families attend and take pictures of the group and of the girls individually with **Linda Godwin**. In addition to initiating this very successful program, Linda has served as Columbia Branch president and is currently branch program vice-president. Before her retirement she was a statewide special education administrator, and while serving as president of the Missouri Speech Language-Hearing Association, presented papers at state and national conventions of the organization.

## 2025 AAUW Missouri Outstanding Member

AAUW MO recognizes and honors

# Linda Evans

Columbia Branch

for her commitment and dedication to the Mission of AAUW and for exceptional service to Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch and to Columbia Branch, and for her dedication to girls in STEM in Columbia schools.

Linda has long been a leader and advocate for Women and Girls.



**Congratulations!**



### EMPOWER FUTURE GENERATIONS

Join the Legacy Circle to ensure AAUW's mission continues to advance gender equity through education, advocacy, and research.



SCAN TO LEARN  
MORE

### NEED MORE INFO?

Contact your state liaison **Susan Barley:**  
[barley702@gmail.com](mailto:barley702@gmail.com)  
or AAUW National:  
[planned-giving@aauw.org](mailto:planned-giving@aauw.org)

**TOGETHER WE CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE**

[bit.ly/AAUWLegacy](https://bit.ly/AAUWLegacy)

## STEM

### AAUW MO STEM Chair Pam Kulp

Missouri AAUW branches are making a difference in girls pursuing STEM careers! Many of you are doing projects that support this premise.

One of our branches recently had an evening reception celebrating 16 outstanding high school senior women in math and science. The event began with a variety of tasty treats, and continued as the young women shared their ambitions, praised teachers who made an impact on their lives, and conversed with like-minded other senior girls throughout the evening. Noteworthy is one senior's thank-you note: "The aspirations and dedication that the AAUW has towards improving equity for us young women has me feeling hopeful and excited for what my future holds. Here's to closing the gender gap in male dominated fields.....to making a difference."

Especially clever is **Danica McKellar's** (recall Winnie Cooper from the Wonder Years) approach to teaching math concepts. Check out her website, **[Mckellarmath.com](http://Mckellarmath.com)**. Under the heading, *Links* (realizing I make mistakes regularly and might learn something new), I watched the 3-minute #2 episode titled: "How to Stop Making Mistakes." <https://youtu.be/PPOLgul4Eq0>. These ideas are presented in her book *Math Doesn't Suck*. (Ages 9-12, and adults.)



In the next several months, look at the AAUW Missouri website under STEM, "**[Resources for Branches.](#)**" Be energized and find new ideas for your branch to inspire girls and young women in STEM in grades kindergarten thru high school.

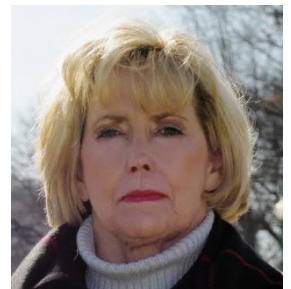
## AAUW MO Membership

### Membership Vice-President Susie Watson

I joined AAUW KC Northland in July of 2001. I have been a member for almost 24 years. One of my church members, **Virjean Burton**, also a neighbor, introduced me to AAUW. They provided Legal Advocacy assistance for women seeking help with legal issues regarding workplace discrimination and equal pay in the work force. Our branch passed the contribution box at each meeting for the Legal Advocacy Fund. I am grateful to Virjean for telling **me** about AAUW and helping me to find this organization!

I challenge all our members to **step forward** and to be instrumental in shepherding others to your branch meetings. Encourage others to support **Equal Pay**. March 25, 2025, was the equal pay date this year for some women. Did you hear that the Pay Gap widened this year? The AAUW mission is on-going!

Please work hard to **grow your branch membership**! AAUW, founded in 1881, is one of the oldest and largest women's organization in the U.S. with headquarters located in Washington, D.C. Share this info when you're inviting new members.



Lilly Ledbetter

If your branch has a book discussion group, read the Lilly Ledbetter bio-Grace and Grit, *My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond*. I met Lilly when her book was released in February 2013, and she is so motivating. The movie *Lilly* was just released on May 9. Plan a branch Movie Party and invite all your friends! AAUW helped fund Lilly's legal efforts and is still helping women today!

## 2024 AAUW MO Century Club Plus Members

### Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch

Carol Anthony  
Susan Barley  
Sandra Brody  
Yvonne Morrison  
Doris Nistler  
Patricia Shores  
Margaret (Sage) Taber

### Boonville Branch

Carol Cox

### Ferguson-Florissant Branch

Shirley Breeze

### Columbia Branch

Jane Biers  
Marianne Fues  
Diane Ludwig  
Kathleen Slane

### Independence Branch

Lois Domsch  
Sue Shineman

### Kansas City Branch

Ellen Johnson

### Kansas City-Northland

Sharon Posson

### Kirkwood-Webster Groves

Carol Davis-McDonald  
Julia Muller  
Lynne Roney  
Jeannie Webdell

### St. Charles Branch

Teresa Brecht  
Barbara Olive

### St. Louis Branch

Susan Barley  
Ellen Irons  
Carol Davis McDonald

## 2024 AAUW MO Century Club Members

### Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch

Lorna Anderson  
Susan Fenwick  
Karen Francis  
Harriet Hirschfeld  
Betty Jo Hogan  
Angela Janik  
Mary Jermak  
Joyce Katz  
Jean Light  
Rebecca Litherland  
Carol Davis McDonald  
Nancy Price  
Arlene Spector  
Mary Kay Wolfe

### Boonville Branch

Donna Medlin

### Canton Branch

D'Ann Campbell

### Cape Girardeau Branch

Jean Cairns

### Ferguson-Florissant Branch

Patricia Murray

### Columbia Branch

Kathryn Allen  
Jane Crow  
Linda Evans  
Barbara Favazza  
Carol McAllister  
Pat Merrill  
Sue Tillema

### Independence Branch

Patricia Braley  
Jane Cambell  
Jan Keeler  
Gail Metcalf Schartel  
Ruby Smith  
Judy Tucker  
Judith Tyson

### Kansas City Branch

Linda Berube  
Hortense Burr  
Alice Kitchen

### Kansas City Northland

Diana Curry-McGuirk  
Jane Janson  
Susie Watson

### Kirkwood-Webster Groves

Barbara Johnson  
Janet King  
Deborah McWard  
Kathyrne Meyer

### Nevada Branch

Sheryl Baer  
Sara Compton  
Phyllis Sprenkle

### Parkville Branch

Su Bacon  
Sandra Fogt  
Debra McArthur

### St. Charles Branch

Bonita Dillard  
Geraldine Jacobs  
Pam Kulp  
Susan Moellering  
Grace Poertner  
Karen Schneider  
Betty Takahashi  
Rose Ann Weeks

### St. Louis Branch

Kathleen Farrell



## 10-STAR BRANCHES

**Ballwin-Chesterfield**  
**Columbia**  
**Ferguson-Florissant**  
**Independence**  
**Kansas City Northland**  
**Kirkwood-Webster Groves**  
**Parkville**  
**St. Charles**  
**St. Louis**

## 9-STAR BRANCHES

**Nevada**

## 6-STAR BRANCHES

**Boonville**  
**Canton**  
**Kansas City**

### Top Five Branches in Total 2024 Giving Total 2024 Missouri Giving: \$34,451.13

1. St. Louis Branch	\$5,917.63
2. Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch	\$ 5,481.20
3. Ferguson-Florissant Branch	\$ 3,023.00
4. Columbia Branch	\$ 2,757.00
5. St. Charles Branch	\$ 2,333.00

### Top Five Branches in Per Capita 2024 Giving Missouri Per Capita 2024 Giving: \$ 86.34

1. St. Louis Branch	\$281.75
2. Ferguson-Florissant Branch	\$188.94
3. Columbia Branch	\$110.28
4. St. Charles Branch	\$101.43
5. Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch	\$ 75.85

### Branches with 50% of Members Giving to AAUW Fund

St. Charles Branch	83%
Independence Branch	78%
Columbia Branch	60%
Parkville Branch	59%
Kansas City-Northland Branch	52%

## College/University Relations

C/U Relations Committee Chair Debra McArthur

Thanks to our partnerships with colleges in Missouri and the connections of our local members with schools in their areas, both St. Louis area and Kansas City area Interbranch Councils (IBC) are able to sponsor college



Left-Amelia Britting; Right-Makayla Artis

women to attend the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders in College Park (NCCWSL) Maryland, May 28–30, 2025.

Funds for these sponsorships came from participating branches and from AAUW MO's allocated NCCWSL funds.

St. Louis IBC is sponsoring Sophie Davis from Webster University. Kansas City IBC is sponsoring **Amelia Britting** and **Makayla Artis** from Park University. Both St. Louis and Kansas City IBC ask attendees to share their experiences with branch members at events after the conference. We're looking forward to hearing all about it!

### AAUW Opportunity Grant

Opportunity Grants Chair Carol Cox

Could your branch use some help funding a program, award, event, speaker, or a project? An Opportunity Grant can provide that help. So far in 2025, three branches have applied for and received grants from the Missouri Reserve Fund. The St. Charles branch was one of those three and made a short presentation at the May Zoom State Conference. In addition to the Missouri Reserve Fund, you can also request funding from the Peg Witt Fund.

For information on the grants and how to apply, follow this link: <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/incentive-grants/>.

For questions: Contact Carol Cox. Use the Click Here to Contact AAUW-MO Board feature on the AAUW MO website home page.

### National History Day in Missouri

AAUW Chair Betty Takahashi

University of Missouri, April 26, 2025

This annual event is sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri. The 2025 theme was *Rights and Responsibilities in History*. AAUW MO awards three special awards. Each winner, listed below, was given an AAUW certificate and AAUW materials, plus \$100 each.

**Dakota Scott**– Sumner High School

Performance category

Sitting to Take a Stand----Claudette Collins Fight for Justice

**Michaela Straetz**– STEAM Academy Middle School

Documentary category

Women Spies of the Civil War

**Calleigh Anderson**– South Joplin Middle School

Documentary category

The Responsibility to Resist Injustice for Rights

The judges were **Debbie Parker**, **Margaret Gladbach**, **Nicole Takahashi** and **Betty Takahashi**. The day was a great success.

**AAUW of Missouri 2025–26**  
**Adopted Budget**  
**Financial Officer Lois Domsch**

**INCOME**

	2025-2026
Contingency cash	\$4,715
MO Annual Conference 25-26	\$4,500
Conference Subsidy	\$1,000
Membership Dues	\$3,300
Interest/Dividends	\$ 500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,915.</b>

**EXPENDITURES*****Elected Officers***

President	\$200
President-Elect	0
Program Vice President	\$25
Membership Vice President	\$75
Recording Secretary	\$15
Financial Officer	\$25

***Appointed Board Officers***

Administrative Assistant	0
Governance	0
College/University Relations	\$600
Communications	\$ 25
AAUW Fund	\$ 50
Historian	\$200
Newsletter Editor-Missouri in Motion	\$150
Past President	0
Diversity/Inclusion	\$300
Public Policy	\$600
STEM	\$300
Web Manager	\$ 25

***Appointed Committee Chairs***

Directory	\$650
Incentive Grants	\$ 50
Nominating	0
Missouri History Day Awards	\$400
Woman of Distinction Award	\$50
Strategic Plan (MO & Branch Action Plans)	0

**EXPENDITURES, continued*****General Operating***

Administrative Support, Miscellaneous	\$ 25
Board - Travel	\$1,750
Zoom Membership	\$150
Ink Cartridge	\$250
Food	\$1,100
NCCWSL	\$600
Liability Insurance	\$400
Missouri Annual Conference	\$5,500
President's New Initiatives	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,915</b>

AAUW MO Public Policy  
Chair Alice Kitchens



Kansas City is a city that eliminates discrimination in all forms against Women and Girls in all diversity. We asked the council to pass an Ordinance amending Chapter 38 in the Municipal Code declaring our city as a city that meets the standards to be a City for CEDAW. This Ordinance was sponsored by **Councilwoman Melissa Robinson**. Ordinance 241047 passed unanimously Dec. 12, 2024. The Ordinance requires all departments to annually report actions related to advancing women in positions of decision- making, public safety and training on Gender Based Violence in the Workplace.

What this means is that KCMO has an Ordinance the implements the intent of the UN Convention to Eliminate in all forms Discrimination Against Women and Girls (CEDAW) The Ordinance mandates that all City Department (20) to report annually on the process.



AAUW is represented by Susie Watson, Gail James, Carol Cowles and Alice Kitchen.

2025 AAUW MO Events

May 28–30	NCCWSL at the University of Maryland College Park MD
June 30	Presidents’ Deadline: enter 2025-26 officers/committee chairs in AAUW Community Hub database
30	Five Star Program – Branch Survey Updates Deadline
July 19	State Board Meeting and Retreat - Columbia 9:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
29	Submission Deadline for <i>Summer Missouri in Motion</i> items
August 5	Watch for national Strategic Plan webinars Election Day



## Leaves from the Branches

**The AAUW Canton Branch** celebrated Women's History by co-sponsoring a session at Culver Stockton College (C-SC) on Women in Sports with alumnae being the speakers. Over 62 attended the session. We have awarded a scholarship to be presented at the Awards Ceremony for Canton RV in May for a woman attending C-SC for the first time next year. We provided certificates to all winners at the Regional Science Fair held at C-SC in February. We were not able to host the women's history essays for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders this year given the current atmosphere on possible "DEI" initiatives.

### The AAUW Boonville Branch

In April the branch celebrated two Women of the Year. The certificates were presented by **President Carol Cox**. The Branch Woman of the Year was **Ada Gingrich**, an honorary lifetime member and still active in the branch. She was president from 1961–63 and co-president from 2008 – 2011. Ada was honored for her many contributions to our branch.



Carol Cox and Mary Pat Abele

The Community Woman of the Year, **Mary Pat Abele**, was chosen for the award for all the work she has done for many Boonville organizations. She has spent the last several years advocating for and organizing all aspects of the renovations needed to move the town library into the building that was formerly part of Kemper Military Academy.

At the same meeting, the program, *Getting Graphy with It: Using Models and Visual Representations in the Mathematics and Science Classrooms*, was presented by math and science high school teachers. They were in the second year of a very interesting pilot program to coordinate math and science concepts through graphing.



Ada Gingrich and Carol Cox

**The AAUW Ferguson-Florissant Branch** held its annual Spring Luncheon meeting, **Finding a Path Forward... NOW Is the Time!** on May 17. New officers were installed of officers. The event was held at the Lutheran Church of The Living Christ.

The speaker for this year's annual meeting luncheon was **Nancy Wolff**, who is the director of the TEAM FOOD PANTRY (TEAM) Emergency Assistant Ministry.

**The AAUW Independence Branch** congratulates **Deryan Banks**, recipient of the AAUW Independence High School Scholarship of \$1,000. Deryan is a graduating senior at William Chrisman High School. She plans to attend the University of Missouri at Columbia to major in computer engineering. Deryan was honored at the Independence Branch meeting in April, with a card and monetary gift. She told the members about her background, high school achievements, and plans. Also in attendance with Deryan were her mother, father, and stepmother. Deryan was presented with her AAUW scholarship award at Chrisman's Senior Awards Ceremony by **Branch President Karol Palmer** on May 7.



**Karol Palmer and Deryan Banks**

**The AAUW Columbia Branch** celebrated spring with an in-person lunch

and a program about LGBTQ+ in March. In April, we learned about current activities in the Missouri legislature on AAUW issues from **League of Women State President Marilyn McLeod**, and how to communicate with local representatives. May brought one of the highlights of our year, the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Science Scholars Awards to Columbia Public School students with a presentation by former NASA astronaut **Linda Godwin**. This year the awards happened to fall on the 64th anniversary of the first US space flight.



Student Science Scholars display their AAUW certificates and medals. Center is Linda Godwin, sitting next to AAUW leader Linda Evans (holding AAUW sign.)

**AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield** branch members gathered in May for a year-end luncheon, themed "Dare to Color Outside the Lines." Co-chairs **Jane Hemer** and **Michele Mangnall** challenged us to color outside the lines to create a personalized program cover. **Marcia Block** announced that B-C Booster fund raiser campaign

surpassed its goal. **Sandy Brody** reviewed the service of **Jan Horner**, our **2025 Barbara Lackritz** awardee. **Jan Horner** recognized retiring officers **Kathy Brown**, **Susie Teicher**, and **Mary Jermak**.



**L-R: Kathy Skiles, Kathy Lask, Angie Janik, Karen Francis**

Jan conducted the installation of new officers and presented a large crayon to each, the color befitting her position. She quoted **Albert Einstein**: "You have to color outside the lines once in a while if you want to make your life a masterpiece." A black crayon went to **Karen Francis**, director of AAUW Fund, because black means stability and positive balance for the finances of the national organization. **Angela Janik**, director of public policy, received a

purple crayon to aid her in looking for wisdom in the laws and policies that support gender equity for women and girls. Secretary/Archivist **Kathy Lask** got a blue crayon, which signifies her ability to keep calm, trustworthy, and stable as she records accurate minutes. Green is the color for Co-VP Membership **Sage Taber**. It signifies growth, renewal, and harmony. Yellow is the color for Co-VP Program **Kathy Skiles**, which denotes the optimism and sunshine needed to bring us interesting programs. Finally, Co-president **Janet Sloey** will use the red crayon to show passion, love, energy, and power as she contributes her skills of leadership for the branch.



## The Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch

Eight members from three branches gathered on May 3 for a state conference Pathway Party hosted by **Marsha Koch** at Friendship Village Sunset Hills. All agreed it was more fun than watching alone at home! Refreshments, courtesy of an Opportunity Grant, were enjoyed. St. Louis Branch members were especially moved by the tribute to their late branch president **Ellen Irons as a Woman of Distinction**.

Those attending were pictured at right **Debbie McWard, Marsha Koch, Carol Davis McDonald, Jeanne Webdell, Lynne Roney, Sandy Brody, and Diane Albright**. Not pictured, **Christine Nobbe**.



The annual STEM Award celebration by Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch was April 24, 2025. **Mary Giunta** and **Dee Loris** are the STEM Award chairs. The branch awarded \$500 scholarships to three students who will continue their STEM studies in college. **Dr. Annie Valuska** of Purina was the guest speaker. Recipients are **Elana Feldman** of Valley Park High School, **Marlie Duggin** of Maplewood-Richmond Heights High School, and **Eleanor Livengood** of Affton High School. Duggin and Livengood family members were present to watch their student be honored.



**Marlie Duggin and family (at left her grandmother is Ballwin-Chesterfield member Beth Ann Murphy).**



**Eleanor Livengood with her father**



**Dee Loris and Elana Feldman**

## The AAUW St. Charles Branch

The St. Charles Branch of AAUW participated in the St. Charles City Senior Fair held from 9–Noon on March 27 at the St. Charles Art Foundry. A display was set up of branch history since 1933, in addition to information concerning different aspects of AAUW on the local, state, and national levels. Handouts were bookmarks from the St. Louis Interbranch Council (IBC), the ‘woman’s dollar’, and informational literature were available. People stopped by to visit and learn about the organization. They were complimentary of the work we do in AAUW, and several expressed an interest in finding out more. The display boards were created by **Teri Brecht**. The table set-up was completed by **Charlie Daniels** and **Karen Schneider**. **Rose Ann Weeks** joined them to host the three-hour event. An Opportunity Grant covered the registration fee and printing for this tabling event.



**Charlie Daniels, Rose Ann Weeks,  
Karen Schneider**

The St. Charles Branch recently honored 14 senior girls from seven area high schools who excel in math or science. Students, parents, guests, and teachers attended the Annual STEM Awards and Dessert Night. Awards in math and science have been presented by St. Charles AAUW since 1994. Recipients were selected by their teachers. **Equity Chair Linda Dencker** introduced student honorees who each presented a short speech on goals, interests, mentors, and future plans. Numerous honorees credited their teachers for inspiring them to excel in school as well as in their life experiences



**Math Honorees, Back Row:** Rose van Berkum-St. Charles High; Addie Nichols-St. Charles West; Claire Witte-Lutheran; Paz Villaseca Ortuzar- Francis Howell; and Rylie Schaefermeier- Francis Howell Central.

**Not pictured:** Francis Howell North and Orchard Farm High Honorees.

**Science Honorees, Front Row:** Emily Johannes-St. Charles High; Megan Johnson- St. Charles West; Sophia Whitsell- Orchard Farm; Neva Pegors- Francis Howell High; Hannah Halterman-Francis Howell Central and Isabelle Lash- Francis Howell North. **Not pictured:** Lutheran High Honoree.



## The AAUW Kansas City Branch

On April 22, the Kansas City Branch hosted the Waggy Grant Reception to distribute \$7,367 in grant funds to five local nonprofit organizations. Members congratulated these deserving organizations and enjoyed light refreshments! The funding source comes from the estate of AAUW member **Nettie Irene Van Der Veer Waggy**. The funds are held in the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (GKCCF) and an eight percent distribution is the basis for each year's award, supplemented by AAUW-KC members' donations restricted to this purpose. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$4,000.

The winning non-profit organizations were:

1. Kansas City Girls Preparatory Academy - Develop and support a Leadership Institute for GCGPA Graduates to enable them to continue their leadership development and mentor younger girls
2. Mother's Refuge-Residence and education for homeless, pregnant, and parenting women 12-21 years of age
3. Madam President Camp-Five full tuition scholarships for a summer program focusing on leadership
4. Rightfully Sewn-Commercial sewing training program focused on women's employment in a living wage paying industry
5. Strawberry Week Society-Menstrual product distribution
6. Uzazi Village-Support for babies and families



From left to right: **Clarissa Evans, Kamesha Moore, and Shalese Clay from Uzazi Village, Tyler Bennett from Rightfully Sewn, Mindy Greaves from Mother's Refuge, Mariah Roady from GKCCF. Terri Munsell from Madam President Camp, Kara Kahn and Ellen Jorgenson from Kansas City Girls Preparatory Academy.**based on an Afro-centric and group prenatal and aftercare.

## The Kansas City Northland and Parkville Branches

Kansas City Northland and Parkville Branches held a luncheon guest event on Saturday, February 15, at Our Lady of Mercy Country Home in Liberty, MO. Approximately 40 members and guests attended that day, and we welcomed a new member for the Parkville Branch!



Sandra Campbell

Our featured speaker, **Dr. Sandra Campbell** (pictured at left), delivered a moving portrayal of **Fannie Lou Hamer**, civil rights activist, and 2025 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Delivered in a press conference format, the program detailed Ms. Hamer's efforts to register black voters in the 1960s and her arrest and the jailhouse beating she endured.

KC Northland and Parkville also recognizes the 103rd birthday (on March 15) of **Frances Foersler**, oldest living AAUW member in Missouri. Frances was the first woman to serve on the school board for North Kansas City District. Her daughter says Frances still speaks fondly of her years of involvement in AAUW.

## Kansas City Metro Meeting

Seventeen members from the four Kansas City area AAUW branches (Independence, Kansas City, Northland, and Parkville) met for an organizing meeting on Saturday, April 5, 2025. The group was hosted by the Independence Branch. This was a great opportunity for members from across the area to get acquainted with each other and share ideas on how to work more closely together. The discussion was very productive, and they put together a tentative calendar for the 2025–26 program year, including plans for several joint meetings.

Those in attendance were

**Independence-Lois Domsch, Patty Chadwick, Jane Campbell, Sue Shineman, Sue Raymond, and Karol Palmer**

**Kansas City-Linda Berube and Corinne Mahaffey**

**KC Northland-Di Curry McQuirk, Melody Shoger, Gayle Matsuoka**

**Parkville-Su Bacon, Debra McArthur, Candi Strong-Lapides, April McArthur, Lindsey McArthur, and Kathy Potter**



The Kansas City branches have taken a very important first step towards a stronger metro-wide AAUW. Additional metro planning meetings are scheduled for this summer.

## AAUW MO State Board 2024–25

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

<b>President</b> Sue Shineman Independence	<b>Program-Co VP and 10- Star Award</b> Su Bacon Parkville Diane Ludwig Columbia	<b>Secretary</b> Diana Curry-McGuirk Kansas City Northland	<b>Public Policy Chair</b> Alice Kitchen Kansas City
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<b>Membership VP</b> Susie Watson KC Northland	<b>College/University Relations Chair</b> Debra McArthur Parkville	<b>Inclusion &amp; Equity (IE)</b> Luna Mukherjee Kansas City	<b>Kansas City IBC Co-chairs</b> Corinne Mahaffey Kansas City and Diana Curry-McGuirk Kansas City Northland
<b>AAUW Fund</b> Sage Taber Ballwin-Chesterfield	<b>STEM Chair</b> Pam Kulp Ballwin-Chesterfield	<b>St. Louis IBC Co-chairs</b> Carol Davis McDonald Jan Scott St. Louis	<b>Facebook Administrator</b> April McArthur Parkville
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<b>Interim Web Manager</b> Lynne Roney Kirkwood-Webster Groves			

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