

# **AAUW MISSOURI STATE BOARD MEETING**

April 19, 2025

Zoom Meeting

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

**Su Bacon**, Jane Biers, Carol Cox, **Lois Domsch**, Marianne Fues, Karen Francis, Mary Jermak, **Alice Kitchen**, Pam Kulp, **Diane B. Ludwig**, April McArthur, **Debra McArthur**, **Diana Curry-McGuirk**, **Pam Meyers**, Luna Mukerjee, 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 accept the minutes of March 15, 2025, meeting.

## **BOARD MEETING**

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

Ten voting members were present representing nine positions constituting a quorum. Twelve position members were present.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 A.M.

**Approval of Agenda: Sue Shineman, President**

Three additions were made to the agenda by Sue Shineman: a report from the AAUW Fund Chair, a report from the Social Media Chair, and an Interbranch Council Report. The agenda was accepted as modified.

**Secretary: Diana Curry-McGuirk**

The draft minutes of the March 15, 2025, meeting were presented on the Google Group Website and sent to all members by email. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried. The two readers appointed for April 19, 2025, are Sage Taber and Jane Biers.

**Finance Officer: Lois Domsch**

Four documents were posted on the Google Group Website on April 14, 2025, for review: AAUW 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Report, Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2025, Asset Summary, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Profit and Loss. The Contingency Fund balance is \$5,436.28. Requests for reimbursement should be sent immediately. The Opportunity Grant for the St. Charles Branch was funded this quarter. Monies approved for the NCCWSL grant should be requested when needed.

### **President's Report: Sue Shineman**

Three branches may disband based on membership: Canton, Cape Girardeau, Jefferson City. This may happen in the next weeks. The National AAUW vote on public policy priorities, changes to the bylaws, and board directors are now open. The voting ends May 13, 2025, at 4:00 P.M. Central Time. AAUW's third party vendor, Simply Voting, will provide elector ID's and passwords to all members by email. The changes to the Public Policy Priorities are effective for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Changes to the bylaws are effective immediately. If a branch has not updated its bylaws from 2023 the changes must be made by June 30, 2026.

The President thanked Pat Shores, Su Bacon, and Diane B. Ludwig for their work on the Missouri 10 Star and National 5 Star programs. National listened to the branches' concerns regarding the dues increase and the 5 Star Branch Impact Survey and made changes. Conversations have an impact. A report was posted to the Google Group Website April 19, 2025.

### **Past President's Report: Karen Francis**

A committee composed of Pam Meyers, Debra McArthur, Carol Cox, and Karen Francis chose the recipients of the "Women of Distinction Award" to be presented at the state annual meeting. Ellen Irons will receive the award posthumously. Pam Kulp will receive the award at the conference. A report was posted to the Google Group Website on April 16, 2025.

The legislative online seminar was a success. Sue Shineman thanked Karen Francis and Pat Shores for their work. Karen will be moving from the position of past president to the Chair of the College/University Committee next year.

**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**

Diane B. Ludwig reported that fifty-one members have registered for the State Conference May 3, 2025. Some branches are meeting together at “Pathway Parties” to experience the conference. Participants need to register individually to receive materials relevant to the conference. A Board rehearsal is planned on April 24, 2025, between 5:00 and 6:30 P.M. A post conference electronic evaluation is being considered. Diane will end her term as co-vice president. She will become chair of the Wisdom Council beginning July 1, 2025. Su Bacon will continue as a program vice president. A report was posted to the Google Group Website on April 14, 2025.

### **Membership: Susie Watson, Vice President**

AAUW continues to lose members. All service organizations are impacted in a comparable way. The culture and values are changing. Members are aging while young women do not want to be “joiners.” Young women look for alternative ways to volunteer their time and energy. Susie reported membership for 2025 totals 401 in Missouri. She asked each member to recruit one new member. How AAUW Missouri does membership must be open to change. Tables at rallies, more work with colleges, and using business cards to recruit were suggested. Collaboration is also key. A report was posted to the Google Group Website on April 17, 2025.

### **AAUW Fund: Sage Taber, Chair**

Branch leaders were each sent a summary of their branch’s financial giving to the fund over the past year. Two reports were posted to the Google Group Website on April 18, 2025.

### **Communications: Pam Meyers, Chair**

Mary Jermak, editor of *Missouri in Motion* reported that only seven members receive the editions by hard copy. Printing costs are negligible. The deadline for the Spring Edition is May 13, 2025. She requested continued use of the recommended guidelines for article submission.

Lynne Roney, interim web master, reported the state website does not list contact information for every branch. The National website does not list all branches. A report was posted to the Google Group Website on April 16, 2025.

April McArthur, Social Media Editor, posted a graphic report to the Google Group Website April 19, 2025. She encouraged all viewers of a post to “like” and “share” to increase followers. Social media alternatives to Facebook were reviewed. A detailed summary of alternative sites was also posted to the Google Group Website.

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

The focus of the recent meeting was NCCWSL. The St. Louis IBC is sending one student to the conference. The Kansas City IBC has not received applications as of this time. A Park College student may need assistance. Changes in university contacts have made this process difficult this year. College and University partnerships continue but without the depth of relationships. The greatest impact for AAUW membership is when college personnel are included in branch membership. A report was posted to the Google Group Website April 16, 2025.

### **Public Policy: Alice Kitchen, Chair**

The committee has been working on action and advocacy in the state. The “Paid Sick Leave Bill” passed last November is being attacked in the Missouri legislature. Amendment 3 on reproductive rights is being challenged as well. The committee is working on finding ways to let members’ voices be heard. Alice encouraged member engagement through rally attendance, using the “Two Minute Activist” site, and attending lobby days in Jefferson City.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

National webinars are planned for May 13, 2025, and May 28, 2025. Monthly committee meetings are held on Zoom on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. CST. A report was posted to the Google Group Website April 16, 2025.

### **STEM: Pam Kulp, Chair**

The National Girls Collaborative Research Project showed an increase of 31 percent of women in the STEM workforce. Pam reported on the Missouri Girls Collaborative Project. A report was posted to the Google Group Website April 18, 2025.

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

Two branch grant applications were made. The St. Charles Branch held a table event at the St. Charles Senior Fair supported by the funds. The Nevada Branch applied for funds to support a STEAM event for students ages 8-12. A report was posted to the Google Group Website April 15, 2025.

### **Historian: Jane Biers**

Sue Shineman applauded the work of Jane Biers over many years. Preserving our history is our link to the future. A report was posted to the Google Group Website on April 16, 2025.

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

The St. Louis IBC met and made the decision to divide up programs between the branches. Alternative dates, times, and group planning will be offered. An event “The Spring Fling” raised \$2000.00 with a SHEROS Campaign.

The Kansas City IBC met on April 5, 2025, and decided to reshape programming in the metro area. Two branches together will take responsibility for planning two meetings. The January and February meetings will be state-generated Zoom meetings. Social gatherings will be combined during the holidays and summer. A June 21, 2025, meeting is planned to continue this coordination effort.

### **BOARD DISCUSSION: Sue Shineman, President**

The question was posed to the Board “How do we do membership differently?” A lengthy discussion occurred with the following points offered:

- Table at events and rallies
- Use business cards
- Collaborating with other service organizations
- Support ACLU
- Use Branch Opportunity Grant funds
- Wear AAUW name badges when appropriate
- Recruit at retirement centers
- Add a sustaining membership payment option

### **Next Board Meetings/Dates to Remember**

- April 28      AAUW National Liaison Support Call 6:00 P.M.
- May 3        AAUW Missouri State Meeting by Zoom
- May 13      *Missouri in Motion* deadline
- May 14      Nation voting ends at 4:00 P.M. CST.
- May 17      State meeting evaluation 9:30-10:30 A.M. by Zoom
- May 28-30   NCCWSL
- July 19      Full Board Meeting

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 P.M. by Sue Shineman, President.

Submitted by Diana Curry-McGuirk, Secretary.

