

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.

From AAUW MO President Sue Shineman Summer Report and Goals for 2025–26 Summer Board/Retreat Report



Visibility is a common thread that is at the center of success for our branches, state and national. What sets us apart from other organizations? What do we do better than other like-minded organizations supporting women? Education! Our primary focus is education!

Education takes many different paths and looks different to every branch, state, and at national. The difference is ‘why’ people want to join us in our fight for equality and equity.

Thinking about how and why we make a difference, these comments were shared by your state board representatives at the July board meeting:

- Bring attention to AAUW – never take for granted what we have and who we are.
- Support women in higher education.
- Share STEM projects with elementary and middle school girls.
- Encourage women to run for office.
- Be a Two-Minute Activist. Amplify our voices.
- Get in ‘Good Trouble.’ Bring attention to the good things happening.
- Celebrate our successes and anniversaries.
- Don’t be afraid to share who we (AAUW) are and what we stand for.
- Collaborate with other organizations/branches/states to reach an audience eager for change.
- Be seen! Wear AAUW shirt / name badge. Display an AAUW banner at tabling events.

President’s Goals for 2025–26

Host Branch Board & Member Orientation

- These will be offered by the State Board

Focus on Branch Right-Sizing

- One-Size does not fit all!
- Meet with every branch (in person or via Zoom)
- Each branch has specific strengths / challenges
 - Consider needs of community
- Partner with other branches

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From AAUW MO President Sue Shineman, *continues from p.1* President's Goals for 2025–26

Succession Planning

- Identify branch strengths & challenges.
- Take a different approach to board structure & leadership.

Start State-Wide Programming online

- The State Board will offer a minimum of two programs in 2025-26 via zoom. (January & February)
These will be recorded and can be used for branch programs.

Establish the Wisdom Council

- The Wisdom Council will be established to include previous state board members who have expertise in specific areas. The Council will be a resource where history and previous hands-on experience can be helpful in directing branches and the state board focus on new opportunities.

I look forward to working with you and leading AAUW MO in new directions this year. The new National Strategic Plan, 5-Star Recognition, and the MO 10 Star Plan give us much needed guidance and direction in how to focus on 'Education' and 'What we do best' to continue to make a difference in the lives of women and families.

Thank YOU for your continued support.

Sue Shineman



AAUW MO Board Meets for a Retreat and Board Meeting in Columbia on July 19.

AAUW MO Fund

Chair Sage Taber

Have you made your annual donation to AAUW? AAUW is counting on member financial support to meet our budget that covers programs, communications, research, public policy, and administration.

Members' dues cover 20 percent of the budget. Eighty percent of the budget must come from member donations, investments, corporations, and foundations. Each of our branches has an AAUW Fund chair to promote, inform, inspire, and collect your donations.

AAUW MO keeps track of each branch's giving during the calendar year. The Missouri Star Award & Branch Action Plan 2025–26 has set our goals:

1. \$30 per capita giving.
2. Increase the number of individual donors compared to last year.

Eight months have passed. There is still time for you to send your contribution to keep AAUW a vital force in our fight for gender equity.

AAUW Missouri Public Policy

Chair Alice Kitchen

During the last three months, the public policy committee focused on Missouri legislative issues: the undoing of Amendment 3, paid sick leave, and increasing the minimum wage. Both citizen ballot initiatives were overwhelmingly supported by the voters. However, the actions of the voters at the polls were ignored and disregarded. Advocates vigorously fought the move in the General Assembly to repeal the voters' actions. The Citizen Ballot Initiative was the target of the legislature for many years because they resent the "direct democracy" feature it provides. HB 22 was designed to make the Citizen Ballot Initiative petition less clear, more evasive of the intent, and more skewed to meet political ends of the state attorney general.

On top of those setbacks, Governor Kehoe arbitrarily took 50 million out of General Revenue and put it in the state Voucher Program. We became aware of a lawsuit by the MO National Education Association.

At the federal level, we also had virtual meetings with the staff of Senators Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt. Our committee members reactions to the content were mixed from informative to insulting—a sense the staffers are mouth pieces for their senator rather than "ears." After the vote on HR 1, the committee expressed extreme disappointment, anger, and disgust.

On a positive note, we joined the statewide celebration of the John Lewis Anniversary sponsored by the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition. Events were held in most Missouri cities. The anniversary was a recognition of our voting rights and the actions we took to remove the many obstacles we experienced.

GIVING BACK

There are many ways that you can invest in a fairer future and donate to AAUW.

Fundraise through your branch.

Become a Champion—donate \$5000 or more annually.


Leave a Legacy

Donate stocks, save on taxes!

Give from your IRA, save on taxes!

**The Women's Equality Coalition is a cooperating organization with AAUW MO
and the League of Woman Voters**

These events are in conjunction with Women's Equality Week. All events, except the August 25 event will be available by live stream. Details and registration at www.facebook.com/WomensEqualityGKC/ or see below.



WOMEN'S EQUALITY COALITION

Pushing Back/ Marching Forward

Celebrating women voting since 1920

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/WomensEqualityGKC/>
for online registration and livestream links

Sunday, Aug. 24, 2 p.m. Kansas Suffrage Movement. Jeanne Klein. PowerPoint and Q&A session. WomenForKansas.org Zoom. [Register for Kansas Suffrage Movement. Click here.](#)

Monday, Aug. 25, 6 p.m. Stories of the Earliest Black Suffragists. Dr. Carmaletta Williams, Executive Director of the Black Archives of Mid-America. Easy access off I-70 via the Paseo, 1722 E. 17th Terrace, Kansas City, Mo., just East of downtown. Free lighted parking. In person event. Register: blackarchives.org or call 816-221-1600.

Tuesday, Aug. 26, 6 p.m. Swiftynomics: How Women (including Beyonce) are Rewriting the American Economic Playbook. Misty Heggeness. Plaza Library, 4801 Main. Free parking garage next to the library. Co-sponsored with the Women's Equality Coalition. Friendship bracelets and cowboy boots optional. Register for in person presentation or livestream: [Swiftynomics RSVP / Livestream](#)

Wednesday, Aug. 27, 6 p.m. (CDT) Women in War Zones. Speakers from Ukraine, Palestine, Iran and a Global Peace Builder. Offices at Park 39, 300 E. 39th St., Kansas City, Mo. Free onsite parking. In person event, to register for: [Women in War Zones. Click here.](#)

Thursday, Aug. 28. Dianna Wynn, President of the League of Women Voters U.S. **"Women at the Forefront of Advancing Equality and Democracy."** Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road. Doors open at 5:30, presentation at 6. [Zoom link to be announced.](#)

For online registration and livestream links, visit <https://www.facebook.com/WomensEqualityGKC/>

Registration Information

August 25, in-person. Call 816-221-1600 to attend.

August 26, register at <https://kclibray.org/42296/register>

August 27, register at <https://www.irck.org/what-we-do/irc-event-calendar/#id=10785&wid=2201&tye=Cal>

August 28, register the League of Women Voters of KC website: <https://www.lwvkc.org/>

STEM Projects at Work in Missouri

AAUW MO Independence Branch Chair Lois Domsch reports that elementary students at two Independence schools enjoyed hands-on STEM activities in their library classes. The librarian read the book *Whoosh*, about the inventor of the Supersoaker, to her 3rd grade class. Then librarian had the students design a prototype for a new toy. To another group, she read *Ricky the Rock Who Couldn't Roll* and had the students find a way to make a rock roll down a hill, not slide, using materials such as foil, playdoh, rubber bands, and pipe cleaners.



New toy prototype

With the kindergarteners, she read *I Have a New Toy* and had them design a fidget spinner top. First graders got to create an idea to go along with the book *If I Built a School* using Legos or other choice of building materials. Their teacher has found a unique way to encourage both reading and STEM

activities in her library lessons to excite her students about learning.

The Independence AAUW branch has introduced STEM Boxes to the librarians and has supplied them with some consumable materials to go with the supplies they already have to link STEM with literature. The librarians would like us to present our program to all the elementary librarians at a workshop in the fall to generate more participation with us and the STEM-literature link.

Use this link for a list of library books that could link with STEM hands-on activities: <https://www.amightygirl.com/books/general-interest/science-technology>



Rock rolling down a hill



Designing a fidget spinner



STEM Projects at Work in Missouri

Allison Fast reports that the **Nevada Branch**, along with the MU Extension|4-H and Cottey College, sponsored a spring STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) event at Cottey. This cooperative effort was supported by financial and volunteer support from all entities.

Twenty-six youngsters, aged 8-12, participated in hands-on activities in the five units:

- Bugs and Behavior (S–featuring Madagascar cockroaches).
- Burn to Learn (T–making nylon string & seeing how plastics burn).
- Need a Hand? (E–making robotic hands).
- Home Sweet Home (A–constructing animal habitats).
- Pizza My Heart (M–using a pizza round for fractions).

Comments from participants regarding what they learned included “not enough room on this page to write it all;” “how cockroaches hiss;” and “that science can be fun!”

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STEM Projects at Work in Missouri, Nevada Branch, *continued*



Comments regarding what they will remember included “all the fun I had” and “everything!”

Participant Parent– “I was excited to see this event at a women’s college, so my daughter could see the possibilities for women in fields dominated by men.”

Dr. Ganga Fernando, Cottey College– “The STEAM Day at Cottey was a successful event that provided meaningful benefits for both the youth and the Cottey students who served as instructors. Cottey students—primarily majors in Health/Biomedical Sciences, Biology, Math, and Education—volunteered to prepare in advance and lead with enthusiasm. They demonstrated leadership and commitment to community engagement.”

Linda Clinton, MU Extension Rep– “The addition of AAUW to the partnership between Cottey and MU/4-H to host a STEAM event for the community was tremendous. It provided us with more leaders and helpers, and more ideas. The success of the day was significantly improved by AAUW.”

2025 AAUW MO Events

August

23 AAUW MO Board Check in Call 9:30 a.m.

Women’s Equity Coalition Presentations: 25, 27, 28
via Live Stream, see page 4

24 *Kansas Suffrage Movement*, 2 p.m.

25 *Stories of the Earliest Black Suffragists*, 6 p.m.

26 *Swiftonomics: How Women .. are Rewriting the
American Economic Playbook*, 6 p.m.

27 *Women in War Zones*, 6 p.m.

28 *Women at the Forefront of Advancing Equality and
Democracy*, 6 p.m.

September

20 AAUW MO Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

October

7 League of Women Voters present *Discerning the
Truth in Media* 7 p.m. available on Zoom

18 AAUW MO Board Check in Call 9:30 a.m.

November

4 Election Day

15 AAUW MO Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

25 Submission Deadline for *Missouri in Motion*

AAUW Research Report *A Persistent Inequity*

Download The Not So Simple Truth 2025 Update

Over half a century after pay discrimination became illegal in the United States, the persistent pay gap between men and women continues to hurt our nation’s workers and our national economy.

Women working full time in the U.S. are still paid just 83 cents to every dollar earned by men — and the consequences of this gap affect women throughout their lives. The pay gap even follows women into retirement. As a result of lower lifetime earnings, women receive less in Social Security and pensions, having saved just 70 percent retirement income when compared to men.

Pay equity will remain an AAUW priority until the gap is fully eliminated. We hope *The Simple Truth* motivates and empowers you to join us in this cause.

AAUW MO Membership

Membership Vice-President Susie Watson



At the July AAUW MO board meeting, membership was a key discussion item. Visibility is important to attract potential members. AAUW events should be welcoming, and if possible, be held in public places. AAUW shirts and/or name badges identify members and is a way to increase visibility and project a professional appearance. SHOP AAUW website for your personal AAUW name tag with magnetic clasp for all branch officers (approximately \$16, including shipping.) Distributing information about AAUW at meetings, events, or visits to campuses is critical.

The board discussed AAUW signage, such as one displayed by the KC Northland Branch (at left.) A motion was approved to offer a \$50 stipend from the Opportunity Grants Fund to any Missouri branch to purchase a stand-up AAUW sign. The sign could include the Missouri AAUW QR code, website addresses for state/branch, and/or a branch name and an AAUW image. The cost of such a sign is about \$152 on the Office Depot website. The AAUW Member Card Corporate Purchasing Card can be used for purchases. Don't forget to use it! Let's all work on our AAUW visibility and signage!

A successful membership event, Happy New Year AAUW was held by the Kansas City IBC in July. It was full of fun (door prizes), food, and a presentation about AAUW. Ballwin-Chesterfield held a similar event. Three new members were welcomed.

Increase your branch's presence in the community by collaborating with like-minded organizations, such as the League of Women Voters. Invite them to present a program in line with AAUW's mission. For example, the League of Women Voters will present "Discerning the Truth in Media!" at the KC Northland Library on October 7. The program will be available on Zoom—look for details closer to the date. Another way to promote visibility in the community is a GOTV Outreach event to register voters. AAUW continues to offer Shape the Future discounts of 50 percent off on national dues. The coupon code for FY26 effective now is STFFY26.

AAUW Opportunity Grant Opportunity Grants Chair Carol Cox

As we look forward to the 2025–26 program year, thinking how your branch could use the Opportunity Grants program. Three requests were funded this year, so for the remainder of 2025, the Peg Witt Grant has \$450 available and the AAUW MO Reserve has \$340 available.

As noted above, look forward to receiving branch applications for your branch stand up sign. Does your branch have plans to celebrate women's roles in the founding of America in honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026? A project on this topic could include public outreach, a membership drive, and/or a fundraiser. There could be printing costs, speaker fees, facility costs, etc. for which you could apply for assistance.

I will send an email in early August with a reminder of what the grant funds are, how they can be used, and how to access them. To look up the grants before you get my email, just follow this link: <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/membership/forms>. The links to information and the grant application are in the **Branch Opportunity Program** section.

KC IBC and STL IBC Sponsor NCCWSL Attendees

Debra McArthur, College/University Relations

Three college women were sponsored by AAUW groups, with assistance from AAUW MO. They attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) May 28–30 in College Park, Maryland. St. Louis IBC sponsored **Sophie Price** of Webster University. Kansas City IBC sponsored **Makayla Artis** and **Amelia Britting** of Park University.

The students were enthusiastic about their responses to the conference. Makayla found the speakers inspiring. “The energy was electrifying and to be in the room with women who have experienced such career-altering events was something that is hard to describe,” she said. Amelia stated, “This conference was tremendously motivating and inspiring. I got to take a lens into others’ experiences and worlds while also reflecting on my own. I learned a tremendous amount about myself that I’ve already started to use in my professional and personal life.”



L-R, Amelia Britting and Makayla Artis



L-R, Makayla Artis and Sophie Price

Amelia added, “I couldn't be more grateful for this opportunity and thank everyone that has fought for mine and others’ rights to attend higher education, come to events like these, and be a part of these wonderful organizations.”



AAUW MO State Board 2025–26

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

President Sue Shineman Independence	Program-Co VP, 10-Star Award/ 5-Star Recognition Su Bacon Parkville	Secretary Gail Metcalf Schartel Independence	Public Policy Chair Alice Kitchen Kansas City
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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 AAUW MO Communications Chair Diana Curry-McGuirk**.
- For website additions or corrections, contact **Lynne Roney** via the website contact form.
- Update your contact information in the Community Hub at aauw.org/.