**AAUW MISSOURI STATE BOARD MEETING**

**Trinity Presbyterian Church**

**Columbia, MO 1:30 p.m.**

**July 19, 2025**

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

**Motion Log from the Board Meeting**

**Motion Approved: To accept the minutes of the April 19, 2025 Board Meeting**

**Ratified Motion made during morning Retreat: Offer a $50 stipend from the Opportunity Grants Fund to any Missouri branch ordering a roll-out sign.**

**Motion Approved: Approve to correct a calculation error in the budget.**

**Motion Approved: Accept the budget.**

**Motion Approved: Adopt the revised 2026 Star Program requirements.**

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 P.M.

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

**Su Bacon, Lois Domsch, Karen Francis**, Marianne Fues, **Alice Kitchen**, Mary Jermak, Diane Ludwig, April McArthur, **Debra McArthur, Pam Meyers**, Karol Palmer, **Gail Metcalf Schartel, Sue Shineman, Sage Taber, Susie Watson**

**Unable to attend:** Susan Barley, Jane Biers, Carol Cox, Pam Kulp, Luna Mukherjee, Lynne Roney, Diana Curry McGuirk

**Quorum:** Marianne Fues announced there was a quorum of 15 present, including 9 voting members.

**Addition to the agenda:** State offering Zoom programs in January and February.

**Announcements:**

* The May 2nd date for the annual meeting and will be held in Columbia, Missouri.
* The movie “Lilly” is streaming on-line or may be purchased for $10. It was suggested to use it for an event or watch party.
* AAUW has replaced Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) with Inclusion and Equity (I&E).

**Minutes – April 19, 2025 Board Meeting:** The minutes from April 19, 2025 stood approved as distributed.

**Finance Officer: Lois Domsch**

Lois Domsch reminded those present to complete forms for travel reimbursement and to submit any other receipts or bills to her. She then reviewed the 4th Quarter, end-of-the-year. and beginning of the year reports, all of which had been sent through Google Docs. She reviewed income versus expenditures, noting that expenditures exceeded income by approximately $1,800. She recommended that the Certificate of Deposit which would come due on July 25 be renewed as the funds in the account would cover two years’ worth of grants at $450 per year. She said that funds in the BlackRock account could be accessed and moved to the general operating fund if needed. She noted there was a $100 calculation error in the 2025-2026 budget document. A motion (Su Bacon/Karen Francis) to correct a calculation error in the 2025-2026 budget was approved unanimously. She noted there is less money in the contingency fund and questioned whether it could be addressed by additional fundraising or by moving funds from BlackRock. A motion (Su Bacon/Susie Watson) to accept the budget was approved unanimously.

Sue Shineman suggested that both State and Branches consider using dual chairs for most board positions to allow cross-training to make things more efficient in developing a succession plan.

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

**Programs: Debra McArthur and Su Bacon, Co-Vice Presidents**

Debra McArthur and Su Bacon reviewed the Missouri 10 Star Award Program Requirements. The first five program requirements apply to both the National 5 Star Award Program and the Missouri 10 Star Program. To eliminate redundancy, the first five remain the same. Diane Ludwig expressed concern about #1 on the National 5 Star Award Requirements. She questioned the reasonableness of expecting contributions to the Greatest Needs Fund to increase by 15% and recruiting new Legacy Circle members. A discussion of the calendars used ensued. For the awards program the calendar is April 1 through March 31, the fiscal year is July 1 through June 30 and the program year for branches follows that of the school year. To calculate the donation expected to meet the first criteria bases membership as of February 1 multiplied by $30. It was suggested that these concerns go to Sue Barley who serves on the National Advancement committee. Deb McArthur said that for the state award program only 2 of the criteria under Advancement were required instead of the 3 required to meet the national program.

Criteria #10 on branch visibility was discussed with regard to branches having dwindling membership.

The group applauded the work of the two program VP’s.

It was clarified the 10 Star Award Program is based on the April 1 through March 31st calendar. To align it with the program year would require holding the state meeting at a different time.

Sue Shineman agreed to reach out to Tremayne Parquet at National to see whether what is printed on the 5-Star program is accurate. Money collected is not based on the calendar year for the Five Star Award Program. It was noted that reports could be pulled showing the way funds are attributed to different programs.

A motion (Deb McArthur/Su Bacon) to adopt the revised Missouri 2026 10 Star Program requirements was approved unanimously.

**Membership: Susie Watson, Vice President**

Susie Watson discussed the Shape the Future promotion that was in her submitted report. The Happy New Year event to be held by the North Kansas City and Parkville Branches will be bigger in 2026. Missouri AAUW Frances Foerschler celebrated her103rd birthday and is the oldest AAUW member. There is a total of 401 members of AAUW in Missouri. She said that blogger, Dr. Amber Benge is joining a St. Louis branch. Dr. Benge spoke at the Spring 2025 board meeting. Sage Taber said that her branch had adopted the New Year celebration idea. Susie reaffirmed that liking and sharing AAUW posts on Facebook gives the organization more visibility.

**Missouri in Motion:** **Mary Jermak, Newsletter Editor**

Mary Jermak made a request to receive newsletter articles for the Summer edition no later than Wednesday, July 30, 2025. She noted that mailing each newsletter cost $2.04 due to the length of the newsletter. She recounted the multiple steps required to publish the newsletter and asked that members send contributions to the newsletter in separate emails rather than replying through a thread to expedite the process. She also said she needs to have a successor in place because this is her sixth year as editor. She suggested that members consider sharing the newsletter with those who might not receive an e-mailed edition.

**Directory: Diane Ludwig, Directory Editor**

Diane Ludwig questioned whether the policies and bylaws which add twenty pages to the directory could be replaced with the website address links to reduce the cost of putting the directory together. The suggestion seemed reasonable to those attending.

**Social Media: April McArthur**

April McArthur’s submitted report was praised as impressive by the group. She reiterated that sharing the posts from AAUW to separate Facebook pages would help increase visibility of the organization.

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

Sue Shineman announced that the DEI report had been distributed.

Sue Shineman opined that the chairs of Branch DEI, College/University, STEM and Public Policy committees should automatically become members of the same state committees.

**College/University: Debra McArthur, Chair (2024)**

Karen Francis is the new chair of the committee. Deb McArthur said this is the time for all branches to meet with campus affiliates to make arrangements for being on campus. She expressed the need to make connections with faculty and other personnel to gain sponsors for student groups. A challenge is the decreased numbers of partner institutions. Three students were sent to NCCWSL. The two students from the Kansas City area loved it. She expressed hope that in the future, information about NCCWSL will be shared earlier. She encouraged other branches to support sending students to NCCWSL in the future. Sue Shineman suggested different approaches to two-year and four-year institutions be considered.

**Public Policy: Alice Kitchen, Public Policy Co-Chair**

Alice Kitchen said that Missouri Public Policy Priorities need to be revised because of the proposed changes to Missouri’s Citizen Ballot Initiative process. Branches need to focus on local issues, such as eliminating the local taxes on diapers and feminine hygiene products. She suggested working with other organizations on these issues.

**STEM: Pam Kulp, STEM Chair**

Pam Meyers spoke for Pam Kulp, who was absent, about STEM activities. She asked branches to share their STEM activities and projects and resources they found helpful. STEM packets for each branch were available. Within each packet were:

* Images of influential women in STEM fields
* Motivational quotes from STEM women
* STEM Jokes
* STEM book recommendations
* National and community STEM resources
* STEM certificates, flyers and forms
* Biographies of STEM pioneers
* A documentary, “Not the Science Type” to share
* Glossary of STEM Terms

**AAUW Fund: Sage Taber**

Sage Taber reported that $33,768 had been given to the fund with 53 Century Club members and 25 Century Plus members. She reported that all board members had contributed to the fund for the last reporting year.

**KC & STL Inter-Branch Councils: Karol Palmer, KCIBC Co-Chair**

Karol Palmer reported that all four of the Kansas City area branches had met twice and paired up to present joint programs for all to attend. A program with local legislators would be offered by the Independence and Kansas City branches in addition to a program on Madam President Camp. The North Kansas City and Parkville branches will sponsor a Happy New Year Event and a League of Women Voters presentation. All four branches will participate in a Christmas celebration – fundraiser for NCCWSL and will participate in a February luncheon.

The Saint Louis group held a spring luncheon and sponsored a student to go to NCCWSL. They are in the process of coordinating programs to be held in local libraries.

Sue Shineman asked everyone to read all materials and emails from National on leadership.

**Important Dates to Share**

* August 24-30 Women’s Equality Week
* May 2, 2026 AAUW MO Annual Meeting in Columbia
* November 3, 2026 Mid-Term Election Day

**Next Board Meetings to be held via Zoom**

* August 23, 2025 Check-in
* September 20, 2025 Full Board Meeting
* October 18, 2025 Check-in
* November 15, 2025 Full Board Meeting
* January 17, 2026 Full Board Meeting
* February 21, 2026 Check-in
* March 21, 2026 Check-in
* April 18, 2026 Full Board Meeting

The full Board Meetings will be held from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The check-in meetings will be from 9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. The full meetings will be for regular business and action. The check-ins will be for committee updates, brainstorming and national/state updates.

**Readers of Minutes**:

Diane Ludwig and Lois Domsch volunteered to be readers of the minutes.

**Motion Approval:**

A motion discussed and reviewed prior to the start of the board meeting: ‘Offer a $50 stipend from the Opportunity Grants Fund to any Missouri branch ordering a roll-out sign’ was officially approved by all voting members present.

Pam Meyers led the group in reading an inspirational quote about addressing remedies to burn out.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel

Secretary