

AAUW MISSOURI STATE BOARD MEETING

ZOOM 9:30 a.m.

September 20, 2025

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 Ludwig, April McArthur, **Debra McArthur**, **Diana Curry McGuirk**, **Pam Meyers**, Karol Palmer, **Gail Metcalf Schartel**, Jan Scott, Diane Sher, **Sue Shineman**, **Sage Taber**, **Susie Watson**

Unable to attend: Susan Barley, Luna Mukherjee, Lynne Roney

Motion Log from the Board Meeting

Motion Approved: To approve the endorsement of the People Not Politicians petition referendum to override the Missouri Legislature's redistricting vote.

Motion Approved: Reaffirm the January 2025 decision not to endorse Respect Missouri Voters.

Motion Approved: Accept the basic banner design with slight modifications to be distributed via e-mail.

After checking with Marianne Fues that there were 18 members on line including 9 voting members, Sue Shineman called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. She noted that she had distributed through email her President's report and opined that the members of the board and committee chairs were what made AAUW Missouri strong. She said that she would be asking questions after each report to know how branches could act to promote the work of the committee..

MINUTES: Sue announced that Debra McArthur and Pam Meyers would be readers of the minutes. The minutes of the July 19, 2025 meeting were then considered. With no corrections or amendments needed, the minutes were approved as presented.

FINANCE: Lois Domsch noted that the reports she had submitted covered most of the first quarter and would be adjusted as needed at the official end of the quarter. She worked with a branch regarding issues with GoDaddy. Two accounts, a branch account and the AAUW Missouri account are combined. She will pursue correcting this. A question was asked about the funds remaining in the Canton Branch, which has disbanded. The funds are to be sent to the state and credited to AAUW Fund.

Karen Francis asked whether other branches had disbanded. Sue Shineman reported that the Joplin, Jefferson City, and Cape Girardeau branches were all in the process of disbanding. Deb McArthur noted that the Joplin Branch has a sizable scholarship endowment. Sue Shineman said that she would be contacting the branches to discuss their status.

PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENTS: Debra McArthur thanked Su Bacon for preparing the written report. Updating the state 10-Star Award and Branch Action Plan for 2025-2026 to align with the national 5-Star Award Program were the major accomplishments of their work. She opined by using the 5-Stars from national for the first five of the Missouri 10-Star program would likely result in more branches achieving the National 5-Star program award. The committee is seeking speakers and potential programs for the state meeting in May. All were encouraged to save the day, May 2, 2026, for that meeting.

Discussion of possible lodging locations for the state meeting ensued. Trinity Presbyterian Church is reserved for the state meeting. Deb and Su agreed to explore the opportunity to have a space to meet

informally the night before at either a hotel or college campus. They will also check the possibility of reserving a bloc of hotel rooms. Sue Shineman verified that Love's Coffee would be available to cater the meeting luncheon.

State Zoom Programs: Sue Shineman opened a discussion of possible Zoom presentations for the months of January and February. She questioned whether the students who attended the NCCWSL programs would be available to do a presentation. Debra McArthur will follow through contacting the students. A second program could focus on a public policy issue or preparation for or a recording of the legislative retreat. Karen Francis agreed to explore this option. A third suggestion was a program focused on use of technology, including how to use social media. Related to the third topic was the recommendation of a book, The New Age of Sexism: How AI and Emerging Technologies Are Reinventing Misogyny by Laura Bates which explores the dangers to children and women using social media.

AAUW's Fall Member Gathering Report: Members who attended the virtual meeting reported that the presentation's information was good but the speaker read the presentation in a dry manner. It was noted that having video would have been helpful to create a more interactive presentation. The recorded event will be available on the AAUW website. Future programs on advocacy training and quarterly policy briefings are planned.

Opportunity Grant: Carol Cox reported that the St. Charles Branch had inquired about the grants. Carol sent an e-mail with information on the grant process with attached updated application forms to all branch presidents. She plans to create a document containing information about past grant recipients. She will make a presentation to branch presidents the week of September 22nd. She said that she would be handling applications from branches requesting fund support to purchase the retractable banners discussed at the July 19th retreat. She verified that those grants will be from the reserve fund. Diane Ludwig asked that the grant application be sent to her for inclusion in the directory.

Membership: Susie Watson said the proposed retractable banners to be used when AAUW branches are making presentations or holding events would enhance the professional appearance of AAUW. Sue Shineman shared a mock-up of the banner and explained that they would be 40 inches by 80 inches. Office Depot will provide these for \$84 apiece if ordered before September 26. Sue Shineman and Mary Jermak were congratulated on the design, which included the URLs for National and Missouri AAUW websites. Susie reminded members that the AAUW on-line shop has magnetic name tags available for \$16. She encouraged all to have such a name tag to present a more professional appearance at events.

All were reminded that *Membership Matters* is distributed to all state and branch leaders with important information to be shared with other members.

AAUW Fund: Sage Taber reported that the newly aligned 5-Star and 10-Star Programs would have an impact on the AAUW Fund and would be shared in the future. She reported being contacted by other states to share the 10-Star Program, as it serves as a model for others.

President-Elect: Pam Meyers reported that she had been doing research on all issues involving AAUW. She suggested that reviewing courses of study at colleges could provide contact points. As an example, she noted the women's studies programs offered by Truman State University (formerly Northeast Missouri State University). She said she would reach out to that campus and will share the information with Karen Francis for the College/University Committee. In her research, she discovered speakers and podcasts about women's issues and women's work.

Communications: Diana Curry McGuirk said that the committee had met and began work on the banner design. She sent an email to 24 branch communication chairs but had virtually no response. She had asked if sending emails would be effective and all who did respond said no. She will now text individuals instead of sending email. The committee will meet again in October. She asked that information to be shared should be sent to her so she can include it via text to branch presidents. Diana is working to develop a packet to share with prospective members including information on AAUW and membership forms. This packet will be a downloadable set of documents to which branches could include their own information to distribute at meetings and presentations.

Directory: Diane Ludwig reported she was gathering materials for inclusion in the directory. The By-Laws and Policies will not be included in the directory but will be available from the website. She announced that the completed directory, with purple cover, would be distributed by mid-October.

Website: Sue Shineman announced that Lynne Roney had submitted a written report on the website.

Social Media: April McArthur said that she has been looking at different formats for social media. She answered questions about how to share Facebook postings from AAUW Missouri to personal Facebook pages. There was discussion of what materials from *Missouri in Motion* should be posted to social media. It was noted that officer names should not be posted. Mary Jermak will send a word version of *Missouri in Motion* for April to utilize. Alice Kitchen cautioned that use of photographs on-line posed certain dangers with **deep fakes** manipulating photos. It was suggested that a release form be required from anyone in a photo to be posted to social media. Deb McArthur said that when posting on branch Facebook pages, tagging AAUWMO will allow them to be shared. April explained that 'interactions' in her report referred to likes and shares and 'impressions' were the number of times a post was viewed on a screen.

Marianne Fues reported that she had difficulty using Google Docs despite working with Lynne. It was suggested she use her g-mail address to gain access to Google Docs.

Banners: It was noted that branches wanting to order a retractable banner could complete a request for an Opportunity Grant to receive \$50 towards the purchase price. Checks payable to Missouri AAUW for the remainder of the cost must be submitted to Lois Domsch.

Historian: Jane Biers said that she depends on branch annual reports to compile the historian's report. She asked that branches not submit all documents, just their annual summary. She reported that disbanding branches should cull materials they send to include only their annual summaries.

Public Policy: Alice Kitchen noted that for the past few months, education had been the central focus of public policy but with the redistricting of Congressional Districts, the emphasis is now on that issue and respecting the voices of the voters. She explained the efforts of the People Not Politicians coalition working to legally and effectively gathering necessary signatures to call for a referendum on redistricting. She noted that those involved must be trained to gather signatures so there is no issue which would invalidate those efforts. From the committee the following motion was made: To approve the endorsement of the People Not Politicians petition referendum to override the Missouri Legislature's redistricting vote. The motion was approved with 9 votes.

Alice then discussed the distinction between the People Not Politicians coalition and the Respect Missouri Voters organization. She noted that in the past, Respect Missouri Voters has had their petitions questioned and invalidated because they had not followed the legal methods to gather signatures. In addition, their petition was larger in scope instead of being specific to a single issue and did not have

proper funding. She said that having AAUW associated with such an organization would diminish AAUW's reputation. The committee's motion to 'Reaffirm the January 2025 decision not to endorse Respect Missouri Voters' was also approved with one opposed. Alice said that individuals could elect to support the group on their own but not with AAUW.

Alice said it was urgent to educate the public on these issues and possibly use public policy funds to support such efforts. She ended by thanking her committee for their due diligence.

STEM: Pam Kulp said she was missing the branch STEM chair from Kansas City. She announced that the first meeting of STEM chairs would feature Lois Domsch discussing her project in Independence. Pam has been getting more things on the state web site about STEM activities, including loading virtual tours to use.

"Not in Our Wildest Dreams": Sue Shineman announced there would be a viewing of the 24-minute documentary that examines the role of the Missouri Supreme Court presented by the Women's Foundation of Greater St. Louis on October 22, 2025 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. at the Vue 17, 1034 S. Brentwood Blvd. She asked if anyone had connections to the Missouri Humanities Council and could ask when the film will be released for public viewing.

College/University: Karen Francis reported that four branches have designated college/university relationships with institutions. She reported the national level now has a college/university committee. She pledged to work to get information out to address educational issues. She said AAUW needs to be visible at all levels of education to get the word out about scholarships available to students and to educate students on issues of pay equity, gender equity for girls and NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). She wants to increase the number of college/university partners. It was suggested that searching college websites for women's studies programs as a gateway to building relationships be considered. National will have webinars relating to education. Arranging group viewings of these could be another way to foster relationships with schools.

Vote on Banners: Sue Shineman noted that the Board needed to officially approve the retractable banner. A motion (Shineman/Bacon) to accept the basic banner design with slight modifications to be distributed via e-mail, was approved with nine votes.

Inclusion and Equity: Jan Scott said the committee will review communication on inclusion and diversity. Karen Francis serves on the National Inclusion and Equity Committee and said that group is collaborating with Public Policy on issues relating to diversity, equity and inclusion. It was noted that inclusion and equity are embedded in 3 of the 5 National Star Award categories.

By-Laws: Marianne Fues announced that the first seven sections of state and branch by-laws needed to be replaced to align with the national by-laws. She said that while amending by-laws, reviewing policies as regards committee and officer duties should also be reviewed. All by-laws must go to National for approval by June 30, 2026. If changes are made on anything other than the first seven by-laws, those must be approved by the branch and state earlier than June 30th. She suggested changes indicating how a branch operates be prepared by the November AAUW Missouri Board meeting for approval.

Affiliate Agreements: If a branch is missing their affiliate agreement, they can go to connect@aauw.org and request a copy.

Sue Shineman announced that October 18 will be a check-in session for updates. She reiterated how the work of the members of the board was appreciated and adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel
Secretary