

Missouri in Motion

Our Mission: AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, advocacy, and education.

Our Vision: Equality for all.

Our Values: Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering.

2024 AAUW State Meeting Highlights

Saturday, May 4, 2024, Columbia, MO

AAUW MO President Karen Francis

Advocacy and Equity—A Winning Team

The buzz in the room was unmistakable at the Holiday Inn Executive Center—it was time for the AAUW Missouri State Conference! Twelve branches and approximately 40 members gathered to hear great speakers, to conduct our business meeting, and to announce awards to branches and individuals. Thanks to Zoom, **Gloria Blackwell, national AAUW CEO**, joined us from Washington D.C. to share the latest AAUW activities. A Q&A session followed as members had questions relating to branch, state and national issues.



Gloria Blackwell

Karen Francis, state president, called the meeting to order and **Linda Berube, state parliamentarian**, led the adoption of the Standing Rules. Karen introduced **Diana Curry-McGuirk**, the recently appointed **AAUW MO secretary**.

Patt Braley, nominating committee member, presented the slate of officers for 2024–26. Elected by unanimous vote were **Susie Watson**, continuing as **membership vice-president**, and **Lois Domsch** continuing as **finance officer**. **Sue Shineman** moved from president-elect to **president**, **Su Bacon** and **Diane B. Ludwig** remain as **program vice-presidents**; and **Diana Curry-McGuirk** will serve as **secretary**. All were duly installed by past president, **Linda Berube**. Attendees also adopted the budget for 2024–25 presented by **Sue Shineman** for **Finance Officer Lois Domsch**. Income and expenses are projected at \$8,460.

The state conference is a time to celebrate our successes including the STAR Award recipients and the AAUW Fund Top 5 Awards. AAUW MO branches received recognition for fulfilling the Branch Action Plan with the STAR Award presented to 14 of 16 Missouri branches. We are proud that 10 of the 14 are 10-Star Branches this year! Congratulations to ALL!

A highlight at lunch was the drawing for the special Wall Quilt, a **Grace Butler Tribute Project** to benefit the AAUW Fund. The project brought in just over \$2,000 in tickets and donations. **Teri Brecht, St. Charles Branch**, was the lucky winner!
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From AAUW MO President Karen Francis

It's hard to believe it's been three years since I was elected as president elect of AAUW MO! I want to THANK YOU, our members, for trusting me to continue the great work that **Sue Shineman** accomplished during COVID. I could talk for hours about all AAUW MO has accomplished, but first I want to thank and celebrate the leadership and advocacy of your AAUW MO Board. As members, your support at the branch, state and national levels made these successes happen. The work of state committees is vital to these successes.



- **DEI** created and implemented Inclusion/Infusion and shared this locally and nationally and conducted a national webinar on implementing Equity and Inclusion.
- **Public Policy Committee** conducted a state survey regarding sexual harassment on four Missouri college campuses. AAUW MO signed on as a supporting organization for several issues. A few of those are Right to Read and local libraries and collecting initiative petition signatures for Missourians for Healthy Families and Fair Wages, and Missourians for Constitutional Freedom.
- **College University Partners** conducted student recruitment and tabling events at numerous college campuses and formed a St. Louis Regional team to focus on St. Louis area schools. The focus was to add C/U partner schools and to register student members.
- **STEM** has created outstanding material for school age students and packets were shared with every branch at the state conference. Missouri branches continue to recognize outstanding high school girls who excel in STEM.

AAUW MO has continued to sponsor the annual Legislative Retreat for likeminded organizations to share their legislative priorities--the number of attendees has increased over the years.

AAUW MO hosted and coordinated the very successful Central States Regional Conference in October 2023 in St. Louis, attended by more than 175 from 15 states. The conference offered keynote speakers including **AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell**, Issues and Action presentations, Trending Topics, plenary sessions, Swap Shops, and of course, BARBIE joined us! AAUW MO is currently assisting AAUW Virginia, as they prepare to host the Atlantic Coast Regional Conference in late September 2024.

AAUW MO members supported Open Up AAUW--Breaking Our Own Barriers. Over 55 percent of our members voted. Over 73 percent of Missouri members voted to eliminate the degree requirement!

On a personal level, what I treasure is getting to know and be with you on Zoom calls and at in-person events to visit branches, to conduct workshops, and at state and regional conferences. My hope is that you are proud of AAUW and will do everything you can to support AAUW. It truly has been an honor and privilege to serve as your AAUW MO president. As past president, I'll work closely with dear friend Sue Shineman. New ideas that may be coming--perhaps a virtual branch or offering statewide programs, and to build on the expertise of our leaders, form a "*Wisdom Council*." Missouri may offer to lead a cohort group with other states' C/U leaders.

Many of you know I'm a live theater fan, so I'll leave you with thoughts from three. From the new Broadway hit *I'm a Suff-* "change is an opportunity but not guaranteed", from *Hamilton*, I loved "being in the Room Where it Happened" and from *A Chorus Line*, "what I did for love". As always, I'm only a call or an email away.

State Meeting Highlights, *continued from page 1*

Karen Francis shared her president's remarks about the great year it has been, thanked her board and AAUW MO leaders for their strong support, and reminded everyone of the many people who were involved the past two year in making us 'stronger together as we make Equity the norm!'

Following the business meeting, counterpart sessions were held during the lunch hour with branch members discussing the issues of their AAUW position. **Denise Lieberman, Missouri Voter**



Dr. Dorothy Gilles

Protection Coalition, keynote speaker and voting rights lawyer, enlightened us with the challenges and opportunities for Missouri in the coming elections. Two breakout sessions allowed attendees to continue the dialogue with Denise, to focus on writing letters to the editor, or to learn more about how our rights to reading are threatened from **Dr. Carol Gilles**, of the **Right to Read Coalition**.

Attendees heard updates from AAUW MO Public Policy committee chair **Alice Kitchen**, and from College/University committee chair Deb **McArthur**. Members learned how our work with equity is unfolding and is a MUST to achieve our AAUW goals. **Karen Francis** and **Sue Shineman** jointly adjourned the state conference as we all left invigorated and empowered.



Denise Lieberman

Grace Butler Tribute



Eleven branches participated in the **Grace Butler Tribute** by purchasing quilt raffle tickets or donating to AAUW in memory of Grace. **Teri Brecht** of the St. Charles Branch is the new owner of the quilt. A total of \$2066 was raised for AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund.

The wall quilt was generously donated by **Kay Meyer, Valeria Ott, and Rachel Larson Williams** who purchased the fabric, designed and stitched the quilt, and machine quilted it.



L-R: Teri Brecht winner of the tribute quilt with Susan Barley, AAUW Fund chair

2024–25 Star Award and Branch Action Plan Update From Program VPs Diane Ludwig and Su Bacon

We know branches like to use the Branch Action Plan to guide your yearly planning. AAUW MO is working to update the form and have it ready. It will be sent to all branch presidents on Monday, June 10. That gives you time for planning the 2024–25 year.

Please remember to leave one program open in the spring so new/current issues can be added to your programming.

2024 Woman of Distinction Award–Joyce Katz

Joyce Katz has been a member of AAUW since 1978. She was recognized as AAUW MO Outstanding Member in 2013, and in 2022 she was named as the recipient of the St. Louis IBC **Barbara Lackritz Award**. Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch honored her three times as a Named Gift Honoree. Joyce has been a Century Club Member for many years.



L-R: Karen Francis, Joyce Katz, & Sue Shineman

Joyce advances equity with her time, talent, energy, and funds in countless AAUW areas. She helped bring AAUW MO into the digital age years ago and has been our webmaster for the past four years. She spent countless hours posting information on the recent Central States Regional Conference. Joyce was on the ground floor when AAUW national hired Site Resources to establish websites for branches. Joyce is designated as one of AAUW's Super Webmasters which gives her the privilege to design websites.

Joyce is a perpetual learner. She attended Rutgers School of Pharmacy and UMSL – where she earned a bachelor of science in education (magna cum laude). She earned a master of arts in education from Washington University in 1975.

She recently moved to Friendship Village and publishes their monthly newsletter. She is involved with the local Republican Club, National Council of Jewish Women, and women's golf leagues. Joyce developed a digital golf scorecard. And she participates in the Linus Project – an amazing organization that provides handmade blankets to children in traumatic situations. Joyce also enjoys photographing AAUW events and can do anything she puts her mind to.

Special Service Award - Susan Barley

AAUW MO is pleased to recognize **Susan Barley** with a **Special Service Award** for her many years of service, commitment, and dedication to AAUW at the local, state, and national levels.



L-R: Sue Shineman, Susan Barley,
and Karen Francis

Susan, a longtime member of AAUW, served in leadership positions in four different branches in two states. She has served on the Missouri board for over 26 years in the areas of finance, bylaws, and fundraising. Susan is on the National Legacy Circle Team and the Advancement Committee. Earlier, she served on the AAUW Board of Directors for four years, and on two national committees, fundraising and nominating. She chaired the National Committee Appointments Task Force for four years.

We appreciate her service to AAUW MO as treasurer, AAUW Fund chair, and bylaws chair over her two-plus decades on the state board. We are pleased to recognize Susan and her deep commitment to AAUW and its mission.

Outstanding AAUW of Missouri Members

Jane Biers

AAUW of Missouri has benefited from Jane Biers' love of history and dedication to preserving it. As state historian, Jane faithfully collects yearbooks, directories, and newsletters from each branch, documents each, and files them into the state archives.

Jane is also dedicated to AAUW's College/University Relations and served for six years on the national committee. She knows the collegiate world and helps bring the AAUW mission onto campus. Jane has a special focus on NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). She works to get students to attend and to benefit from the experience and then to share their stories with AAUW members.



L-R: Sue Shineman & Debra McArthur recognize Jane Biers as an Outstanding AAUW MO Member

The Columbia Branch is fortunate to have Jane as its communication person who keeps members well informed in a timely manner. Jane has been a loyal Missouri Century Club Plus member for many years. In her thirty years as an AAUW leader, Jane Biers has proven to be an Outstanding AAUW Member.

Lois Domsch

Lois has been a member of the Independence Branch of AAUW for almost 50 years. She has served as recording secretary, president, finance officer, chair of the branch investment committee, and now serves as AAUW Fund Chair. She served as the AAUW MO board administrative assistant to **Sue Shineman** during Covid. She went above and beyond the call of duty, taking notes for every committee meeting and supporting Sue during those two years. She currently serves as finance officer of AAUW MO. In October she again went above and beyond as the registrar for the Central States Regional Conference. That required a great deal of record keeping over many months.



Lois Domsch, an AAUW MO Outstanding Member

Luna Mukherjee

A longtime AAUW member, Luna serves as the committee chair of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) of AAUW of Missouri. She implemented goals, plans, and activities for AAUW MO. Luna conducts outreach to Missouri branches with individual meetings with branch DEI Chairs, monthly meetings for the state committee, encouraging DEI including Inclusion Infusion activities, and sharing DEI activities.

Luna represented AAUW MO at the AAUW Central Regional Conference on DEI. She gave three DEI presentations which generated a lot of interest and united members towards common goals. She is a regular contributor to *Missouri in Motion* with DEI articles.

Luna has also been active with DEI at the national level and represents AAUW MO on AAUW National's Inclusion and Equity Committee. She has led and participated in Inclusion, Diversity and Equity webinars for the AAUW membership. She has participated in Open Up AAUW initiatives to increase membership through Inclusion and Equity.

AAUW Fund Honors and Awards, Presented May 2024



Total 2023 Missouri Giving: \$82,745.00

Top Five Branches in Total 2023 Giving

Kansas City Branch	\$56,158.00
Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch	\$ 5,417.50
Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch	\$ 3,016.00
Columbia Branch	\$ 2,669.00
St. Charles Branch	\$ 2,248.00

Top Five Branches in Per Capita 2023 Giving Missouri Per Capita 2023 Giving: \$ 180.27

Kansas City Branch	\$1,559.94
Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch	\$ 111.70
Ferguson-Florissant Branch	\$ 109.58
Columbia Branch	\$ 102.65
St. Charles Branch	\$ 93.67

Branches with 50 Percent of Members Giving to AAUW Fund

Columbia Branch	69%
Cape Girardeau Branch	67%
Independence Branch	65%
St. Charles Branch	58%
Kirkwood-Webster Groves	56%
Jefferson City Branch	50%

AAUW MO Star Awards For 2023–24

AAUW Missouri is pleased to recognize these mission-focused branches for achievement in the Branch Action Plan/Star Award program for this year. We applaud your hard work and dedication.

TEN STARS

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



NINE STARS

- Boonville
- Parkville

EIGHT STARS

- Canton

FOUR STARS

- Joplin *

*First time at this level!

2023 AAUW MO Century Club Plus Members

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch

Carol Anthony
Susan Barley
Sandra Brody
Karen Francis
Mary Jermak
Yvonne Morrison
Margaret Taber

Boonville Branch

Carol Cox

Columbia Branch

Jane Biers
Marianne Fues
Diane Ludwig
Kathleen Slane

Ferguson-Florissant Branch

Shirley Breeze
Dorothy Stade

Independence Branch

Jane Campbell
Lois Domsch
Sue Shineman

Kansas City Branch

Ardyce Pearson

Kansas City-Northland

Diana Curry-McGuirk

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch

Carol Davis-McDonald
Julia Muller
Bruce Robert
Jane Robert
Lynne Roney
Jeannie Webdell

St. Charles Branch

Teresa Brecht
Barbara Olive

St. Louis Branch

Susan Barley
Ellen Irons
Carol Davis McDonald

2023 AAUW MO Century Club Members

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch

Lorna Anderson
Barbara Butchart
Margaret Estes
Joyce Katz
Doris Nistler
Nancy Price
Patricia Shores
Janet Sloey
Arlene Spector
Julia Triplett
Pamela Triplett
Marsha Weppelman
Mary Kay Wolfe

Boonville Branch

Donna Medlin

Canton Branch

D'Ann Campbell

Cape Girardeau Branch

Jean Cairns

Columbia Branch

Kathryn Allen
Patricia Carlson
Jane Crow
Linda Evans
Carol McAllister
Sue Tillema

Ferguson-Florissant

Patricia Murray

Independence Branch

Jan Keeler
Melissa Morawitz
Sue Raymond
Gail Schartel
Judy Tucker

Joplin Branch

Dorothy Iwan

Kansas City Branch

Linda Berube
Carol Cowles
Alice Kitchen

Kansas City Northland

Susie Watson

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch

Barbara Johnson
Marsha Koch
Deborah McWard
Kathyrne Meyer

Nevada Branch

Phyllis Sprenkle
Sara Compton
Sheryl Baer

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

AAUW Fellowships and Grants in Missouri 2023–24 AAUW Fund Chair Susan Barley

AAUW Missouri has fourteen named endowments that sponsor AAUW Fellowships and Grants every year.

#1061 **Vassie J. Hill** helped sponsor American Fellow **Courtney Sato** at Tufts University in Medford, MA.

#1148 **Blanche H. Doe** helped sponsor International Fellow **Subeksha Poudel** at Columbia University, NYC.

#1168 **Chloe E. Millikan** helped sponsor International Fellow **Hind Hana Kerkebane** at Duke University, Durham, NC.

#1172 **Mary Alice Parrish** helped sponsor International Fellow **Shauntel Clarke** at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL.

#1608 **Leona J. Beckmann** helped sponsor American Fellow **Atzimba Martinez** at Washington University, St. Louis.

Atzimba Marinez is from Yakima, Washington. Her passion is math. As a first-generation college student and a Latina in mathematics, she faced many hurdles in pursuit of higher education and became sensitive to the challenges minorities face both inside and outside the education system. It inspired a passion to help eradicate these disparities in academia. Atzimba received an AAUW Dissertation Fellowship and received a doctorate in May. Her specialization is Low-dimensional Topology. The project name is *Taut Foliations for Montesinos Knots*.



Atzimba's research involves studying the 1-dimensional (knots) and 2-dimensional objects (surfaces) found inside particular 3-manifolds that can be obtained by operations on Montesinos knots.

A Career Development Grant to **Kimia Tabib**, at Oklahoma State University, Tulsa, was sponsored by nine named endowments: #1364 Independence Branch, #1639 Kansas City Branch/**Dora Johnson**, #1768 Ferguson-Florissant Branch/**Shirley Breeze**, #4112 Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, #4280 Maryville Branch/**Opal Eckert**, #4285 Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Silver Anniversary, #1465 Missouri State Division Anniversary, #4009 Missouri Diamond Jubilee, and #4037 F. **Elaine Richardson Fund**.



Kimia is very grateful to AAUW for the grant, which made it possible for her to stop working and to focus on her thesis and classes. She is a recent immigrant with years of experience as a lab analyst.

AAUW has given her the opportunity to finish her master's degree and help her fulfill a lifetime wish to become an effective scientist— helping protect our environment. Besides taking 18 credits in environmental science, she is completing her thesis on PFAS, forever chemicals, considered emerging contaminants by the EPA. She has taken OSHA HAZWOGPA training and received NPDES certification for wastewater management from the EPA. She will receive RCRA hazardous waste and DOT HazMat training certificates, as well as an OSHA General Industry certificate. Kimia will receive her master of science degree this summer.

AAUW Fellowships and Grants

It wasn't long after the founding of AAUW in 1881, that all members were asked to contribute \$1 per year, beyond the payment of their dues, to "enable gifted women to use their intellectual powers for the good of humanity."

Over time, International Fellowships and Research and Project grants were added. In 1958, the AAUW Educational Foundation was established as a 501(c)(3) corporation. Members made a constant stream of restricted gifts to EF and the endowment grew. In 2009, the Foundation became part of AAUW.

Between 1907 and 2006, individual donors, branches and states could honor individuals, branches, states, and other entities with named units. Named units could be started with \$5,000 and provided donors with the opportunity to build funds toward establishing a named fellowship or named grant.

Missouri has fourteen named units that annually help sponsor fellows and grantees. It is always hoped that Missouri women or organizations receive the fellowships and grants that our state helps sponsors, but it cannot be guaranteed.

Since the principal is never withdrawn from our endowment, it continues to support women into perpetuity. AAUW members can be proud of this amazing achievement. This was a job well done.

Now member donations can support the many other vital programs that help support our mission.

Additional information may be found in the AAUW Community Hub – Fellowships and Grants. **To read the full history written by Susan Barley, please see the Home page at <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/>.**

C/U Committee Update

Debra McArthur, C/U Relations Chair

Ellen Irons and others from her St. Louis branch attended two recent events at **St. Louis University**, at the invitation of the SLU campus rep, **Kat Dortch**. On May 3, they attended the “Be Heard” Women in Leadership Conference. On May 6, they attended the **Mary A Bruemmer Recognition Ceremony**. The late **Mary A Bruemmer** was a devoted life member of AAUW.

AAUW members had the opportunity to discuss AAUW with students, including some graduate students who are interested to learn about AAUW. They also talked with Ms. Dortch about ways AAUW and SLU can build a stronger relationship.

Debra McArthur, committee chair, was invited by the Women’s Center at UMKC to participate in Equal Pay Day on March 12. Students played the Pay Gap Game, and several signed up for a student membership. Debra also attended a Women’s Networking event at Park University on March 29. She was part of a panel discussion on women’s issues in the workplace and had a table display for interested students to learn about AAUW.

Deb McWard and the Kirkwood Webster Grove branch held a “Meet and Greet” event at **Webster University** on April 17. At the meeting, AAUW members were presented with a copy of *You Can, Too!* This publication highlights 11 Missouri women senators serving in 2021 and the path they followed to the senate. Deb reports that a NCCWSL student attendee from Webster is interested in starting a student group there and has identified a potential club advisor.

Debra McArthur and **Sue Shineman** traveled to Joplin to meet with members of the branch there about their partnership with **Missouri Southern State University**. We participated in a short interview for the campus television station and have made plans for campus tabling events at the start of the school year.

The Missouri Humanities Council is providing complimentary copies of *You Can, Too!* for distribution to AAUW MO branches. Contact Kirkwood-Webster Groves member **Jeanne Webdell** if you are interested in a copy for your branch.

2024–25 AAUW MO Approved Budget Finance Officer Lois Domsch

Income

Contingency cash	\$3,210.
MO Zoom Annual Conference 24–25	\$1000.
Membership Dues	\$4000.
Interest/Dividends	\$ 250.

Expenditures Elected Officers

President	\$200.
President-Elect	0
Program Vice-President	\$25.
Membership Vice-President	\$25.
Recording Secretary	\$15.
Finance Officer	\$45.

Expenditures Appointed Board Officers

Administrative Assistant	0
Governance	0
College/University	\$600
Communications	\$25.
AAUW Fund	\$50.
Historian	\$200.
Newsletter Editor <i>Missouri in Motion</i>	\$225.
Past President/Advisor	0
Diversity/Inclusion	\$300.
Public Policy	\$600.
Pay Equity Project	\$100.
STEM	\$300.
Web Manager	\$25.

Appointed Committee Chairs

Directory	\$600.
Incentive Grants	\$50.
Nominating	0
Missouri History Day Awards	\$400.
Strategic Plan (MO & Branch Action Plans)	0

General Operating

Administrative Support, Misc	\$ 25.
Board–Travel	\$1000.
Zoom Membership	\$ 150.
Ink Cartridge	\$ 250.
Food	\$ 700.
NCCWSL	\$ 600.
Liability Insurance	\$ 400.
Missouri Zoom Annual Conference	\$ 1000.
President’s New Initiatives	\$ 500.

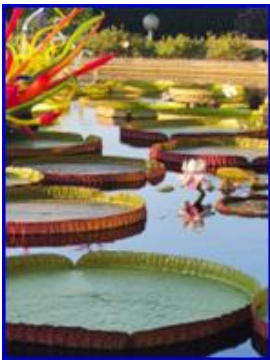
TOTAL **\$8,860.**

Support AAUW's Greatest Needs Through a Note Card Donation

AAUW counts on contributions from members and branches to meet the annual budget, develop new programs, and further the mission of equity for all women and girls. Your dues cover only a very small portion of the financial needs of AAUW.

Every year, the AAUW Note Cards fundraiser is an easy way to contribute to AAUW. Many members work to make this project a success:

- Members create wonderful art to enter the contest.
- Members vote on their favorites, narrowing down to four the entries that are selected to be made into note cards and sent to members.



This year, **Pam Kulp's** beautiful Missouri Botanical Garden photograph was chosen to be one of the cards. Pam, in addition to serving on the AAUW MO Board, is a member of the St. Charles branch and the Ballwin-Chesterfield branch.

Members have recently received their packet of notecards. It is your turn to help make this fundraiser a success. Join the AAUW artists and voters in support of AAUW's Greatest Needs by responding with a donation of any size. Make your donation online or use the envelope enclosed with the cards.



Pam Kulp

History Day in Missouri

AAUW Chair Betty Takahashi

University of Missouri, April 27, 2024

The theme this year was *Turning Points in History*, and the event was sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri. AAUW of Missouri awarded each winner a \$100 prize, a certificate, and AAUW materials.

The judges were **Margaret Gladbach, Nicole Takahashi, and Betty Takahashi.**

The winners were

Louisa Blackmore, Performance: Hedy Lamarr, Bombshell, Inventor or Both?
Crossroads College Prep School in Kansas City

Dakota Scott, Performance: Elaine Brown and Black Party, Sumner High School, St. Louis

Rylie Diehl, Documentary: Spinning a Tale, How the Influence of 1 Woman and 2 Wheels Changed History, South Valley Middle School, Kansas City

AAUW Incentive Grant Funds

Your branch can apply anytime for funds to share AAUW's Mission for

GOTV... CU... projects... tabling events...
special speakers... branch bookmarks...
certificates..... programs...
the list is endless!

Applying is so easy!

Get details from AAUW MO website,

<https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/incentive-grants/>

Votes for Women’s Trail Suffragists Honored in St. Louis Area Programs

AAUW MO National Votes for Women Missouri Trail Coordinator Pat Shores

AAUW MO 19th Amendment Centennial Celebration Task Force Chair Ellen Irons

Since the winter 2024 edition of *Missouri in Motion*, two separate programs were held to honor our most recent suffragist additions to the Missouri portion of the Votes for Women Trail.

Inspired by her research on **Victoria Clay Haley** for the Votes for Women Trail, Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo wrote an original play, “**The Black Suffragist and the Harlem Hellfighter.**” The play is a 60-minute, multi act play, and was presented on February 16, 2024. The play is about **Victoria Clay Haley**, a suffragist and President of the Federated Colored Women's Clubs of St. Louis, and **Sergeant Henry Johnson**, the first African American to win the *Croix de Guerre* medal in France for distinguished acts of heroism during World War I.

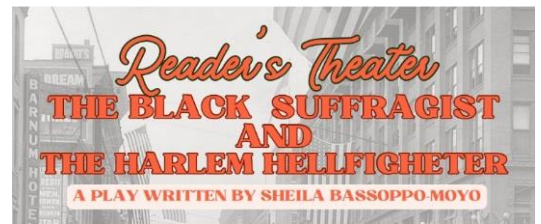
*During the play, Victoria interacts with **Edna Gellhorn, Cynthia Knefler, Madame CJ Walker**, and other notables of the early 1900’s. AAUW was mentioned as inspiring the original research.*



MRS. V. C. HALEY.



Henry Johnson



The play was sponsored by the Active Older Adults (AOA) and the O’Fallon Park YMCA as a Black History Month event. Over 70 members of the community attended, and the play received a standing ovation and many accolades.

On Sunday April 7, **Professor Rosemary Feurer** presented the program “**Labor, Suffrage and Social Justice – Cynthia Knefler’s Contribution to Our St. Louis History.**” Sponsored by AAUW St. Louis and held at the IBEW Museum in downtown St. Louis, attendees came from both Ballwin-Chesterfield and St. Louis branches. It was fun that two guests attended, Rosemary’s son and friend! Presenter **Rosemary Feurer** shared her extensive background on labor history in St. Louis and created a detailed view of the context of Cynthia Knefler’s work. We learned about the “Dangerous Women” – **Mother Jones (Mary Harris)** and **Fannie Sellins** who informed Cynthia’s work.



Left to right: Ruth Reese, friend of son, Rosemary’s son, Marian Bauer, Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo, Jan Scott, Ellen Irons, Angela Janik, Nancy Price, Rosemary Feurer, Chris Nobbe, Carol Davis McDonald, Vett Goods, Karen Francis

Many thanks to **Pat Shores** who provided light refreshments and to the **Electrical Workers Historical Society** who provided the event space at no cost. The event was also supported by **AAUW Missouri** and the **League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis**.

AAUW MO Membership

Membership VP Susie Watson

These last few months we have all focused on the National Open Up AAUW Vote. This is part of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). On March 20, Missouri Membership Chairs met for their first ZOOM meeting to discuss planning events, publicity, and Chamber of Commerce contacts with Women Owned Businesses.

During 2023, Missouri membership declined by 11 members (with one death), so retention is important.

Don't forget about **Shape the Future** and having a casual gathering during the summer to INVITE friends and introduce them to AAUW members. New members have found our organization through other members.

It takes ALL of us!

AAUW held a membership webinar in May 2024. You may view it at <https://youtu.be/1MCcZrAFwBA>.

AAUW is a community standing strong for gender equity. Your membership makes our powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women and girls.

BECOME AN AAUW MEMBER

AAUW MO Public Policy

AAUW MO Public Policy Chair Alice Kitchen

AAUW members in Missouri have had a busy year. Members participated in training for citizen ballot initiative signature by **Caitlyn Adams, Job with Justice**, and then gathered signatures across the state. We needed 171,000 and got 380,000. Amazing! Next, the signatures go to the secretary of state's office for validation. The governor decides in which election (August or November) to place the Abortion Ban Initiative. The fight to make it harder and more costly to get the needed signatures SJR 74 was a nail-biting series of back and forth between both Houses of the General Assembly. The bill died as the clock ran out. This was a huge victory for direct democracy in Missouri.

At the National level, Title IX regulations were released. On April 19, the U.S. Department of Education issued strong and comprehensive protections against discrimination in school through final Title IX rules. The new regulations clarify that student survivors of sexual harassment, pregnant and parenting students, and LGBTQ+ students have equal educational opportunities free from sex discrimination. The rules make significant changes to how schools respond to sexual harassment and discrimination claims. The new rules take effect August 1, 2024. AAUW joined a gender justice coalition letter in support of the athletics rule. There are already several legal challenges to the new regulations.

2024 AAUW MO

Upcoming Events aauw-mo.aauw.net

May 30-June 1

**NCCWSL at the University of Maryland,
College Park, MD**

June

LGBTQ+ Pride Month

**10 Release of 2024-22 Branch Action Plan/Star
Award criteria**

30 AAUW Dues Renewal Deadline

**30 Presidents' Deadline: enter 2024-25
officers/committee chairs in Community Hub.**

July

20 AAUW Summer Board Meeting

August

6 Election Day

15 Mom's Equal Pay Day

26 Women's Equality Day

Leaves from the Branches

The Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch

We celebrated a successful year with our annual Spring Luncheon themed *Encircling All Women*.



The luncheon program cover includes the names of many women of notable achievements researched by **Jane Hemer**. Many thanks to **Carol Anthony** and **Yvonne Ward** for chairing the event. **Jan Horner** installed the elected officers for 2023–25 and presented them with office supplies symbolic of the job each will hold. Outgoing officers **Sandy Brody** and **Janet Sloey** were recognized and thanked for their service.

B-C members were recognized at the state meeting. **Joyce Katz** was honored as a **Woman of Distinction** for her service to AAUW, and **Susan Barley** was given the **Special Service Award**. **Marcia Block** presented **Doris Nistler** with flowers in recognition of the **Barbara Lackritz** award at the branch Spring Luncheon.



L-R: Doris Nistler and Marcia Block



L-R: Pat Shores, Carol Anthony, and Karen Francis accept NCJW Community Partnership Award in April.



Installation of officers, Spring Luncheon, May 9, 2024

Leaves from the Branches

Independence Woman of Achievement

The Independence Branch honored **Barbara Leabo** posthumously as a **Woman of Achievement** at our meeting on May 11. Barbara, who passed away on April 6, 2024, served faithfully not only as a passionate member of AAUW but also as recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and most recently as membership vice president and College and University chairperson for the Independence Branch. She was a branch Century Club Member. Barbara truly loved going to the campus at Blue River Community College and registering young voters. Barbara's granddaughter shared that her grandmother taught her "to help your community and make a difference. . . . to VOTE because you have the right to, and not every woman who came before you was that lucky." As AAUW Independence member **Sue Raymond** said, "We will miss her but remember her with joy."

Independence Branch Awards Scholarship to Outstanding Senior

The Independence Branch awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to an outstanding high school senior at their branch meeting on April 23. The scholarship recipient was **Molli Jones**, a senior at William Chrisman High School in Independence. Molli shared that an aspiration of hers is to study biomedical engineering, creating devices to assist those with physical limitations. She has taken medical-related classes at Chrisman since her freshman year. In the fall she plans to study at the University of Missouri-Kansas City to earn a bachelor of science in biology clinical laboratory sciences.

We congratulate **Lois Domsch** as she was honored as one of the Missouri Outstanding Members at the state conference.



Karol Palmer, president of AAUW Independence, recognizes Molli Jones, scholarship recipient, at the Wm. Chrisman High School Senior Awards assembly on May 8, 2024.

The Canton Branch

Each spring AAUW Canton Branch presents certificates at the regional Science Fair for the winners. The conference is held at Culver Stockton College.

We also sponsor a 9th and 10th grade essay contest on women leaders throughout history at the local Canton RV high school.

Finally, we are awarding this week the **Carol Mathieson AAUW Scholarship** to a woman attending Culver Stockton as a first-year student next year. The scholarship goes toward technology and books.

Leaves from the Branches

St. Louis Branch

The **IBC 2024 Spring Luncheon** was on Saturday, March 23, and the St. Louis Branch had eleven members attend. **March 27** was the **200th Anniversary of Virginia Minor's** Birthday. **Jan Scott** pulled together a special event at the St. Louis City Hall with a proclamation signing by the mayor and cake!

Our branch program on Sunday, April 7 at the IBEW Museum was an incredible experience. **Professor Rosemary Feurer** presented **Labor, Suffrage and Social Justice – Cynthelia Knefler's Contribution to Our St. Louis History** to an audience of eleven AAUW members and two guests. It was a great collaboration with **Pat Shores, MO State Coordinator of the VFWT Missouri Trail Project**. Quite a few Ballwin Chesterfield Branch members attended.

We are proud that at the May 4 state convention, the St. Louis Branch was awarded our Ten Star Award Certificate. Finally, we look forward to our upcoming annual meeting and potluck on June 9 at Ruth Reese's art gallery off Cherokee Street.



March 23, IBC Luncheon St. Louis Branch
L-R back: Barb Johnson, Linda Lindsey, Janet Banks-Frumson, Sally McGowan, Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo, Diane Albright, Chris Nobbe, Carol Davis McDonald

The Columbia Branch

To commemorate Women's History Month in March, the branch celebrated the life and work of **Luella St. Clair Moss** (1865–1947), women's rights activist and early president of Christian Female College (now Columbia College). Our AAUW branch submitted her for the national Votes for Women Trail project in 2022 and she was accepted. In April we heard from Boone County clerk **Brianna Lennon** about her office handling the many challenges of voting in today's changing environment. In May we held our Science Student Scholar Awards for 7th grade girls and former astronaut **Linda Godwin** helped present the awards. The May banquet will round out the year.

Our branch is very proud of **Jane Biers** for receiving an **Outstanding Member Award** at the state conference. We are thrilled to have earned three stars in National's 5-Star Award program, and ten stars in the AAUW MO Star Award program. Many thanks from our branch to members across the state for participating in the **Grace Butler Wall Quilt Tribute Project**. Grace was a very special member of the Columbia Branch, and we are pleased to see her honored in this way,



Center middle, L-R: Linda Godwin & Linda Evans

Leaves from the Branches

The St. Charles Branch

St. Charles Branch recently honored 13 senior girls from seven area high schools who excel in math or science. Students, parents, and teachers attended the 30th Annual STEM Awards and Dessert Night. Awards in math and science have been presented by St Charles Branch since 1994. Each student honoree presented a short speech. Numerous honorees credited their teachers for inspiring them to excel in school as well as in their life experiences. One student unable to attend was at a robotics competition in Oklahoma. SCHS physics teacher **Mr. Flaxbart** shared his years as a student, his teaching path, and praised all the young women. He was also teacher of the year.



Math Honorees- Front Row- Madelyn Rosner-St. Charles High; Lola Irizarry-St. Charles West; Ashlyn Ohlms Orchard Farm; Sophie Johnson -FHC. Not attending: Tegan Hay-Lutheran High and Aaliyah White- Francis Howell North.

Science Honorees- Back Row- Odessa Burlis-St. Charles High; Abigail Govero- St. Charles West; Rachel Vanderbeck- Orchard Farm; Marissa Sidwell- Francis Howell High; Sophia McClure-FHN. Not attending: Ally Auringer- Lutheran; Alexis Love-Francis Howell Central

The Boonville Branch

Spring at the Boonville Branch brings the announcements of awards and scholarships. The branch voted **co-presidents Adrienne Johnson** and **Carol Cox** as Branch Members of the Year. Community Woman of The Year is **Desiree Jones**, assistant principal at Boonville High School, who is known for her boundless energy and positive approach to education.



Desiree Jones

Eliana Giroux received the \$500 local scholarship. Eliana will major in music therapy at Maryville University. **Kailee Austin** received the scholarship to Missouri Girls State. Junior High School students **Amelia Dilse, Avery Ayers, and Destiny Hawkins** received certificates for excellence in STEM/STEAM.

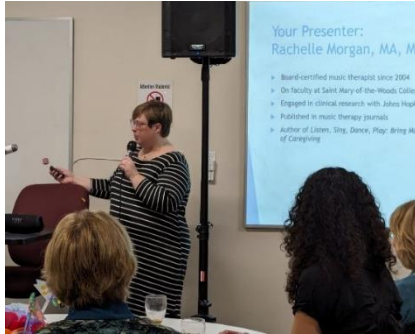
The April meeting featured **Jennifer Spiess**, agronomist, who teaches conservation biology at Moberly Junior College. Spiess discussed climate change and actions we can take to delay the negative effects. Branch members **Vicky Kueny** and **Mary Beth Conway** led the May book discussion on *Educated* by **Tara Westover**.



Jennifer Spiess

Leaves from the Branches

The Kansas City Northland and Parkville Branches



Rachelle Morgan

Our March 16 luncheon at Park University included a delightful speaker, good food, colorful decorations, and about 30 attendees, including AAUW members and guests. Music therapist **Rachelle Morgan** invited us to connect through emotions and memories with a variety of songs and talked about how music can enrich our lives at all ages and stages.

On April 1—**Jane McClain** of the Kansas City Branch presented a program on “**Martha Wright Griffiths: Mother of the ERA.**” In addition to an excellent program, Jane brought the Wall of Women’s Achievement to share with our members.

On May 6—**Chris Hershey** and **Tiffany Ellison** of the Platte and Clay County Election Boards answered members’ questions about voter registration, absentee voting, and election procedures in anticipation of our Get Out the Vote campaign that will begin soon.

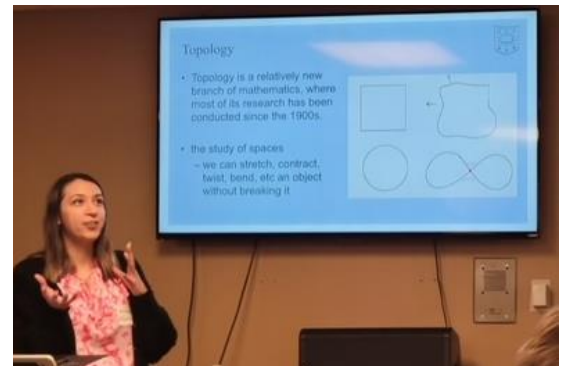
The Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch

At our April meeting, we presented \$500 STEM scholarships to girls from three high schools. **AAUW Fellow Atzimba Martinez** from Washington University gave a presentation on her career path and her research topic of topology in the field of pure mathematics. The awardees were also recognized at their schools’ awards nights.

The awardee from Affton High School is **Sydney Paglusch**. She has participated in a PLTW Biomedical Science program and FOCUS Youth Leadership St. Louis. She will study forensic science. She has been named a scholar athlete and is a member of the National Honor Society.

Gracie Horton, the recipient from Maplewood-Richmond Heights High School, has an interest in ancient civilizations, human organization, mathematics, and systems of the world. She will explore these areas at Loyola University with a strong focus on STEM development. Gracie is a member of the National Honor Society.

Valley Park High School’s awardee is **Olivia Vogt**, who will study meteorology in college. She plans to start at St. Louis Community College and then move to a four-year school. She has taken four years of science courses at Valley Park and is passionate about learning.



AAUW Fellow Atzimba Martinez



L-R: Sydney Paglusch, Olivia Vogt, and Gracie Horton

AAUW MO State Board 2023–24

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

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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 Karen Francis, and Missouri Action Plan Facilitator Pat Shores**.
- For website additions or corrections, contact **Lynne Roney** via the website contact form.
- Update your contact information at aauw.org/. The Community Hub now serves as the former member services database.