

# 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.

## Action & Advocacy - Living the Mission of AAUW



**AAUW MO President Sue Shineman** has designated this as the framework theme for AAUW’s work state-wide. Her focus word for this year is collaboration. Sue is asking each member of the state board, every branch and its members to embrace the theme and support plans to carry out the Mission. The following is a Q & A with Sue to provide insight into the who, what, where, when, and why of her theme.

Sue, please tell *Missouri in Motion* readers about current and future projects which advance AAUW’s mission in Missouri.

**What are current and planned GOTV projects?**

**Sue:** this will be Action & Advocacy. Action would be sharing the AAUW Voter Guide, so members know which candidates and issues support our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. Advocacy could be collaborating with League of Women Voters, registering new voters or updating information for voters who have moved. Educating voters on early absentee and curbside voting. Work with local high schools to share the QR Code that will take them to online registration. Use your personal social media platforms to support candidates that support our mission. We are nonpartisan, but we are political. Put those Your Voice is Your Vote Signs in your yard! **Alice Kitchen is your go-to person** for assistance.

**What are best practices to welcome, retain, and honor our members?**

**Sue:** First, have a welcome team at each meeting to greet guests. Membership should have a packet of information at every meeting. Assign members to introduce guests to members, sit with them, and engage them in conversation. Invite them to the next meeting or Action project. Invite speakers to join your branch. Utilize the Membership Orientation power point and AAUW Supports document. (Both are on p. 6 membership article.) **Susie Watson is your go-to person** for assistance and ideas.

**College/University relationships are important to AAUW’s future. Please tell us about C/U on Missouri campuses.**

**Sue:** Our future lies with making connections with students of all ages on college campuses. Engaging students during AAUW table events is an excellent way to share our mission with them. Likewise, engage professionals

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## **An Interview with AAUW MO President Sue Shineman, *continued***

on campus. You could hold an informal event on campus, invite teachers and staff, and share how AAUW supports students. **Debra McArthur is your go-to person** for assistance and ideas.

**How can the state board support local branches? Sue:** State board members are available to come to your branch meetings and present a program. If you have questions, reach out to your counterpart on the board, or to me. If I don't know the answer, I will know where to go for help. Call, email, or text me. **I am your go-to person.**

### **What kinds of branch collaboration projects are taking place?**

**Sue:** Now through November 4, the focus is on Get Out the Vote. This election is of utmost importance for women's rights. The next collaborations to work on are with other organizations in your community. Get out of your regular meeting place and get involved in the name of AAUW. Independence, my home branch, is taking a new approach to monthly programs (Advocacy) and volunteering for the agency or organization presenting the program (Action). For example, our program from Community Services League will be followed by an Action Project helping with their Christmas Store for school children. It could be a lunch and learn, followed by branch members and friends supporting the outreach of CSL. And of course, we will be wearing our AAUW tee-shirts. **I am your go-to person. Let's talk one-on-one.**

### **STEM and DEI are both important AAUW priorities. What is going on around the state to educate and involve our members?**

**Sue:** Both areas are continuing to grow and to collaborate with local schools and organizations. There are many opportunities for branches to collaborate with local schools on STEM projects, recognitions, and awards. DEI continues to educate and involve members in Inclusion-Infusion activities, open dialogue and hosting 'safe space' for sharing ideas and concepts. **Pam Kulp is your STEM go-to contact. Luna Mukherjee is your DEI go-to person.**

### **The state has an active public policy committee. How does the committee interact with local officials to promote AAUW's mission and values?**

**Sue:** Branches are encouraged to reach out to local officials to talk about salary history, paid family leave, and pay equity. Public Policy and DEI are both focusing on Advocacy regarding the banning of books. **Alice Kitchen is your go-to contact.**

### **What is happening with AAUW MO's social media presence?**

**Sue:** Having a social media presence is very important to both state and branches. We will have regular posts to the state Facebook page, Instagram, and others. Your branch and members will be able to share these posts with a branch tag line or hashtag. This is how we can reach a younger audience with our mission and vision. **April McArthur is our go-to person.**

### **What are future projects that we'll see in 2024-25?**

**Sue:** There are several projects on the horizon. You can expect the focus on Succession Planning and Collaboration to be priorities. Branch presidents will meet monthly for Action & Advocacy Leader training. These meetings will include many opportunities to share and collaborate and hear from state leaders. The Wisdom Council will be developed to be available to branch leaders for mentoring. Branches will receive monthly reports from national committees. Branch enrichment opportunities will be shared to expand Action & Advocacy programs and projects.

***Our thanks to Sue Shineman for sharing her vision for AAUW MO in the coming year.***

## Changes to MO Star Award/Branch Action Plan for 2024–25

### Program VP Co–Chairs Su Bacon and Diane B. Ludwig

With the national AAUW Strategic Plan the same for 2024, **Su Bacon, Diane Ludwig, and Pat Shores**, state MO Action Plan coordinator, have worked to ensure that both the 2024–25 Missouri State and Branch Action Plan and the MO Star Award/Branch Action Plan remain coordinated. Both documents are useful as branches plan programs, activities, and events that further the AAUW mission and strategic plan.

Once the 2023–24 STAR Award forms were received in April 2024 and STARS were awarded, updates began. Board members reviewed their specific areas of the document to suggest edits, remove completed criteria, or add new initiatives, so the new document reflected AAUW Missouri’s current directions and focus. The document was distributed to branch presidents in early June to accommodate branch planning for 2024–25.

Key areas of change were discussed at the July 2024 state board meeting. Below are the significant updates in the 2024–25 STAR Award/Branch Action Plan. Please refer to the official 2024–25 Star Award & Branch Action Plan posted on the AAUW MO website for the complete criteria.

- ✓ Utilize the state Opportunity to Serve form to help with succession planning for your branch.
- ✓ Create or hold an AAUW member orientation for **all** branch members utilizing the new orientation tools provided by the state Membership Committee.
- ✓ Use the national *Membership Matters* emails to convey national information to branch members.
- ✓ Hold at least one Get Out the Vote (GOTV) activity for national, state, or local elections. Focus on voter registration and voter education for the fall elections.
- ✓ Incorporate mission-based ACTION projects into branch activities. Collaborate with other like-minded community groups on key issues.
- ✓ Hold one month’s programming open now to address current issues that arise later in the year.
- ✓ Engage in ACTION projects related to STEM and to DEI.
- ✓ Complete the national Branch Impact Survey of your branch’s activities by the deadline, which will enable you to receive national STARS. (Survey sent via email to branches in September.)
- ✓ Attend via Zoom the AAUW MO sponsored Legislative Retreat held in February or March each year.

Star Award forms for 2024–25 are due on April 1, 2025, covering activities from April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025.

## AAUW Fund

### AAUW Fund Chair Sage Taber

The Greatest Needs Fund needs your support to keep AAUW's mission growing. AAUW’s expenses– which include member services, administration, rent, communications, and fundraising– are funded by donations. The Greatest Needs Fund also supports many of our programs, such as public policy and research. Dues cover only about 17 percent of these expenses.

The top total branch giving and top per-capita branch giving will be recognized at the AAUW MO spring conference for 2024 giving (January – December.) Branches with 50 percent and higher giving participation will be recognized. Century Club members (\$100 + donors) and Century Club Plus members (\$250+ donors) will be honored.

## Public Policy

### AAUW MO Public Policy Chair Alice Kitchen

**Title IX**–The House vote to overturn the new Title IX rules. AAUW joined coalition partners in opposition to the Congressional Review Act resolution (H.J. Res. 165). We had more than 1,300 members respond to our Two Minute Activist alert before the party-line vote (210-205) took place.

The Senate version of the Congressional Review Act resolution (S.J. Res. 96)– there has been no information regarding a Senate vote on this. Opponents of the new Title IX rules have also included language in the House version of the FY 25 education spending bill which would prohibit the U.S. Department of Education from using federally appropriated funds to enforce the new Title IX rules. AAUW opposes changes to the new Title IX regulations. Contact Senators Hawley 202-224-6154 and Eric Schmitt 202-224-5721.

## Take Action – Make a Difference in 2024

### Download the complete AAUW Voter Guide

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2024/06/Its-My-Vote-2024-Voter-Issue-Guide-English.pdf>

- **Make Your Mark!** Nationwide, AAUW is helping to change policies and enact laws to ensure equity for all.
- **AAUW in the Statehouse.** AAUW has activities in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. The AAUW policy team can help you identify, track and assess current local legislation to rally your network to support and oppose proposed bills.
- **Two-Minute Activist.** You can make a difference in just two minutes! We provide everything you need to contact your members of Congress and your state legislators about pressing issues.
- **You provide the voice. We'll provide the megaphone.** – We provide all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, contact your state legislators about pressing issues, and more.
- **Policy Center.** AAUW's policy work connects, and rallies advocates at all levels to empower women and girls. AAUW uses lobbying and grassroots efforts to push forward policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women. AAUW priorities focus on economic security, education and Title IX and civil rights.

### General Election Dates for November 5, 2024

**September 24, 2024**

Absentee voting with an excuse opens

**October 9, 2024**

Last day to register to vote

**October 22, 2024**

No-excuse in-person absentee voting opens

**October 23, 2024**

Last day to apply for a mailed absentee ballot

**November 2, 2024**

The Board of Elections office is open for absentee voting

**November 4, 2024**

Last day for voting an absentee ballot at the Board of Elections

**November 5, 2024**

Polls open from 6 a.m.–7 p.m.

## STEM

### AAUW MO STEM Chair Pam Kulp



The AAUW MO STEM committee is moving forward for 2024–25. **Pam Kulp** has assumed leadership of the committee as chair and **Sandra Murdock** is the assistant.

Soon, we will send a STEM needs assessment survey to each branch. Please take a moment to tell us what the state STEM committee can do for you and how we can best serve your branch. Let your voices be heard. All meetings will be by ZOOM and/or phone call. Let's touch girls' lives by helping them think about STEM related careers.

## Get Out the Vote Signs Available

### Eugenia Webdell, Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch

With the general election coming up this year, it is especially important that people are informed voters. AAUW branches can help by making available educational nonpartisan signs to the community.

The **Get Out the Vote Sign** provides the link to connect to the League of Women Voters, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), that has all the election information a person needs in English and Spanish. People can check their voter registration, find their polling place, and learn about candidates and ballot issues by zip code.

The signs, which were printed by the Kirkwood-Webster Groves American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis, have pickup spots in the St. Louis area in Kirkwood, Florissant, and Chesterfield. The signs sell for \$5.

Arrangements can be made to get the signs to AAUW branches out of the St. Louis area. To have a sign delivered locally or to locate a pick-up spot, contact Kirkwood-Webster Groves AAUW at <https://kwg-mo.aauw.net/contact-us/>.



## Collaboration Opportunities

### AAUW MO Past President Karen Francis

As past president, one of my responsibilities is to serve in the capacity of advisor. **Sue Shineman** and I have decided that I will assist in implementing our Action & Advocacy – Living the Mission of AAUW theme. I will share opportunities to collaborate with various organizations and groups that also work to advance our AAUW Mission.

Look for upcoming collaboration opportunities:

1. In late February or early March 2025, AAUW MO will again host the Legislative Retreat via zoom. You'll hear from 12 collaborating organizations with updates regarding what's happening in the Missouri legislature.
2. Branch presidents will receive an updated contact list of the League of Women's Voters chapter presidents as we work on the 2024 Get Out the Vote.
3. Information was shared with the board about Empower Missouri's Advocate's Book Club and the MO Rural partnership, which focuses on Inclusion and Equity issues. The next book event is August 28, and the discussion will be on *Chain Gang All Stars* written by **Adjei-Brenyah** and **Nana Kwame**.

At the first AAUW MO board meeting, board members shared what their local branches are working on in their communities. Missouri branches are collaborating with local organizations, such as a community service league and Mother's Refuge. Branches are encouraged to communicate their collaborative projects. There might be similar groups in parts of the state doing the same work. As Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." That perfectly summarizes my new responsibilities: connecting you with opportunities.

# Membership

## Sue Shineman and Susie Watson

One of the membership goals on the MO Star Award (#15) is to create/hold a “member orientation for new/continuing members.” Utilize State leaders and/or State tools or assistance.

Thank you to **Debra McArthur** for creating an orientation power point presentation for all branches to use. This presentation was made for Parkville and KC Northland branches. You can easily customize it for your branch. This is an excellent tool and so effective to get the Membership Matters message to our members and friends.

AAUW MO theme this year is **Action & Advocacy – Living the Mission of AAUW.**

Choose your amount and type of Action & Advocacy that works best for you.

- Attend branch meetings & programs
- Attend our state conference
- Become a Two-Minute Activist
- Join one of our Book Groups
- Say “yes” to branch leadership
- Participate on a state committee

Join other members in Action & Advocacy. Put **YOU** in AAUW!



AAUW supports - 2024.docx



Meet AAUW - Membership Orient:

Debra also compiled AAUW Supports to share with members and friends. Use the power point and AAUW Supports to share how together we are acting and advocating for women and girls.

## Incentive Grant Funds

### Incentive Grants Chair Carol Cox

Hi! I'm **Carol Cox** of the AAUW Boonville Branch and I'm the new Incentive Grants Chair. The goal of this committee is to give money to branches “for projects that support the mission of AAUW and/or provide opportunities for women and girls to achieve their full potential.”

Your branch can apply year-round for grants using forms at <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/incentive-grants/>. Think of projects your branch can do, or already plan to do, that support the AAUW mission and where you could use financial support. Some examples:

Because of the November election, what about a project for Getting Out the Vote?

Or Title XI ...women’s history... STEM... special speakers?

There are many more possibilities and only a few things the funds can't be used for. Click on the Incentive Grant link above for an application form and more information.

Contact me if you have questions. I may not know all the answers, but I know who to ask!

## Regional Conference

### Swap Shop Programs

#### On AAUW MO Website

<https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/regional-conference-swap-shop-programs/>

The October 2023 Regional AAUW Conference in St. Louis provided a wealth of ideas for program planning. Look at [pages 11-19 of the conference schedule here](#) for a refresher on the topics presented. You may contact the presenter directly or download a PDF or Word document of the presentation.

Here is a partial list of Swap Shop Programs listed:

- Stop Human Trafficking Now
- Member Orientation
- Public Policy-Amplify Your Voice
- Ban Use of Salary History
- DEI Brings Us All Together
- College/University Relations: Our Path
- STEM Workshop for Girls
- Growing Your Membership



## Virginia Minor 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday Event

### Ellen Irons and Jan Scott, AAUW St. Louis

On Saturday June 22, 2024, AAUW St. Louis and our partner organizations celebrated **Virginia Minor's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday** graveside at the Bellefontaine Cemetery in Florissant. The St. Louis City Mayoral Proclamation of Virginia's 200th Birthday was at the gravesite. The proclamation was signed by **St. Louis City Mayor Tishaura Jones** at the Virginia Minor 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration held at city hall on March 27, 2024.

**Nicole Evelina**, the author of the definitive biography *America's Forgotten Suffragists: Virginia and Francis Minor*, spoke. AAUW B-C member **Nancy Price**, who is jointly active with the League of Women Voters St. Louis, helped with the program and shared remarks.

Special thanks to **Victoria Turner**, co-president League of Women Voters St. Louis and volunteer at Bellefontaine Cemetery for making the connections between **Dan Fuller**, *Cemetery Chronicler* Bellefontaine Cemetery Association, and **Jan Scott** which launched this event!



L-R: **Karen Francis, Nancy Price, Angie Janik, Laura Thompson** (dressed in historical outfit), **Nicole Evelina, Jan Scott, Marian Bauer, and Carol Davis McDonald.**

## 2024 Women's Equality Day Celebration

### Ellen Irons

**"Our Progress, Our Challenges"**

**Commemorating the 104<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment**

**August 26, 2024, 3:15 –7 p.m.**

**Clark Library 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, 63131**

**Kathleen Farrell, League of Women Voters and AAUW presenting:**

- Highlights of recent progress on national legislation related to women's equity
- Discussion of key challenges for the coming year's continued efforts, including Title IX, Equal Rights Amendment, and other key bills.

This event is sponsored by AAUW of Ballwin-Chesterfield, AAUW of Ferguson-Florissant, and AAUW of Kirkwood-Webster Groves and supported by the LWV.

*Leaves from the Branches will return in the fall issue of Missouri in Motion.*

### 2024 AAUW MO Events [aauw-mo.aauw.net](http://aauw-mo.aauw.net)

#### August

26 Women's Equality Day

#### September

3 Application Opens for AAUW Fellowships/Grants  
10 AAUW Membership Webinar

#### October

9 Last day to Register to Vote

#### November

2 AAUW MO Board Meeting via Zoom @ 9 a.m.–12 p.m.  
5 Election Day  
11 Deadline for *Missouri in Motion* articles  
15 Deadline for AAUW Fellowships/Grants  
17 AAUW 143rd Anniversary

## AAUW MO State Board 2024–25

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

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| President<br>Sue Shineman<br>Independence                                    | Program-Co VP<br>and<br>10- Star Award<br>Su Bacon<br>Parkville<br>Diane Ludwig<br>Columbia | Secretary<br>Diana Curry-McGuirk<br>Kansas City Northland              | Public Policy Chair<br>Alice Kitchen<br>Kansas City  |
| Past President<br>Karen Francis<br>Ballwin-Chesterfield                      | Communications<br>Pam Meyers<br>Ferguson-Florissant   | Directory Editor<br>Diane Ludwig<br>Columbia                           | Governance/Bylaws<br>Parliamentarian<br>Marianne Fues<br>Columbia  |
| Pat Shores<br>Ballwin-Chesterfield<br>5-Star National<br>Recognition Program | Newsletter Editor<br>Mary Jermak<br>Ballwin-Chesterfield                                    | MO Action Plan Chair<br>Pat Shores<br>Ballwin-Chesterfield             | Administrative<br>Assistant<br>Karol Palmer<br>Independence  |
| Finance Officer<br>Lois Domsch<br>Independence                               | Historian<br>Jane Biers, Columbia   | Missouri History Day<br>Betty Takahashi<br>St. Charles                 | Nominating<br>Committee Chair<br>Lynne Roney<br>Kirkwood-Webster<br>Groves   |
| Membership VP<br>Susie Watson<br>KC Northland                                | College/University<br>Relations Chair<br>Debra McArthur<br>Parkville                        | Diversity, Equity,<br>Inclusion (DEI)<br>Luna Mukherjee<br>Kansas City | Kansas City IBC<br>Co-chairs<br>Corinne Mahaffey<br>Kansas City<br>and<br>Diana Curry-McGuirk<br>Kansas City Northland |
| AAUW Fund<br>Sage Taber<br>Ballwin-Chesterfield                              | STEM Chair<br>Pam Kulp<br>Ballwin-Chesterfield  | St. Louis IBC<br>Ellen Irons<br>St. Louis                              |  |
| National Liaison<br>Sue Barley<br>Ballwin-Chesterfield                       | Google Doc Manager<br>Lynne Roney<br>Kirkwood-Webster<br>Groves                             | Branch Incentive<br>Grant Chair<br>Carol Cox<br>Boonville              | Facebook<br>Administrator<br>April McArthur<br>Parkville   |

### ***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](https://aauw-mo.aauw.net).
- Send a copy of your branch newsletter to **AAUW MO Historian Jane Biers, AAUW MO President Sue Shineman, and Missouri Action Plan Chair Pat Shores**.
- For website additions or corrections, contact **Lynne Roney** via the website contact form.
- Update your contact information at [aauw.org/](https://aauw.org/). The Community Hub now serves as the former member services database.