



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881

INDEPENDENCE BRANCH

Empowering women since 1940

Vol. 80 No. 5 January 2020

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

Dear Members,

2020 is here...let the fun begin! And it has. The centennial of women's right to vote was celebrated on New Year's Day in the Rose Parade with the National History Alliance's float. What a wonderful kickoff to a year dedicated to remembering the passing of the 19th amendment. Locally, there will be many opportunities hosted to celebrate this historically significant event. One such opportunity is the program slated at the Central Library in Kansas City in March, **"The Golden Lane: How Missouri Women Gained the Vote and Changed History"**. The author will explore the pivotal event at the 1916 Democratic convention held in St. Louis and Missouri's role in advancing and finally achieving women's suffrage. Mark your calendars: Sunday, March 15, Central Library, 14 W 10th St. Kansas City, 2 PM.

Our branch has plans to commemorate this important part of history as well. I will keep you all posted on them in the months to come.

Happy 2020!

Jolene Cerveney



Upcoming Events:

January 7 = Branch Board Meeting at Perkins. 3939 S. Bolger Ct., Independence. Dinner at 5:30pm, Meeting starts at 6:15pm.

January 14 = Book Club at Jane Campbell's House, 9:15 am for coffee, 9:30 for discussion. Book: The Matriarch: Barbara Bush by Susan Page, led by Patt Braley. Location: Jane's House = 2815 B Chatelain Ct., 816-392-9626. All members are welcome, and you are encouraged to bring friends.

January 16 = Book Sorting at the UHaul for the Book Fair, 2-4pm, 24 Highway across from Chrisman High School

January 28 = January AAUW Meeting =Program: Natalie Holick, Director of Equal Opportunity and Title IX Officer at KU Medical Center, "How Title IX Can Affect Students of Higher Education."

February 11 = Book Club at Jane Campbell's House, 9:15 am for coffee, 9:30 for discussion. Book: The Moment of Lift by Melinda Gates, led by Kathy Keeton.

Book Fair 2020= Kathy Kelley

You are ALL cordially invited to help us sort books beginning on **Thursday**, January 16, 2-4 pm at The UHaul on 24 Highway across From Chrisman High School.

NO experience necessary—we are happy to train you! Since we will have standard pricing this year, most of our work will be separating books into predetermined

categories. Also, Jan Horner will be doing our scheduling this year, so if you will not be at our January meeting, she would love to hear from you. Working together we can do awesome things for women and girls!!!!



January Program = Kathy Keeton

Our speaker for the January AAUW meeting is Natalie Holick. She will speak from her perspective in her role as the Institution Title IX Coordinator at KU Medical Center regarding the history and application of Title IX and particularly its impact on students in higher education.



December Program = Patty Gregory, The Linus Project

Patty Gregory, CEO of the Linus Project, was our Speaker at the Café Verona luncheon on Dec. 7, 2019. She has been with the Linus Project for 19 years, most of those as CEO. Across the 294 nationwide Chapters, Linus Project volunteers make and provide blankets to children and teens that are ill or that have been through a traumatic experience. This past year nearly 500,000 blankets were given to children in need. Since its inception, the Linus Project has donated nearly 8,000,000 blankets and quilts world-wide. In the Kansas City area, most of the local hospitals, the KCPD, Hope House, Safe Haven, and Ronald McDonald House are among the many organizations that have distributed the blankets. The Linus Project is dependent on donations from companies and individuals. For more information about this program, see the website:

<https://www.projectlinus.org/>



Public Policy Information from Pat Shores, AAUW Missouri Public Policy Chair

NATIONAL NEWS TO SHARE WITH BRANCH MEMBERS:

- **The Equal Rights Amendment may pass.** It has been 96 years since the amendment was first proposed. Watch what is happening in the state of Virginia now.
- **The Paycheck Fairness Act has passed the House.** Encourage your senator to pass the act as well. This law is a critical step to closing the gender pay gap. MO is rated as having weak equal pay laws.
- **The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is gaining support.** The Compact would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and D.C. Currently the U. S. Constitution establishes the Electoral College which gives state legislators the power to choose the method of picking electors. With the current Electoral College system, a runner-up has been named winner five times. For more information go to www.NationalPopularVote.com

MISSOURI STATE NEWS TO SHARE WITH BRANCH MEMBERS

- Women today are typically paid 82 cents for every dollar paid to men. Based on historic rates, the gap won't close for 75 years -until 2093. Here in MO we are working hard to change those statistics. **Each AAUW branch has identified a member to be their Equal Pay Advocate.**
- **A recent update of AAUW's "The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap" shows that the gap hurts women in retirement** as they collect 20% less in Social Security benefits than men do, and 30% less in overall retirement income when you factor in interest and dividends.
- **The Kansas City Council unanimously passed an ordinance which will make employers asking job seekers for salary history information illegal in the city.** An ordinance to ban asking city job applicants about salary history has been proposed to the St. Louis Board of Alderman.
- **The Missouri League of Women Voters Board of Directors accepted an agreement with the state of Missouri on November 1 which will prevent voters from being shut out of the political process.** As part of the settlement the Department of Revenue will redirect residents to the Secretary of State's voter registration website when they change their address at the Department of Motor Vehicles license offices. DOR also agreed to improve voter registration services by changing in-person and mailed change-of address requests.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

Finland formed a new government of five parties **all led by women**, with the youngest prime minister in the world.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO

Register for the free, on-line **Work Smart** course at <https://salary.aauw.org/> and ask your friends to register too.

Go to this website to make sure you are registered to vote <https://s1.sos.mo.gov/elections/voterlookup/>

Multi-State Conference

AAUW of Missouri is co-planning a regional conference with several other states, including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Texas, Arkansas, Minnesota, Ohio and Oklahoma. The dates are June 18 (Thursday) through June 20 (Saturday morning).

Since national conventions will not be occurring in the near future, this is a way to network with other states without the high cost of a convention in a major city. More information will be coming as planning continues, but mark your calendar and plan for a fun and productive women's get together.

"Wherever women gather together failure is impossible." The last public statement made by Susan B. Anthony before her death in 1906

Sue Shineman

"Oh, if I could but live another century and see the fruition of all the work for women! There is so much yet to be done." —Susan B. Anthony

"There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers." —Susan B. Anthony

Treasurer's Report = Lois Domsch

December 2019 AAUW Financial Report

CHECKING ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 11/30/2019 **\$797.28**

RECEIPTS

12/11/2019 Deposit - 4 reservations

84

TOTAL RECEIPTS

\$84

DISBURSEMENTS

4598 12/7/2019 Patty Gregory - Dec speaker

40

4599 12/7/2019 Café Verona - Dec Luncheon

531.96

12/30/2019 VISA debit card AAUW Fund contribution

200

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

\$771.96

BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/2019

\$109.32

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 11/30/2019

\$9583.63

TOTAL RECEIPTS Dividend December

\$1.22

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

\$0.00

BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/2019

\$9584.85

TOTAL ASSETS 12/31/2019: Checking \$109.32 + Savings \$9584.85 = \$9694.17