

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

President's Message ~ Jolene Cervený

Dear AAUW Members,

I was overwhelmed with the attendance and participation at our September branch meeting. It was so good to see familiar faces again, even if they were under a mask or on the Zoom screen! As the perfect storm of 2020 continues, I personally find strength in reconnecting with you. There are a few technical difficulties to iron out, but overall I felt that our "hybrid" meeting went well, thanks to Sue Shineman. She is our Zoom superstar. My hat's off to Kathy Keeton for spearheading the Programs for this year. What a great way to start with Rochelle Parker and her presentation on Child Abuse Prevention Association. Membership Co-VPs Sue Raymond and Debbie White did an outstanding job contacting members. Their efforts obviously paid off. Patty Chadwick spun her magic again on the new yearbooks. They are a little condensed to support budgetary concerns while still giving us the important dates, contact information, and the budget for the upcoming year.

As a result of COVID 19, many of our plans to commemorate the rich history of the Suffrage Movement and the Centennial of the 19th Amendment had to be modified or were completely unfulfilled. Our energies and attention now turn from celebrating the past to the supporting the present, determined not to let the pandemic adversely affect voter turnout. Voting issues such as absentee and mail-in ballots: which of them need to be notarized and which don't, where to find a notary, and how to return them to the election board is information all voters need. Our vote is our voice. This is not the time to be silent.

"It's not the hand that signs the laws that holds the destiny of America. It's the hands that casts the ballot." - Harry S. Truman



Vote NO on Missouri Amendment 3

On the November 3rd MO ballot.

AAUW MO supports the effort to defeat Amendment 3.

Voters overwhelmingly supported Clean MO in 2018, with all MO voting districts passing the Amendment with 62% of the vote. Some of our politicians are trying to trick voters & retract the 2018 election via Amendment 3 to manipulate an advantage for themselves.

Upcoming Events:

~October 13, 2020 = AAUW Book Club = Jane Campbell's house. Contact her for more information = delandjane@comcast.net

- Book: *Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debbie Irving = Led by Lois Domsch and Sue Raymond
- Book: *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo = Led by Patty Chadwick and Doris McCarmey
- Book: *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi = Led by Jane Campbell and Gail Metcalf Schartel

~October 19, 2020 = Voter Registration and Voter Information presented to all KCMCC Campuses via Zoom. Sue Shineman will be presenting with Stacey Webb, LWV.

~October 19, 2020 = Pizza Ranch Fundraiser/Volunteer Opportunity = 5-8 pm (see p. 5)

~October 27, 2020 = Branch Meeting = 7 pm. Program = City of Independence Covid-19 Task Force. Speaker: Diane Egger and/or Christina Heinen

~November 3, 2020 = **VOTE!!!**

~November 10 = AAUW Book Club = *Irena's Children: The Extraordinary Story of the Woman Who Saved 2,500 Children from the Warsaw Ghetto* by Tilar J. Mazzeo/Led by Doris McCartney

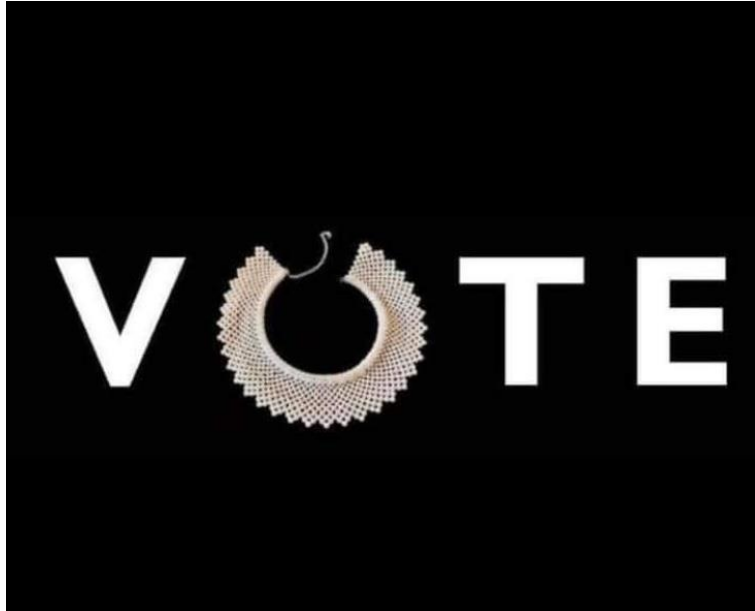
The following is a statement by AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches:

When the time is right, it is AAUW's fervent hope that Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg be replaced with a justice who, like her, can be an independent voice and fierce, fair-minded advocate for American women and their families.

The time is not right. And Amy Coney Barrett is not that person.

With so much at stake, it is more essential than ever that the nominee get a comprehensive and thorough vetting. Given that the election is already underway, with hundreds of thousands of ballots already cast, there is insufficient time to hold the kind of thoughtful and deliberative hearings that the nominee — and the American people — deserve. As such, AAUW stands staunchly against filling this court vacancy until after the next president is inaugurated in January.

In addition to the issues we see with the rushed process, we are also adamantly opposed to the selection of Judge Barrett to fill Justice Ginsburg's seat. While we agree that it's essential to choose a woman for this powerful and distinguished role, women are not interchangeable. We need a justice who is committed to safeguarding our rights and advocating for AAUW's priorities with the track record to prove it. Judge Barrett is not the right person for the lifetime appointment. **She is on the wrong side of many of the issues that are central to AAUW's mission of advancing gender equity.** Her record of curtailing reproductive freedoms and access to health care, undermining Title IX by making it more difficult for female students to battle sex discrimination in schools, and weakening protections for workers does not bode well in ensuring that we have the advocate we need on the highest court in our land.



October 27th Meeting...

For the AAUW October 27th program we will hear from two employees of the City of Independence who are now involved with strategies to protect the citizens of Independence from the coronavirus pandemic. Diane Egger and Christina Heinen are or have been associated with the Independence Health Department.

Kathy Keeton, Programs



Become a 2 Minute Activist for AAUW from the comfort of your home!

Send emails and texts to your legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education and more. Sign up to get regular alerts to be able to take timely action.

You provide the voice. We'll provide the megaphone.

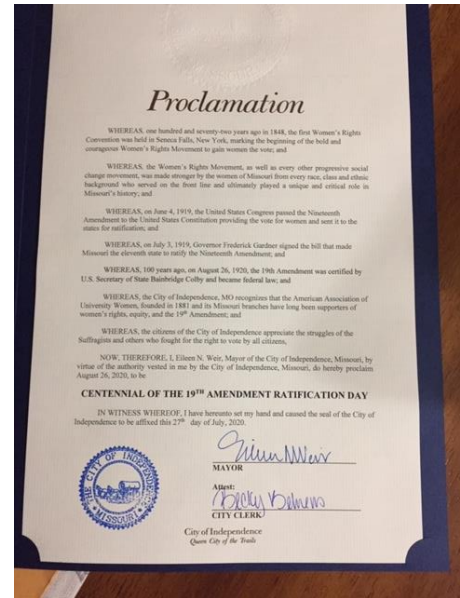
AAUW provides all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, contact your state legislators about pressing issues and more.

It Only Takes Two Minutes!

Join AAUW in urging Congress to improve and expand legislation protecting our civil rights, economic security, and access to education.

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Centennial of 19th Amendment Day



Thank You my dear Independence AAUW Friends! Being awarded the 2019 Woman of Achievement is truly an honor. I have said it before, but I want to tell you again, "It takes a Village to make things happen and to move forward." Your unending support has been a guiding force in my efforts and encouragement of others to advance gender equity for women and girls.

We've come a long way, made great strides, and our work will continue way past my lifetime. You have honored me in a way that touches my heart and soul.

Thank You, Sue Shineman



Woman of Achievement 2021 Information

Information and nomination forms for the **AAUW Woman of Achievement 2021** will be provided no later than the November meeting. Nominations should include Professional Career Experience, Volunteer Community Activities, and Education/History Achievements. Please be thinking of women in the greater Independence area deserving of this distinctive award. Nominations must be submitted no later than 23 February 2021, for presentation at the 7 April 2021 meeting.

Joyce Gillespie

NATIONAL AAUW WEBINARS

I want to share two AAUW webinars with you. The first is entitled "Justice Ginsburg's Legacy and the Future of the Court". The AAUW's public policy team discusses the past, future and your role in shaping history.

The second is the Board Town Hall discussing two AAUW voting ballot issues: dues increase and education requirements for membership.

Each is 60 minutes long so get comfortable, listen and get informed.

Use the following link and scroll down the page until you get to "2020 Convening Series"

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/membership/initiatives/2020-convening>

Jolene

EAT SOME PIZZA TO RAISE SOME DOUGH!

On Monday, October 19th, our branch will be working the Pizza Ranch Community Impact fundraiser event. My thanks to the members who volunteered to man this project. [You can still help by coming in for dinner that evening from 5 to 8pm or ordering online for curbside carryout or contactless delivery.](#) Our branch will earn 10% of the sales from 5 to 8pm so enjoy some pizza and help our fundraising effort.



Pizza Ranch, Independence MO
4660 S Bass Pro Drive
(816) 478-1100
<https://pizzaranch.com/locations/mo/independence/4660-s-bass-pro-dr>

Report for College/University - The Independence AAUW was asked to collaborate with the KC League of Women Voters to present Voter Registration and Voter Information to all KCMCC campuses via Zoom. Sue Shineman will be presenting with Stacey Webb, LWV on September 29 and October 19. These calls will be recorded for future use and student voter education.

There is no report on **Work Smart**.

Sue Shineman

1. **Inclusion and Equity AAUW Style.** Independence Branch continues to be part of the MO I&E Team. Sue Raymond and Courtney Yount-McGinnis are your official representatives. The group has been discussing the book Growing Up White. With AAUW Independence programs pre-set for the year; as we go forward, Sue and Courtney hope to incorporate I&E issues during the Membership moment.

If interested in delving deeper, you are encouraged to check out some of these links. We welcome your feedback. *Sue Raymond and Courtney Yount-McGinnis*

- <https://www.statnews.com/2020/06/09/systemic-racism-black-health-disparities/>
From Race Matters blog.
- AAUW Facebook page – Inclusion & Equity Team (previously “Diversity”)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AAUWDiversityandInclusion>

2. **Good link for voting issues:** <https://www.shevotespodcast.com/>
She Votes, an 8 part podcast – the definitive podcast on the women’s suffrage movement.
3. **Membership Notes** = We are so thrilled to be off to a great start in the new AAUW year; with 13 members attending in person and 15 via Zoom. This is a new venture we began together at Independence Branch. Thanks for making it a great success. As we proceed thru the year, we hope to incorporate some new “mixers” to get to know each other better. If you have any guests you would like to invite via Zoom, please let Sue Raymond know. *Sue Raymond and Debbie White*

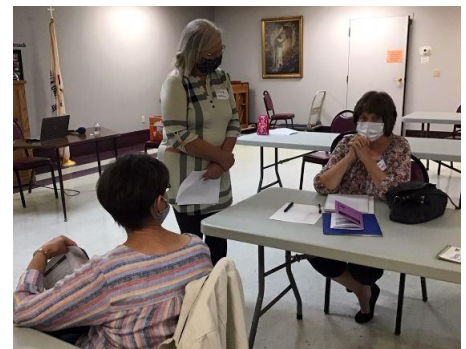
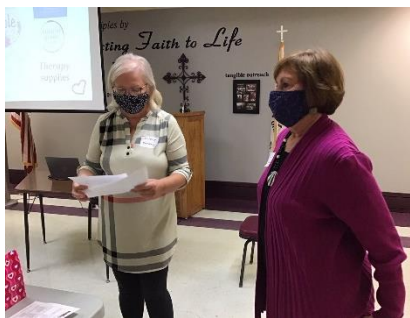
September 22, 2020 = Branch Meeting Highlights and Photo Ops!!



Rochelle Parker, Executive Director of CAPA (Child Abuse Prevention Association in Eastern Jackson County) was the speaker at the September program.

CAPA's mission is to prevent and treat all forms of child abuse by creating changes in individuals, families and to strengthen relationships and promote healing. Established in 1975, CAPA is a nonprofit social service organization that serves Independence and nearby areas. Services include counseling, family support and prevention education.

In 2018 CAPA serviced about 1,000 children and adults, in 2019 that number doubled. For more information, visit <https://capacares.org/>



September 22, 2020 Business Meeting Minutes

President Jolene Cerveny called the September meeting to order.

Old Business

The 2019-2020 "Woman of Achievement", Sue Shineman, was recognized. Sue has always been active in her church, school and community. She is especially dedicated to the mission of AAUW, serving in many capacities and is currently serving as the Missouri State AAUW President. We are honored to have her as a member of our branch and to present her with the Woman of Achievement award.

Officers that were voted in last spring were "installed" by President Jolene Cerveny. They include Sue Raymond and Debbie White as Co-Vice Presidents of Membership; Lois Domsch as Financial Officer and Nancy Comtois as Corresponding Secretary.

New Business:

Public Policy-Jolene mentioned the documentary "Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook" was aired on September 8th. A few members did watch it. It is still available on YouTube if you have not seen it.

September 22 is National Voter Registration Day. The last day to register in Missouri before the November election is October 7, 2020; absentee and mail-in ballot request deadline is October 21. These ballots must be received at the election board office by November 3. If using this option, request the ballot early and return as soon as possible. Handouts on information about absentee and mail-in voting was available for members to pick up and share at their churches, other organizations they might be attending, neighborhoods, etc. This information was also sent as an attachment to the call for this meeting.

Check your voter registration status. It takes less than a minute, it will verify your registration, and state your polling location. Use the Secretary of State website, sos.mo.gov. This website also lists available notaries if your absentee ballot requires one. All mail-in ballots require a notary.

Finally, the Amendment 3 on the ballot addresses the issues of redistricting, lobbying and campaign financing. There will be additional information shared from the State committee on this amendment. The Missouri State AAUW's position is to vote NO on this amendment.

Program VP-Kathy Keeton mentioned for our October meeting our program is City of Independence COVID-19 Task Force.

Membership-Sue Raymond and Debbie White contacted each branch member, to invite them to the September meeting; explaining Social Distancing process for meeting in person; and providing information on connecting via ZOOM for virtual members. We had great success, with 13 members in-person attendance and 15 members and 2 guests connecting via ZOOM.

Financial Officer-Lois Domsch presented the financial report. (see Budget attachment) (see Financial attachment) It was moved and approved that the budget be accepted.

Lois read several notes from contributors to our 80th Anniversary fundraiser. A total of \$657.00 was contributed. We will use this money toward our Scholarship Fund.

Corresponding Secretary-Nancy Comtois has sent our many cards to our members. In August, Sue Shineman and Barbara Leabo. In September Judy Austin and Margaret Carnahan.

Book Club-Jane Campbell has had the selections for Book Club listed in the yearbook. Currently Book Club have been meeting at Jane's house.

College/University- Sue Shineman gave report that the Independence AAUW was asked to collaborate with the KC League of Women Voters to present Voter Registration and Voter Information to ALL KCMCC campuses via Zoom. Sue Shineman will be presenting with Stacey Webb, LWV on September 29th and October 19th. These calls will be recorded for future use and student voter education.

Fundraising-Jolene reported that we will not have a Book Fair this coming March. Pizza Ranch is open for business, but she will check with them if they are still offering fundraisers. We are going to pilot a new idea called "MEMBERS MARKET".

So, what is MEMBERS MARKET? We will pilot it as an online silent auction. A MEMBER MARKET email will be sent to all branch members by 10AM on the day before our branch meeting. Bids for the items can be made up to 2PM. Hourly updates will be sent to members. The member with the winning bid will be announced at the business meeting. Items will be delivered to the member at the meeting or to your home after if attending via ZOOM. Checks can be made to the Branch. So where do these items come from? We ask members to donate items that they have found in closets, basements, garages and attics that are in good condition OR donate a new item. See Jolene to donate those items. A brief description, opening bid and bidding increments will accompany a picture of the item. Send your bid by replying to the sender only, i.e. me.

Seed Sale is another idea she suggested. It would be \$2.96 for a package of seeds. Various types of seeds could be sold.

Publicity-Judy Tyson sent Kim Churches article on "Title 9", to the Examiner for publication. She was told if you send the article to "Letter to the Editor", it will get to press faster.

Yearbook-Patty Chadwick passed out the new yearbooks for the year. She will contact the members who were not present to meet with them and handout the yearbook.

Women of Achievement-Joyce Gillespie will have forms for members to nominate candidates for the 2020-2021 Woman of Achievement.

Other Business:

We still have **suffragist** yard signs available.

Sue Raymond reported on the AAUW **Inclusion & Equity** initiative. AAUW has always supported equality for all persons. With the current social justice issues, AAUW put together a new committee "Inclusion & Equity". (see AAUW National for more information.) Each state team set their own goals; Missouri's groups is discussing the book "Waking Up White", examining our *own unintentional biases*. Each branch is encouraged to include programming to include I&E topics; however the Missouri Committee was formed after Independence Branch programming had been scheduled. Sue Raymond and Courtney Yount-McGinnis are on the Missouri Team, and they hope throughout the year, to introduce Inclusion & Equity in our meetings.

Jolene read a statement from AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches on behalf of **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**...

"America lost one of our most beloved role models tonight, a pioneering jurist and iconic feminist who blazed new trails, not only in her own life, but in the lives of the countless women she championed—and inspired. On behalf of AAUW and its members and supporters who recognized Justice Ginsburg with a 1999 AAUW Achievement Award, we extend our condolences to her family, her colleagues and to every American whose lives and hearts she touched. The nation owes it to her - and to all women - to honor her final wishes and refrain from naming a replacement until after a new president is inaugurated."

We had a moment of silence for Ruth Ginsburg.

Meeting adjourned.

Jeanne Schneider

Recording Secretary

AAUW Proposed BUDGET 2020-2021 July 10, 2020

Balance carried forward for budget July 1, 2020	11071.61
Estimated Receipts	
Branch Renewing Dues 5@ \$16 + Interest/Dividends	90
<u>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</u>	<u>11161.61</u>
OPERATING Expenses	Proposed 20-21
President	80
Program VP	265
Membership VP	200
Recording Secretary	10
Corresponding Secretary	20
Yearbook Editor	100
Financial Officer	15
AAUW Fund & Diamond Club Chair	10
ByLaws/Parliamentarian	10
Historian	10
Hospitality	100
Newsletter	50
Nominating Committee Chair	10
Publicity	10
Public Policy	50
Liability Insurance	190
Rent	210
State/Regional Conference Registrations	500
Special Projects: STEM, Work Smart, etc	300
College Relations	150
Miscellaneous	200
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	2490
DESIGNATED FUNDS HELD FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	
AAUW Fund (National)*	1770
Community Projects (Ongoing)	
Re-Entry Award	640
Re-Entry Student Luncheons	50
Re-Entry Chair Expenses	10
Woman of Achievement	110
High School Scholarships	1500
Additional funds from 80 th deposited into ISDF	138
Student Awards	150
MO AAUW Grant Get Out the Vote	100
MO AAUW Grant Public Policy	100
Regional Convention/Reserve	2000
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	6568
PROJECTED Balance 6/30/21	2103.61
TOTAL BUDGET AMOUNT	9058.00

*\$30/member @59 members on Feb 1, 2020

July - August 2020 AAUW Financial Report

CHECKING ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 6/30/2020		\$735.74
RECEIPTS		
7/31/2020	Deposit AAUW C&D 2 mbrshps	32
	Deposit \$18 signs,\$19.40 80th,4	
8/13/2020	mbrshps	377.4
8/27/2020	Deposit \$56 signs,\$20-80th Celebration	76
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$485.40
DISBURSEMENTS		
4611 8/7/2020	Amdmt Signs Kirkwood-Webster Grove	141
8/20/2020	Visa AAUW 4 mbrshps	276
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$ 417
BALANCE ON HAND 8/31/2020		\$804.14

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 6/30/2020		\$10335.87
RECEIPTS		
7/31/2020	Dividend July	0.26 10336.13
8/31/2020	Dividend August	0.22 10336.35
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$0.48
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$0.00
BALANCE ON HAND 8/31/2020		\$10336.35

TOTAL ASSETS 8/30/2020: Checking \$804.14+ Savings \$10336.35 = \$11140.49