



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881

## INDEPENDENCE BRANCH

Empowering women since 1940

Vol. 81 No. 3 December 2020

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

### A Message from Jolene

For the majority of this year, we've made adjustments to our daily lives, be it online grocery shopping, parking lot Sunday church services or virtual AAUW meetings. The conversion of our Christmas Luncheon at V's Italian Restaurant to a Zoom Christmas Tea Party was just one more of those adjustments. Will it work? Will members participate? Will they enjoy it? YES, YES, and YES!

The hour spent with members sharing their cherished Christmas memories was priceless. Sleigh bells, painted sugar cookies, special presents, holidays abroad.....I absolutely loved hearing those stories. Patt Braley's original poem (See below...) was the perfect ending to our gathering. Until we can resume normal activities like hugging our loved ones, eating at a restaurant, gathering in our houses of worship, and shopping the aisles of our grocery stores and retail shops, hold Christmas in your hearts my friends. Wishing you all a season of gladness and cheer, and a wonderful new year!

Jolene



### Upcoming Events:

~ December, 2020 ~ *Happy Holidays!!*

~ January 12, 2021 ~ *Book Club ~ The Big Finish by Brooke Fossey, Led by Jolene Cerveney (held at Jane Campbell's house)*

~ January 21, 2021 ~ *AAUW Independence Zoom Meeting = Program: 101<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment: Women's Right to Vote. Speaker: Jane McClain (Zoom details will be emailed before the meeting)*

An Original Poem by Patt Braley

# Happy Holidays

## A Covid Christmas

Tis the season of Christmas and all through our town  
The folks at John Knox are all under lockdown.

The Covid pandemic is on everyone's mind  
We pray that our fears will be soon left behind.

With shopping online and delivery by van,  
We choose to buy presents the best way we can.

Our "virtual families" can visit on Zoom,  
But we look to the day we can share the same room.

With healthier, happier futures in sight,  
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

## January 26, 2021 ~ Independence AAUW Program

For the AAUW January 26th program, we will be engaged with a power point presentation by Jane McClain to learn how the suffragettes were involved in the Missouri and Kansas women's right to vote campaign. Jane will present her information via a ZOOM program/meeting set up by Sue Shineman. (Social time = 6:30pm/Meeting = 7pm)

Kathy Keeton

## Program Committee News

The Program Committee met this afternoon and agreed to Zoom meetings for the remainder of the year. The Zoom link will be emailed to each member a couple of days before the meeting.

Sue Shineman

## WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION

Fill out the nomination form for Woman of Achievement and return to Joyce Gillespie, Woman of Achievement Chair.

- 1) Nominations are to be made by branch members.
- 2) Nominee must work or have worked, or volunteer or have volunteered in the Independence, MO area.
- 3) Membership in AAUW is optional.
- 4) A branch member must submit a written nomination listing the Nominee's achievements in the areas of: Professional / career experience and Volunteer / Special activities and Educational background (college is not required)
- 5) A brief statement of personal recommendation by the AAUW member making the nomination.

Joyce Gillespie (Form is printed below)

**AAUW Independence Branch Woman of Achievement Nominee**

*(Please feel free to submit the information in your own words or in paragraph format. Include any recommendations, words of accolade from friends or co-workers). Attach additional pages as needed.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

AAUW Member making this nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Phone/Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINEE'S INFORMATION Professional / Career Experience:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer / Community Activities:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**AAUW Activities (if a member)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Educational History and Achievements:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

On the reverse side, please write a brief statement telling the committee why you feel this nominee should be considered for this award.

Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send nominations to Joyce Gillespie

## November 2020 AAUW Financial Report

### CHECKING ACCOUNT

|                                   |   |                 |                  |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>BALANCE ON HAND 10/31/2020</b> |   |                 | <b>\$1082.70</b> |
| RECEIPTS                          |   |                 |                  |
| 11/21/2020                        | Deposit Mbr Mkt, Memorials, Bridge, Donations | 215             |                  |
| 11/28/2020                        | Deposit Memorials for Shery Lane              | 1760            |                  |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>             |   | <b>\$1975</b>   |                  |
| DISBURSEMENTS                     |   |                 |                  |
| 4615 10/19/2020                   | AHT Insurance                                 | 196             |                  |
| 4618 11/10/2020                   | Patty Chadwick postage yearbooks              | 11.9            |                  |
| 4619 11/20/2020                   | Jason Windes-Nov speaker                      | 40              |                  |
| <b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>        |   | <b>\$ 247.9</b> |                  |
| <b>BALANCE ON HAND 11/30/2020</b> |   |                 | <b>\$2809.80</b> |

### SAVINGS ACCOUNT

|                                   |  |               |                   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------|-------------------|
| <b>BALANCE ON HAND 10/31/2020</b> |  |               | <b>\$10336.78</b> |
| RECEIPTS                          |  |               |                   |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>             |  | <b>\$0.21</b> |                   |
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS               |  | \$0.00        |                   |
| <b>BALANCE ON HAND 11/30/2020</b> |  |               | <b>\$10336.99</b> |

**TOTAL ASSETS 11/30/2020: Checking \$2809.80 + Savings \$10336.99 = \$13146.79**

### Program Recap = November 17, 2020

Our guest speaker is the Independence School District Robotics team from Truman High School. Mr. Windes teaches engineering and is one of the coaches for the "1723 FBI Robotics" team, which he has been involved in coaching for four years.

General Team Info – FBI Robotics  
(First Bots of Independence)

- Made up of students from all 3 High Schools (William Chrisman, Truman and Van Horn).
- Pre-Season: August – December
- Build Season: January – April
- Hours: 3-8 weekdays, 8-5 on Saturdays
- 100-hour average in robots



## Program Recap = November 17, 2020 (Continued)

Four divisions and age groups...

First Lego League Jr. – elementary school students

First Lego League – elementary and middle school students

First Tech Challenge – middle and high school students

First Robotics Competition – use bigger robots, 125+ lbs. robot

Purpose of First; it to inspire people to use STEM, being a good sport and how to compete against other teams.

Robotics – Sub-Teams

Design – drawing out the parts

Fabricate – are students in the machine shop

Build/Assemble – the parts are made and assembled

Program – they use Java computer language

Public Relation – all social media and pictures

## Meeting Minutes = November 17, 2020

### November 17, 2020 Business Meeting

The November meeting was called to order by President Jolene Cerveny, who recited our Mission statement. **The mission of the American Association of University Women is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, advocacy and education.**

Minutes from October meeting stand approved as published in the newsletter.

**Program:** Kathy Keeton reported the December meeting to be held on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 will be a Zoom Christmas Tea Party. You will get a card in the mail and a Zoom invitation via email.

**Membership:** Sue Raymond said we have 12 members via Zoom and 4 members attending at the church for tonight's meeting. For the December meeting, she will be sending an updated bio on herself. Please send back a response to her, for example what you did during the COVID. Please send fun comments about yourself during the pandemic. Then she will pick four people and re-send those comments to everyone so we can catch up on what people are doing.

**Finance:** Jolene reported for Lois. Treasurer Report will be in the newsletter. Lois will take checks for Independence School District Foundation. If you want a tax deduction for ISDF, check must be made out to ISDF. If you want credit to the Century Club, make check out to AAUW separately.

## Meeting Minutes = November 17, 2020 (Continued)

### November 17, 2020 Business Meeting (Continued)

**AAUW Fund:** Patt Braley, suggested you look at the newsletter to see which fund you would like to send a check to. December 31<sup>st</sup> is the final deadline. Century Club is a \$100 donation, which goes to National AAUW. Our branch has committed to \$30 per member. Diamond Club started when Independence had its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. If you want to donate before December 31<sup>st</sup>, it will be doubled by AAUW. If you elect to make an on-line donation, let Lois or Patt know. If sending a check, please indicate on memo which fund you are giving towards.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Nancy Comtois reported no cards sent out in the last month.

**Book Club:** Jolene reported for Jane. Book club will not meet in December. The next book is titled "The Big Finish" by Brooke Fossey, which will be meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Fundraising:** Jolene reported in November the Members Market made \$70. We are taking a break in December but will resume in January.

**Public Policy:** Renee Freers' reported focused on the state of pay inequity. She reported only 12% of engineers in the United States are women. 60% of college students are females; women hold two-thirds of college debt. Women in technology has dropped from 35% in 1990 to 26% currently. Updates going on right now on pay for women. Pay equity has made small advances in the past year, women gaining 2 cents on the dollar when compared to men. White women make 82 cents on the dollar, 63 cents for black women compared to a white male; Latino women are at 55 cents. The pandemic has negatively impacted the careers that women most likely usually fill, like restaurants and childcare. Of local interest, four female principals are suing the Lee's Summit School District for pay inequity. Women hold two-thirds of college debt. Renee encouraged members to check out the Equity Network on the AAUW website.

**Re-Entry-** Jolene reported a on the KC IBC-Re-Entry meeting. A virtual event to recognize receipts of re-entry scholarships will replace the brunch. There was also discussion on offering fewer scholarships, but of a higher denomination.

**Women of Achievement-** Joyce Gillespie reported that it would be nice to have 3 or 4 names from the greater Independence area. She has the forms. Nominations are due to the committee for review before the month of February.

Jolene shared the results of the national dues decision. National dues in the year of 2022 will increase by \$3; the portion of our dues will increase to \$62, will make our dues then \$88. In the year 2023, will increase by \$5, will make our dues then \$93. In the year 2024, will increase another \$5, which will make National contribution \$74, will make our dues then be \$98.

AAUW's Julie Brown's email sent to all members explains the factors considered in the final decision.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Jeanne Schneider

Recording Secretary