

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

Renee's Message

What an exciting time to be a woman! Just a year ago we celebrated 100 years of women having the right to vote. Since that celebration, we have seen more women take a political seat of power, with the greatest accomplishment being our minority female vice-president. Wow, it only took 100 years. Ha Ha.

Not only did women in the political arena make their mark, but the Summer Olympics brought women standing up for the right to have the focus placed on their athletic abilities and not on their bodies, by refusing to wear the revealing uniforms usually worn in the sport. Furthermore, in just a few days the United States treasury will begin releasing quarters with famous women pictured on them. Before they are done, 15 women will be remembered and honored for their contributions.



Just this week college students across both Kansas and Missouri spoke out to end sexual assaults and harassment on their campuses. While the battle heats up over a women's right to have an abortion, political leaders are calling for women to be included in the draft. It is a busy time for women who want to be involved.

If you are interested in women's rights, now is a very good time to be alive. As the sixties brought a push to end racial discrimination, we witness a secondary push to end gender discrimination. Over sixty years later we are witnessing this same type of positive movements again. I challenge you to consider what you would like to see changed or improved for women and then consider what steps you could take to make a positive impact.

Renee Freers, President

Upcoming Events

- ♥ October 19 ~ AAUW Book Club ~ Every Day Is a Gift by Tammy Duckworth, led by Doris McCartney.
- ♥ October 26 ~ AAUW Independence Branch Meeting via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent to members prior to the meeting. Social time starts at 6:30 pm, Meeting begins at 7 pm. Program: Membership Matters: What your officers and committee chairs do to enrich member learning and involvement.
- ♥ November 9 ~ AAUW Book Club ~ The Seven Day Switch by Kelly Harms, led by Debbie White.

AAUW Book Club – Jane Campbell. AAUW Book Club takes place at Jane's house.

~October 19 ~ Every Day Is a Gift by Tammy Duckworth, led by Doris McCartney.

~November 9 ~ The Seven Day Switch by Kelly Harms, led by Debbie White

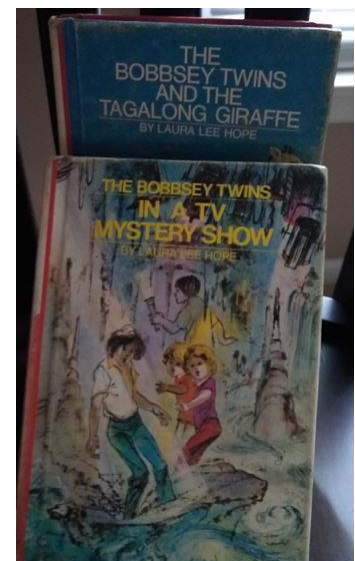
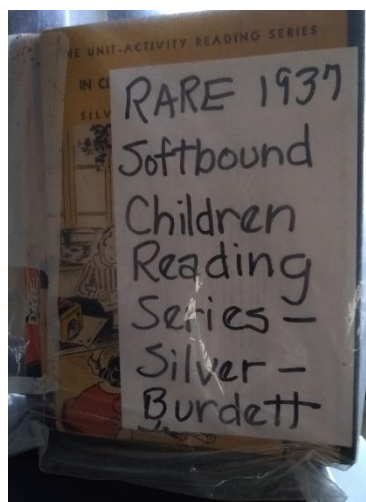
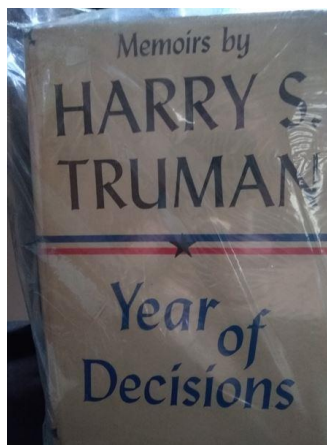


Vintage Books

In the past, during preparation for the book sale, books were set aside that were thought to be valuable or rare. (There is a book signed by Harry Truman!) With the demise of the book sale, we need to determine an alternate plan for selling these exceptional books.

Please think about it and bring an idea or two to the next meeting.

Kelley Reetzke



College/University – Barbara Leabo

College/University: Sue Shineman, Jolene Cerveney, Karol Palmer, and Barbara Leabo spent the day at Blue River Campus in order to register voters. There wasn't a lot of traffic as we were told that many students are continuing to do online learning. We will do another day on Tuesday, November 30th. We have also plans to be there on March 24, 2022 for Equal Pay Day and April 24, 2022 for National Sexual Assault Day. Hopefully, we can share our WorkSmart program on another date.

Barbara



Voter Registration and Support the Voter = This info is from AAUW National.

U.S. Census data from 2020 shows that as many as 1 in 4 eligible Americans are not registered to vote. We must do more than just register voters—we must ensure everyone is able to access this basic right.

Several key Congressional committees have heard testimony that barriers to voter participation remain for people of color and language-minority voters, and the wave of anti-voter bills continues in state legislatures. Yet we know that these hurdles do not reflect the will of the people.

The freedom to vote is not a political issue—it is a Constitutional right. Americans of all races, backgrounds, genders, and zip codes have the same right to vote. The Freedom to Vote Act will restore federal protections gutted by the *Shelby County v. Holder* Supreme Court case and under attack from the wave of anti-voter bills sweeping the nation, while modernizing the ways in which voters access a secure and convenient process.

Tell your members of Congress to support the Freedom to Vote Act now!



DIVERSITY – EQUITY – INCLUSION

This year AAUW National has put greater emphasis on DEI – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Each branch was asked to have a DEI chair to share the importance of these in every aspect of our branch programs, activities and outreach. Independence co-chairs are Courtney Yount-McGinnis and Sue Raymond.

Programs have already been determined for this year; the plan is to introduce DEI concepts throughout 2021-2022.



AAUW invites you to make a critical investment—in yourself. When you take one of our [free Money Smart virtual workshops](#), you'll get the resources and support you need to optimize your earnings and create the future you want.

Money Smart was made possible through the generosity of The Coca-Cola Foundation. It includes three one-hour, facilitator-led virtual training sessions that build on each other but can also be taken independently.

This new opportunity kicked off on October 7. The online tool will help you [learn the ins and outs of budgeting](#) and how to create a money plan that aligns with your personal values.

Starting on Oct. 14, we'll share information about [managing credit and debt](#), including student loans, before finishing with sessions on retirement planning and investments. Did you know that women hold more than two-thirds of the nation's student debt, and Black and Brown women tend to borrow more because they have less family wealth to rely on?

That's why investing in yourself can lead to a more equitable future for **all** women. And you can do it without spending a thing, except your time. Registration times will be announced soon.

Sincerely,

Gloria Blackwell
AAUW National
Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer

AAUW-Independence - "CENTURY CLUB 2021"

Independence Branch has a great tradition of supporting AAUW scholarships and programs at the national and local levels. Since 2015 AAUW-Independence has recognized members who have made personal donations to the AAUW Fund and to our branch projects.

The branch finance committee recommends the following guidelines beginning in 2021:

New Name: "CENTURY CLUB" -- "CENTURY" will refer to a \$100.00 donation, not to 100 years

State Level: "Century Club" Recognition

\$ 100.00 donation to national **AAUW Fund** – tax-deductible – to support the programs and projects at the national level.
(Checks made to AAUW. Or on-line donations at aauw.org)

State Level: "Century Club Plus" Recognition

\$ 250.00 donation to national **AAUW Fund** – tax-deductible – to support the programs and projects at the national level.
(Checks made to AAUW. Or on-line donations at aauw.org)

Branch Level: "Century Club" Recognition

\$ 100.00 cumulative donation to any of the following:

- **AAUW Fund** – tax-deductible – to support the programs and projects at the national level. (Checks made to AAUW. Or on-line at aauw.org)
- **Independence School District Foundation** – tax-deductible – local high school scholarships. (Checks made to ISD Foundation: AAUW on the memo line)
- **AAUW-Independence "As Needed" Fund** – flexible funds for additional branch projects (Checks made to AAUW-Independence)

Contributions to the fund(s) of your choice will be credited within the calendar year (same as national AAUW.) Recognition will be given at our annual May luncheon.

Deadline for 2021 Century Club contributions is December 11, 2021. Checks may be given to Lois Domsch, Financial Officer, or to Patt Braley, AAUW Fund Chair.

AAUW-Independence - "CENTURY CLUB 2021" (Cont'd)

AAUW-MO Star Award & Branch Action Plan 2021-22

AAUW Fund (Achieve 4 of 6)

1. Meet the \$30 per capita State goal for 2021 giving (\$1470.00)
2. Have 1 Century Club Member per 25 branch members in 2021 (yes)
3. Have 1 Century Club Plus member per 50 branch members (yes)
4. 50% of branch members give individually to Greatest Needs Fund (appx 23 people)
5. Appoint a branch AAUW Fund chair and communicate with State AAUW Fund chair (yes)
6. Make a (branch) gift to AAUW Fund in honor of AAUW's 140th anniversary (yes)

Financial Report ~ Lois Domsch, Financial Officer

July-August-September 2021 AAUW Financial Report

CHECKING ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 6/30/2021			\$2912.61
RECEIPTS			
7/7/2021	Deposit	176	
7/13/2021	Transfer from Savings	2000	
7/16/2021	Deposit As Needed Fund	100	
7/16/2021	Deposit National \$16 x 2 members	32	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$2308	
DISBURSEMENTS			
4633 7/7/2021	Teresa Dean refund overpayment of nat. dues	62	
8/18/2021	VISA 2 mbrshp to National	82	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$144	
BALANCE ON HAND 8/31/2021			\$5076.61

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 6/30/2021			\$10338.49
RECEIPTS			
7/31/2021	Dividend July	0.18	
8/31/2021	Dividend August	0.19	
9/30/2021	Dividend September	0.17	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$0.54	
DISBURSEMENTS			
7/13/2021	Transfer to Checking	\$2000	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$2000.00	
BALANCE ON HAND 8/31/2021			\$8339.03

TOTAL ASSETS 8/31/2021: Checking \$5076.61 + Savings \$8339.03 = \$13415.64

AAUW September 28, 2021 = Meeting Minutes ~ Gail Metcalf-Schartel

Members Present: Lisa Cox, Gail Metcalf Schartel, Jolene Cerveney, Karol Palmer, Sue Shineman, Patt Braley, Lois Domsch, Barbara Leabo, Sue Raymond, Renee Freers, Kelley Reetzke, Patty Chadwick, Courtney Yount-McGinnis, Kathy Vest, Judy Austin, Karen Johnson, Melissa Morawitz

Program

Guests: Maria Fleming, Donna Hoch, Evelyn Maddox

Renee Freers called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. via Zoom. She asked Sue Shineman to introduce the evening's special guest speakers.

Sue introduced Donna Hoch, Past President of the League of Women's Voters of Kansas City who has 48 years of experience in social work, and Evelyn Maddox, Past President of the League of Women's Voters of Missouri who has Human Resource experience in Kansas and with for profit organizations.

Their presentation centered on voter suppression in Missouri.

Business Meeting

Renee noted that the Public Policy Priorities for AAUW aligned with the topic of the speakers. Among AAUW's public policy goals is 'Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights'.

Renee introduced her friend Dr. Maria Fleming, a school administrator who had experience in the Independence, Raymore-Peculiar and Fort Osage districts who currently works with Franklin Covey training leaders.

Lois Domsch presented the budget for the coming year. At present the branch has \$13,415.47 in the checking and savings accounts. She noted that the full budget would be included in the yearbook. A motion (Lois Domsch/Kathy Vest) to approve the budget as submitted was approved unanimously.

Renee noted that there was an opening on the Board for someone to chair the fund-raising committee. She asked that anyone interested in serving contact her.

Kelley Reetzke reported that there are several bills/legislation that correspond to our mission statement that she had been watching. The process of most of these items has stalled or totally shelved.

Patt Braley presented information on the work branch finance committee. Rather than summarize her remarks, below is the report of the committee:

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(Both Century Club or Century Club Plus -Checks to AAUW or via on-line donations at aauw.org)

AAUW September 28, 2021 = Meeting Minutes ~ Continued

Branch Level: "Century Club" Recognition

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Barbara Leabo reported on College and University. She asked for help staffing the voter registration tables at Blue River Community College on October 5th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. She said that the Branch would be on that campus to discuss sexual harassment and Community Day as well. Jolene volunteered to be at the October 5th from 10-11:30 and Karol Palmer agreed to be there from 11:30-1 p.m.

Sue Shineman said that the October meeting would cover 'Membership Matters' and would include information by officers and chairs as to how much participation in activities relates to their roles. The Branch action plan will also be discussed.

Renee noted that a decision on when to meet in person had not been settled. She said that in conference with others, it was decided that the September, October, and November meetings would be held via Zoom. After discussing the November meeting, a vote was taken to determine whether it would be held in person or via Zoom. The vote was too close to call so that will be discussed at the October meeting. The hope is to have the December meeting as scheduled at V's but COVID will play into the final decision.

The question of distribution of yearbooks was raised. Patty said she considered delivering them, perhaps giving others a few to deliver.

Sue Raymond asked that she be sent any potential guests' information so that she can include an official invitation to a meeting. She encouraged all to ask friends to consider attending and joining AAUW.

Lisa Cox said that the newsletter deadline is October 7th and that she plans to distribute it by October 15th.

Renee thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting ended at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel