

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

Renee's Message

This month is a time of thankfulness for what we have and to those who have gone before us to protect our freedom and secure the life we enjoy today. I stand in awe of the strength that women in the United States have shown that now benefits my own life. I can vote, I can apply for any job I want, and I am free to run for a political office and take leadership roles in numerous ways on my job or in my community. That has not always been true and is still not true for many women in the world today. Not only have American women forged the path to freedom for other women in the United States, but they have also fought to protect our freedom as actual members of the military since WWII. Can you imagine the bravery and dedication it took for those women to not only step into a completely male-dominated field but to also put their lives on the line? May we all consider the risk, the strength, and the perseverance of those women who have stood up and led the way so that you and I can stand up now and share our opinions, strengths, and gifts with others? May we all take time to consider in what way we, here and now, can do to make a contribution to the women who will follow us? What can I do today, tomorrow, and next year to make an even better path available to the young ladies who will follow me? I will start by being thankful to those women who came before me and stepped up!



Renee Freers, President

Upcoming Events:

~November 16 - Independence AAUW Branch Meeting = Hybrid Format - In-person at First United Methodist Church **AND** via ZOOM (Link will be sent to members in a separate email). Social time begins at 6:30 pm, Meeting begins at 7 pm.

~November 21 - AAUW KC Northland ZOOM Meeting = MO Senator Lauren Arthur - Login begins at 2:00 pm/Meeting starts at 2:30 pm (See additional details within this newsletter)

~December 13 - AAUW Book Club We Are All Welcome Here by Elizabeth Berg, led by Patty Chadwick. Book Club is held at Jane Campbell's House

~December 11 - Christmas Potluck Luncheon and Meeting - 11:30 am Meeting/ 12:30 pm Potluck Luncheon. Program: Diversity in Holiday Celebrations ~ Courtney Yount-McGinnis. More details to follow.

November Program – Barbara Leabo, Program Chair

Chris McMullen, Regional Coordinator for KCMetro/Missouri will be sharing information about SewPowerful. SewPowerful's Purse program enables girls to stay in school. Purses are made and sent to Zambia as gifts. Please bring a guest and enjoy this interesting program. Masks required.

Membership = Sue Raymond, Chair

Hello from Membership! I am a "Proud Mama" for the success of our Membership Matters program at the October meeting. Our Branch created a program extraordinaire to celebrate Independence Branch AAUW. The program was intended to introduce the function and purpose of the Officers and Committees and you guys did an awesome job. Serving as a great intro to AAUW; it also gave us the opportunity to share with each other that each individual person; whether an officer, or a committee chair, or a Branch member; we are invaluable to each other. Each link in the chain is vital, and if one link broken, it affects the whole. With this explanation of each function; if there was anything that 'tickled your fancy' to support; let the chair know your interest. Thanks guys; I am so proud of you.



For those who did not join us; you are sorely missed. I know we are all "zoomed weary"; but I encourage you to join us when you can. We miss your participation and your input.



American Association of University Women – Kansas City Northland Branch

presents

Lauren Arthur

Missouri State Senator – 17th Senatorial District

Sunday, November 21, 2021

via ZOOM

2:30 pm – login begins at 2 pm



About Our Speaker

Senator Arthur won a special election to the Missouri Senate in 2018 and won a full term in 2020. Senator Arthur previously served two terms in the Missouri House of Representatives. After earning a bachelor's degree in history from Smith College, she earned a Masters of Education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and participated in Teach for America in Kansas City.

Senator Arthur serves on several Senate Committees including Appropriations, Education, Ways & Means, and General Laws. Among her legislative accomplishments include expanding the A+ Scholarship Program, expanding access to breast cancer screenings, protecting the housing security of survivors of domestic violence, addressing food insecurity for mothers in need, and reducing the tax burden on low-income families.

Zoom link is available from Sue Shineman, MO-AAUW President,

at sueshineman46@gmail.com

Please request the ZOOM link from Sue several days prior to the presentation so you have the ZOOM link ready on

Communications ~ Lisa Cox

Part of my duties as Independence AAUW's Communications rep include updating our branch website. There wasn't time to take you through the website at the last meeting, so click on the link below and take a tour if you haven't done so before. Additional changes will be coming!

Look for the following in the 10+ pages of the website...

- *information on the upcoming meeting (on the main page)*
- *the current newsletter (on the main page)*
- *Two years of newsletters (Newsletter Page)*
- *Woman of Achievement Information and Nomination Form*
- *Book Club Dates*

<https://independence-mo.aauw.net/>

AAUW Names Gloria L. Blackwell as New CEO

"I stand in a unique place, and I plan to use my skills and expertise to build a new and stronger vision for AAUW. I vow to grow our impact across all communities and expand our commitment to infuse equity and inclusion in everything we do."

The AAUW Board of Directors has selected Gloria L. Blackwell as the new Chief Executive Officer of AAUW, effective October 18, 2021. Blackwell, who currently serves as AAUW's Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer, was chosen for the role because of her deep executive experience and her impressive record of innovative contributions to AAUW's mission, according to AAUW Board President Julia T. Brown.



"As AAUW proudly celebrates 140 years of advancing equity for women and girls this year, we know that Gloria is the right leader at the right time," Brown said. "Her outstanding talents are unparalleled assets to AAUW. The Board and all our members are privileged to partner with Gloria to continue to uplift our mission and vision of equity for all."

To read the entire release, click the link below.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/aauw-names-gloria-l-blackwell-as-new-ceo/#:~:text=October%2013%2C%202021,in%20Paris%2C%20France.%C2%A0>

Public Policy ~ Kelley Reetzke

If you haven't signed up for **Fast Democracy** here is the link to do so:
<https://fastdemocracy.com/>

To track bills a **free** account will need to be opened. Control the number of email updates as part of your profile.

View Edit Change Cover Image	
Base	
Name	Kelley Reetzke
State	MO Missouri
State E-Mail updates?	Once a week "Never" receive email updates is also an option
US Congress E-Mail Updates?	Once a week
Home Town	Kansas City
Zip Code	64133

"Fast" fact: Fast Democracy is a Kansas City-based company nurtured by Digital Sandbox KC. Follow this link to the Fast Democracy origin story.

<https://www.startlandnews.com/2018/08/digital-sandbox-fast-democracy/>

After "digging" further into Digital SandboxKC, I found they are under the umbrella of UMKC's Innovation Center. This program offers women equal opportunity into the world entrepreneurship. . Check out the latest interactive impact report.

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/a5852de0-c547-4c76-b2b2-0f04f8c9e2ba> .

STEM Committee Report ~ Jolene Cerveny and Sue Shineman

October, 2021

Reducing barriers for girls and women in the field of STEM is a mission of AAUW's involvement in this area....***to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, advocacy and education.***

One step in achieving this goal is to increase girls' awareness and engagement in STEM. The projects the Independence Branch AAUW STEM Committee has identified address girls from early elementary grades through high school and beyond.

Our 4 goals are:

1. Share National AAUW resources with the Independence STEM Academy, specifically STEMEd for Girls and STEM packs.
2. Share "WOMEN IN STEM Who Changed Our World coloring books with 4th graders as they prepare for the WAX MUSEUM project.
3. Sponsor a STEM panel event targeted to 5th grade girls.
4. Award annual scholarship to a high school senior girl pursuing a career in a STEM field.

October 2021 AAUW Financial Report

CHECKING ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 9/30/2021 **\$5076.61**
RECEIPTS

10/27/2021 Deposit Bridge group money 180

TOTAL RECEIPTS **\$180**

DISBURSEMENTS

4634 10/12/2021 CopyPrint yearbooks 68.99

4635 10/12/2021 Reimbursement MO AAUW for Votes Grant 34.14

4636 10/13/2021 AHT Annual Insurance 200

4637 10/20/2021 140th Birthday Fund donation 140

4638 10/20/2021 LWV of MO Sept honorarium 40

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS **\$483.13**

BALANCE ON HAND 10/31/2021 **\$4773.48**

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 9/30/2021 **\$8339.03**

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$0.18

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$0.00

BALANCE ON HAND 10/31/2021 **\$8339.21**

TOTAL ASSETS 10/31/2021: Checking \$4773.48 + Savings \$8339.21 = \$13112.69

Woman of Achievement ~ Joyce Gillespie, Chair

The 2022 Woman of Achievement nominations will be due the coming year.....please be thinking of those greater Independence area women who are deserving of this AAUW award to be presented April 26, 2022.

Nomination forms available.

WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION

(Form is printed below)

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.

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

AAUW Independence Branch October 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Judy Austin, Barbara Bickham, Pat Bounds, Patt Braley, Jane Campbell, Jolene Cerveney, Patty Chadwick, Nancy Comtois, Lisa Cox, Lois Domsch, Renee Freers, Barbara Leabo, Karol Palmer, Sue Raymond, Kelley Reetzke, Gail Metcalf Schartel, Sue Shineman, Kathy Vest, Sarah Wimberly, Courtney Yount-McGinnis

Guests: Kathy Newman, Virginia McMullen

Renee Freers called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. via Zoom. She explained that the program would be a special one wherein the roles within the AAUW Independence Branch would be explained. Prior to the start of the program, she asked that guests be introduced. Sue Raymond introduced Kathy Newman who had been recommended by Jane Campbell.

Sue Raymond then began the program called 'Membership Matters'. Each person briefly explained their role in AAUW.

Those sharing were:

Sue Raymond, Membership
Renee Freers, Branch President
Pat Bounds, Program Vice President
Kelley Reetzke, Public Policy
Courtney Yount-McGinnis, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
Jolene Cerveney, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
Lois Domsch, Finance Chair.
Patt Braley, AAUW Fund
Jane Campbell, Hospitality Chair
Nancy Comtois, Corresponding Secretary
Lisa Cox, Communications Chair (newsletter, website)
Barbara Leabo, College and University
Kathy Vest, Student Awards
Jane Campbell, AAUW Book Club
Jane Campbell / Barbara Leabo, Bridge Groups
Sue Shineman, Bylaws and Policies
Gail Metcalf Schartel, Recording Secretary.
Patty Chadwick, Yearbook
Karol Palmer, Historian

Kelley Reetzke provided updates on laws that impacted AAUW policy stances that had passed and/or were currently being considered by lawmakers.

Courtney Yount-McGinnis also reported having read Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race and finding it to be impactful. The DEI committee hopes to have a reading group discuss the book in the future. Courtney Yount-McGinnis asked that those interested in reading and discussing this book, to contact her.

Kathy Vest, Student Awards, explained that some changes were set to take place, increasing the amount of the high school scholarship but limiting it to one student interested in STEM each year. She discussed the prospect of recognizing 8th grade girls, a slight change from previously recognizing middle school students at all levels in middle school.

Jane Campbell, AAUW Book Club which meets 9 times a year at her home. The group discusses books selected in August with various members leading each month's discussion.

AAUW Independence Branch October 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Patty Chadwick, Yearbook still has 14 yearbooks to get to members.

Renee congratulated Sue Raymond and Sue Shineman for their work to create such an informative program. She then called upon Pat Bounds to discuss a scheduling issue.

Pat Bounds asked members if they would be comfortable meeting at V's Italiano Ristorante on December 11th. Pat noted that a private room had been reserved tentatively for 25 people. A vote showed that the group was split down the middle. Renee suggested Pat contact V's to see if they would still reserve a room for 10-12, which Pat agreed to do.

Lois Domsch spoke about the conflicting information she and the Finance Committee received regarding setting up an endowment account with the Independence School District Foundation (ISDF) which the Branch had approved in April. The committee met multiple times and received different information each time. In addition, the ISDF would not commit to the terms voted upon, in writing. She explained that keeping the AAUW monies as a Temporarily Restricted Fund would offer more flexibility, allowing the Branch to make changes from year to year and allowing it to operate under the ISDF's 501C3 status. The flexibility would allow the Branch to support ISD students, but also allow support of other advocacy programs. The Finance Committee made the motion to keep branch ISDF funds as Temporarily Restricted Funds. The motion was approved unanimously.

Patt Braley noted that funds had been sent in for the national AAUW campaign. She said she would follow up on Century Club status, noting the deadline for making contributions for the Century Club was December 31st.

Lisa Cox reminded committee chairs and officers that articles for the next newsletter are due November 7.

A majority of members present indicated they would be willing to meet at the First United Methodist Church for the November 16th meeting. Renee indicated it would be hybrid with those uncomfortable about attending in person to participate via Zoom.

Sue Raymond will provide the guests' email addresses to Lois, so they can be invited to join with the Shape the Future discount.

Barbara Leabo said each couple from the Bridge Group makes a \$10 donation that goes to the AAUW Scholarship Fund.

Barbara Leabo shared the November program, 'Sew Powerful', is a program to support girls in Africa.

Renee thanked everyone for their presentations and efficiency and closed the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel