

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

AAUW Dec. President's Message

It is that time of year when I feel like everyone wants my money. The government has already sent me my property tax bill, Christmas is coming and I want to give gifts to those I love, there are needy families struggling with poverty who also need my support. My church is taking up additional donations, the organizations I belong to are requesting additional donations and I am actually getting emails about Giving Tuesday right after Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Does anyone else feel a little pressure to open their pocket book, yet have a sick feeling that they just do not have enough money to support all of the good causes that are out there? The holidays are such a wonderful time of year yet they come with a price tag.



Therefore, I have to make choices. I have to pay my taxes and I choose to get my family gifts and donate to needy families. However, I might not have enough left over, at this particular time of year, to support the organizations I am so deeply committed to so I have thought of other ways to support when my budget is tight. I can support them with my political influence and with my connection to others. How do I do this, you might be asking. I go to the AAUW webpage and I find that I simply follow a few steps and I can instantly email my representative and let him/her know I support paid time off. I can share the wonderful tools AAUW provides women to negotiate a fair salary with a niece, granddaughter or young person at church. I can even invite a friend to the January AAUW meeting so they can learn how we can help fight human trafficking right here in our own community.

I encourage you to make the choice to support organizations you believe in whatever way is best for you. Either make a donation of money or a donation of your influence or connections. All of us can make a difference in advancing other women.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Renee

December 11, 2021 ~ Christmas Program & Potluck Luncheon Event***

Our December 11 meeting will be at IFUMC. Social time will start at 9:30 am with coffee. The Program "Diversity during the Holidays" with Courtney Yount-McGinnis will start at 10. Potluck lunch will be served after the program, around 11 (Jane says to bring your favorite dish). plenty of time to enjoy lunch - have a great visit and exchange candy bars for a donation to our Branch (Lois requests checks for easier accountability). Announcements will follow lunch.



***Remember to bring these items:

- your favorite dish to share/serving utensils
- your own plate and silverware, cups and beverages will be provided
- your checkbook for donations

Hope to see "all" of you!!

Pat Bounds, Program VP

Upcoming Events

~ **December 11** = Christmas Program and Potluck Luncheon = Social time = 9:30 am/**Program = 10 am/Luncheon = around 11.**

~ **December 13** = Book Club = We Are All Welcome Here by Elizabeth Berg, led by Patty Chadwick. See below for more info.

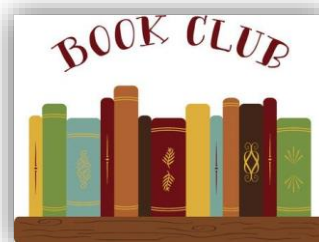
~ **January ??, 2022** = AAUW Independence Board Meeting = Date, Time and Place TBA. An email will be sent to Board Members with information as soon as possible.

~ **January 11** = AAUW Book Club = While Justice Sleeps by Stacy Abrams, led by Lois Domsch

~ **January 25, 2022** = Branch Meeting = Social Time 6:30 pm/Meeting 7 pm. Program: Sex Trafficking: A Form of Modern Slavery, presented by Emily Knox, Independence Police Officer.

AAUW Book Club ~ Jane Campbell, Chairperson

AAUW Book Club will meet on **Monday**, December 13, instead of the usual second Tuesday. We Are All Welcome Here by Elizabeth Berg is the book for December, and the discussion will be led by Patty Chadwick. All are welcome to attend at



Woman of Achievement = Joyce Gillespie, Chair

The Woman of Achievement award nominations will be due late February 2022 for review, selection and presentation late April 2022. Please be thinking of women in the greater Independence area who, through their work efforts and other unique contributions, are deserving of this annual honor.

Nomination forms will be available at the December 11 in-person meeting and will be mailed to those interested members unavailable to attend the December meeting.

Contact Joyce for more information.

Public Policy = Kelley Reetzke, Chair

AAUW's policy work advocates at the local, state, national, and global levels to empower women and girls to push forward policies that break through educational and economic barriers.

Please check out the AAUW 2-Minute Activist site. There are two bills that need our help NOW! Follow the links and scroll to the bottom to find a form that will be sent to the appropriate legislator.

Prioritize Paid Leave & Child Care

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

On November 19, 2021, the House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better Act. The legislation now moves to the U.S. Senate — Urge your Senators to get this important bill across the finish line with AAUW priorities intact!

Pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

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

On May 14, 2021, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act passed the U.S. House in a bipartisan 315-101 vote. AAUW strongly supports this legislation and the protection against workplace discrimination it would provide. The bill now advances to the Senate, where your voice is more important than ever.

MESSAGE FROM AAUW NATIONAL:

CELEBRATING 140 YEARS OF PROGRESS TOGETHER

This month marks AAUW's 140th birthday—and members, supporters and staff celebrated in style. On Wednesday, November 17, AAUW National hosted a virtual event with more than 1,500 registrants, one of our largest-ever online gatherings! Among the festivities, we:

- Showed a [video](#) highlighting the women who are part of our rich history and dynamic present.
- Unveiled our distinguished 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition [Awardee](#) Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization, and shared CEO Gloria L. Blackwell's extensive conversation with her.
- Recognized AAUW [affiliates](#) marking their own milestones.
- Kicked off our year-end giving campaign with an unprecedented match from AAUW's board, volunteer leaders and staff. [Donate now](#) to have your gift matched up to **\$75,000!**

We'll make the event recording available as soon as possible in our webinar library. Meanwhile, enjoy the [special 140th anniversary page](#) we created for you on our website.

SewPowerful

November Program
Speaker, Chris
McMullen, holds
purses created for the
SewPowerful Program.
Use your phone
camera to capture the
QR code on the flyer
and learn more about
this invaluable
program, or search the
website listed.



**Sew A
Purse
Change
A Life!**

*Join our global
movement to
keep girls in
school all month
and equip
African women
with good
paying jobs!*

sewpowerful

SCAN ME

**Download the free purse pattern
and join our team today at:**
www.sewpowerful.org

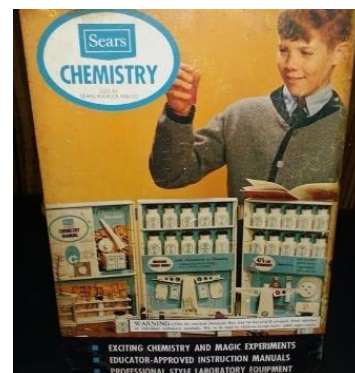


www.sewpowerful.org

The 30 Best STEM Toys for Kids, According to the Scientists at the Good Housekeeping Institute

Get them coding, building and mixing up concoctions in your at-home science lab.

Science toys have come a *long* way since the old home chemistry set you used to have as a kid. Today's hot toys that focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) have kids coding before they enter preschool, constructing elaborate scenes, making their own room decor and even building their own robots. And since everyone is looking to build up their STEM skills, it's a sure bet that educational toys are a welcome addition to any toy library.



But which ones? The Good Housekeeping Institute Little Lab put its own scientists on the case, evaluating STEM toys for quality, ease of use and whether or not kids engage with the **concepts** behind them. Then, more important testers — kids themselves — made sure they were fun, since no one's learning anything from a toy that sits in a closet. We put their recommendations together with some editors' picks and bestsellers to make this list of the best STEM toys of 2021. There are the usual microscopes and experiment kits, but also (programmable) magic wands, cool kits that blend science and art and lots and lots of coding robots. Your budding scientist won't know what to play with first!

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/childrens-products//best-stem-toys>



STEM & Christmas: Looking for a unique gift for that special grandchild? Consider a STEM toy. This article from the Good Housekeeping Institute has some great ideas!

November 2021 AAUW Financial Report

CHECKING ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 10/31/2021		\$4773.48
RECEIPTS		
11/4/2021	Deposit Bridge group money	60
11/15/2021	Deposit National \$16 x 1 members	16
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$76.00	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$0.00	
BALANCE ON HAND 11/30/2021		\$4849.48

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 10/31/2021		\$8339.21
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$0.17	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$0.00	
BALANCE ON HAND 11/30/2021		\$8339.38

TOTAL ASSETS 11/30/2021: Checking \$4849.48 + Savings \$8339.38 = \$13188.86

AAUW Independence Branch November 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Judy Austin, Pat Bounds, Jane Campbell, Jolene Cerveney, Patty Chadwick, Lisa Cox, Lois Domsch, Maria Fleming, Edwina Forke, Renee Freers, Karen Johnson, Jan Keeler, Barbara Leabo, Virginia McMullen, Gail Metcalf Schartel, Sue Shineman, Judy Tyson,

Guests: Chris McMullen

Renee Freers called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church. She expressed pleasure in seeing members in person and greeted those who attended via Zoom. She asked Pat Bounds to introduce the evening's program. Pat noted that Barbara Leabo would introduce the speaker. Barbara noted that given when she heard so many members mention having learned sewing from their mothers during our virtual Mother's Day Tea, that she felt the SewPowerful program would be of interest to the group. She introduced Chris McMullen, Great KC/Missouri Regional Coordinator of SewPowerful.org.

Ms. McMullen gave an overview of the program, explaining the program's goal: 'On a mission to combat extreme poverty through sewing.' Essentially, volunteers in the United States sew purses to be distributed to school-aged girls in Zambia. Women, employed in Zambia, sew reusable feminine hygiene products and other individuals in Zambia make soap. Two pair of underwear, several pads and a bar of soap are put into each purse and given to school girls. These students otherwise would miss school during their menstrual cycles due to a lack of sanitary supplies.

Ms. McMullen explained that those who liked to sew could make purses from the pattern provided on the SewPowerful website. Those who did not sew could provide cards to be included or make cash donations to cover the costs of materials and postage. She circulated information about the organization to those in attendance.

AAUW Independence Branch November 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

SewPowerful Presentation (cont'd)

Another program was mentioned by Ms. McMullen. The Kansas City Sewing Labs is an organization that provides lessons to those wanting to learn how to sew professionally. She explained that one project undertaken by the Sewing Labs was production of canvas bags that had information on organizations that offer assistance to the homeless on one side and a map of Kansas City locations on the other side.

Pat Bounds discussed the December 11th program. She explained that instead of meeting at V's Italiano Ristorante, a potluck would be held at First United Methodist Church from 9:30-2:30. Courtney Yount-McGinnis will present a program on Diversity during the Holidays. In addition, a fund raiser for the Branch will involve small stockings holding candy bars that can be taken and replaced with checks payable to AAUW. Jane told individuals to bring what they wanted for the potluck.

In January, Pat explained that the program would include Police Officer Emily Knox discussing sex trafficking in Independence.

Barbara Leabo asked for volunteers on November 30th to help register voters at Blue River Community College.

Sue Shineman announced that a group would be doing research on Missouri women involved in the suffragette movement prior to 1920. The project, Vote for Women Trails, is projected to be a two-year project coordinated by Pat Shores from St. Louis.

Renee announced that two positions were still open in the organization: fundraising and publicity. She noted that the publicity position would primarily be responsible for creating and maintaining a Facebook page for the branch.

Renee also called for 3 people to work as the nominating committee for the coming elections. Three board positions to be filled are: membership, corresponding secretary and finance officer. Sue Shineman agreed to serve on the nominating committee.

Lisa Cox asked that information for the December newsletter be sent to her by December 5th.

Jolene Cervený pulled Judy Tyson's name to receive a door prize.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel, Recording Secretary