

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

Dear Fellow Members,

On March 15, 2022, Equal Pay Day came and went and I did some research to learn more about this day. I was rather naïve and thought this was just a day recognized in the United States. I learned countries all over the world were recognizing this day and bringing attention to this important issue. It was exciting to think so many are working toward the same goal but shocked to learn that 12 countries have already reached full equal rights for women, according to the *Women, Business and the Law 2022*, [Link here](#), and we are NOT one of them. I like to think of the US as a progressive, human rights advocate, but this certainly points out we have much work still to do. I learned in 1869 female government workers were making 50% of what their male counterparts were earning, and a letter was written to the NY Times to point out this discrepancy. By 1870 a watered-down bill passed the Senate aimed at improving this situation, but it did little to impact the situation. It wasn't until 1911 that NYC female teachers finally made equal pay with their male counterparts. Unfortunately, we didn't even have a national Equal Pay Law until 1963 when JFK signed it into effect. Today women make \$.83 to a dollar that men make, and we still hear about women, even in our education world, who are not paid equally to their male counterparts. It has been 153 years since this issue has been brought to the public's attention with legislation following and we have only gained \$.33 toward our efforts. What is most important to remember is that you can help. Stay informed, ask the hard questions, and never let this issue be forgotten until we have reached Full Equal Rights. Until then, **we have work to do ladies.**



Thanks,
Renee

AAUW friends: You are invited to join us at our April 26 regular branch meeting. We will be honoring our 2022 Woman of Achievement - Eileen Weir. Please plan to attend to honor her and thank her for her outstanding leadership. Past Woman of Achievement recipients have also been invited to attend.

2022 Woman of Achievement: Eileen Weir

Most recently, Eileen has served Independence as Mayor for the past 8 years. She has been an activist for Independence and its residents for more than 20 years, working to ensure resources are available for organizations and people of all kinds. She set the goal to create a new comprehensive development plan when she was elected to the City Council in 2012. In 2017, "Independence for All" the 5-year strategic plan was adopted by unanimous vote. It was the first published Strategic Plan and included quarterly online performance measures. Eileen led the development of the strategic goals, objectives, and tactics through engagement with citizens, businesses, school districts, and civic leaders.



Under Eileen's leadership, "Imagine Independence 2040" was adopted by the City Council by unanimous vote in 2018. It is the city's first comprehensive development plan since 1993. During her time in office, Independence has experienced growth in median income and private capital investment. Jobs have been retained and new jobs created to help keep Independence families in our neighborhoods and schools. Eileen is strong at conceptualizing, planning and implementing initiatives to make positive changes to improve the City and the lives of Independence residents.

Joyce Gillespie, Chairperson, and Sue Shineman

The 2022 Independence High School
Student Scholarship Award has been awarded to...

Jasmine Bartres!

Jasmine plans to attend our meeting on April 26th to receive her award. Please plan to attend, honor her, and hear about her educational journey!

Kathy Vest, Chairperson

Upcoming Events :

April 26 ~ Branch Meeting ~ Presentation of Independence High School Student Award by Kathy Vest and recognition of the 2022 Woman of Achievement by Joyce Gillespie. Social Time 6:30 pm/Meeting 7:00 pm. This meeting will be held in the hybrid format...both in-person and via ZOOM. Zoom link will be sent prior to the meeting. *The recipients and their families will be in attendance for these presentations, so please attend in person, if at all possible, to represent our branch and support these deserving Ladies!!*

May 6 and 7 ~ AAUW Missouri State Conference 2022 ~ Informational page and Registration Form have been attached to the emails delivering the March and April newsletters and are available on the website: <https://independence-mo.aauw.net/> (find the flyers at the bottom of the page).

May 10 ~ AAUW Book Club ~ Home Place by Connie Roman, led by Doris McCartney. Book Club meets at Jane Campbell's home at 10:30 am.

Saturday, May 14, 2022 ~ Independence Branch Annual Meeting



First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall ~ 9:00 am Brunch

- *Recognition of 2021-2022 New Members*
- *State Meeting Report*
- *Installation of Officers*

College and University ~ Barbara Leabo, Chairperson

Sue Shineman and Barbara Leabo participated in Equal Pay Day on March 23rd at Blue River Community College. They shared information about Equal Pay, handed out numerous factual printouts, and explained AAUW's Work Smart program to students.

March 22, 2022 Program Recap

Gloria Smith, 2021 Woman of Achievement Award recipient, presented our March 22 program "Memorable Women in Independence "Herstory". Gloria is a lifelong resident of Independence and has a passion for hometown history. The members heard fascinating historical information about Elizabeth Virginia Wallace (Bess Truman), Mary Paxton Keeley, and Susannah Catherine Gentry.



It's time to Renew Your AAUW Membership for 2022-2023

In the 2nd year of the AAUW National Board vote to raise national dues, its portion increases by \$5. State and Branch stay the same. Therefore, our new dues are...

(Association-\$67 State- \$10 Branch-\$16 which you pay in one lump sum)

Total-\$93

Since national is still working out the bugs of its new Community Hub on-line system, it will be best just to pay dues by check this year. Therefore, ...

Make check payable to AAUW by June 1 and mail to:

Lois Domsch, 3349 S Scott, Independence MO 64052

Or bring to the April branch meeting.

***Do not go to the website to renew. The system is not reliable yet.

March 2022 AAUW Financial Report

CHECKING ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 2/31/2021			\$6023.50
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$0.00	
DISBURSEMENTS			
4642	3/3/2022	Sue Shineman AAUW Stamp	16.92
4643	3/3/2022	Voided check for Stewardship Capital	0
4644	3/14/2022	AAUW Northland Branch - ReEntry	550
4645	3/14/2022	AAUW MO Public Policy line item return grant	100
4646	3/22/2022	Gloria Smith March speaker	40
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$706.92	
BALANCE ON HAND 3/31/2022			\$5316.58

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 2/28/2021			\$8339.74
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$0.15	
DISBURSEMENTS			
		TD Ameritrade Withdrawl -	
		Stewardship Capital	
		Investment	5000
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$5000	
BALANCE ON HAND 3/31/2022			\$3340.05

TOTAL ASSETS 3/31/2022: Checking \$5316.58 + Savings \$3340.05 = \$8656.63



Making a Difference in Your World

NEGATIVE LEGISLATION ALERT!

The LWVKC **OPPOSES** the following Voting Rights bills:

Bill No.: HB 1678

<https://house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills221/sumpdf/HB1678I.pdf>

This bill:

- Injects a partisan authority into local administration of elections
- Allows the Secretary of State to mandate voter purges and defund local boards of election
- Could result in voter registration purges for voters who do not vote in a 25-month period

Bill No.: SB 654

https://www.senate.mo.gov/22info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=71261044

This bill:

- Allows for partisan intrusion into local election authorities
- Will have a chilling effect on the efforts of the LWVKC and others to register voters
- Will prohibit electronic voting tabulation equipment after 1/1/24

NOTE: Email your representatives to express your opposition to Voting Rights Bills. (Example text) "I am opposed to bills that grant the Secretary of State the ability to withhold funds from local election authorities and that restrict volunteer voter registration efforts."

Find your state representative at <https://house.mo.gov/legislatorlookup.aspx>

Find your state senator at

<https://www.senate.mo.gov/legislookup/default.aspx>

Public Policy (cont'd)

The LWVKC **OPPOSES** the following Education bills:

Bill No.: HB 1814

<https://house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills221/sumpdf/HB1814P.pdf>

This bill allows public school students to transfer to a public non-resident school district if the parent pays school taxes on property owned in the non-resident school district.

NOTE: This bill has passed the House and is headed to the senate. Email or call your State Senator to express your opposition.

Bill No.: HB 2652

<https://house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills221/sumpdf/HB2652C.pdf>

This bill modifies the public-school accreditation and statewide assessment system.

- Will disadvantage traditional school districts in racially diverse neighborhoods and fails to account for socioeconomic factors.

Bill No.: HB 1753

<https://house.mo.gov/BillTracking/bills221/memsum/HB1753ss.pdf>

This bill diverts public funds from public schools to private educational services.

- Lacks accountability
- Schools may be administered by addiction support programs which promote religion (in violation of MO Constitution separation of church and state)

NOTE: Contact members of the House Rules - Legislative Oversight Committee to express opposition

[Missouri House of Representative - Committees \(mo.gov\)](https://house.mo.gov/committees)

Bill No.: HB 1552

<https://house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills221/sumpdf/HB1552P.pdf>

The bill requires school districts to pay for each pupil attending a charter school in that district.

NOTE: This bill has passed the House and is headed to the senate. Email or call your State Senator to express your opposition.

Public Policy(cont'd)

Bill No.: HB 1933

<https://house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills221/sumpdf/HB1933I.pdf>

This bill:

- Narrowly defines a civil rights era
- Mandates a civil rights curriculum, written at the state level.
- School districts must adopt and use the curriculum or one that is substantially similar.

NOTE: Contact members of the Elementary and Secondary Education Committee to express your opposition.

[Missouri House of Representative - Committees \(mo.gov\)](#)

Find your state representative at

<https://house.mo.gov/legislatorlookup.aspx>

Find your state senator at

<https://www.senate.mo.gov/legislookup/default.aspx>

AAUW Independence Branch March 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Patt Braley, Jane Campbell, Jolene Cerveney, Lisa Cox, Lois Domsch, Renee Freers, Joyce Gillespie, Jan Horner, Karen Johnson, Jan Keeler, Kathy Kelley, Barbara Leabo, Virginia McMullen, Karol Palmer, Sue Raymond, Gail Metcalf Schartel, Sue Shineman, Judy Tyson, Kathy Vest

Guests: Michelle Fry, Karen Muelleman, Gloria Smith, Gail Watson

Renee Freers welcomed all in attendance, both in person and those on Zoom. She asked Sue to introduce the speaker and her guests. Sue welcomed Gloria Smith, Gloria's sister Gail Watson, niece Michelle Fry, and travel buddy Karen Muelleman to the meeting. She went on to introduce the speaker, Gloria Smith, the 2021 Woman of Achievement recipient. She noted Gloria's extensive involvement in organizations with historical ties including her lifelong interest in Independence genealogy, providing historic tours of Independence, presiding over the Jackson County Historical Society, the Junior Service League, Working on the restoration of the Truman Depot and the Chicago and Alton Station, Friends of the Truman Library Institute, Daughters of the American Revolution, and other organizations. Sue related that Gloria gives wonderful tours of the area and suggested a tour for a future meeting.

Sue noted that other members have been named Women of Achievement since its inception in 1957. They include Patt Braley (1989), Kathy Vest (1992), Jan Keeler (2014) and Judy Austin (2015), Sue Shineman (2020).

AAUW Independence Branch March 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Gloria Smith then spoke of her passion for all history and indicated her presentation would focus on three categories of memorable women. She discussed women who have wielded political influence including former mayor Barbara Potts and current Independence Mayor Eileen Weir. She spoke of her three favorite women from Independence: Bess Wallace Truman, Mary Paxton Keeley, and Sue Gentry. Her stories of these women were rich and entertaining.

The second category of important women noted by Gloria was those who volunteer, providing services in multiple areas and via multiple organizations including the Junior Service League, Mother's Refuge, Animal's Best Friend and Meals on Wheels. She said the thousands of unpaid hours warranted special recognition.

The third group of important women were categorized as the caregivers. She related anecdotal examples of caring for elderly parents, invalid partners, and raising grandchildren as some of those in the category.

After responding to questions and comments, the group thanked her for her presentation and a short recess was called.

Renee opened the business segment of the meeting by reminding members of the AAUW Missouri State Conference will be held in Columbia, MO on May 6th and 7th. Registration information was provided via email and she said there was the possibility of scholarships for expenses through the organization. Renee reported that she was completing the STAR Award application for the Independence Branch, noting that STAR Award recipients will be recognized at the Conference. She called on volunteers to assist with preparation of a 3 foot display of the Branch's accomplishments since 1940.

Renee and Sue announced that past leaders of the branch could be honored in the program for the Conference for a donation of \$25. The recognition and program would be a part of the Friday night banquet at the Conference.

A motion (Lois Domsch/Kathy Vest) to contribute \$100 from the Branch to honor four individuals at the Conference was approved unanimously. A number of names were suggested for this honor. Patt Braley will accept names to be included as honorees. It was suggested a committee be formed to assure that no one is overlooked. Renee asked that she, Patt Braley and Lois Domsch organize this and try to have decisions made by April 15th.

Renee reminded members that civil rights lawyer Alexandra Brodsky will speak on Title IX at the downtown Kansas City Public Library on April 12th at 6 p.m. The talk will be live streamed as well.

Renee noted that Equal Pay Day was March 15th. Women are now paid \$0.83 for every dollar earned by men. Barbara Leabo and Sue Shineman will be at Blue River Community College on March 23rd to recognize Equal Pay Day.

Joyce Gillespie reported that the Woman of Achievement will be recognized at the April meeting and expressed hope that there will be a good turnout for that meeting.

Lois Domsch reported that the investment committee met and developed documents required for Stewardship Capital and made a \$5,000 investment. Ron Finke will be representing the Branch.

Sue Shineman discouraged members from paying dues early as a computer system glitch was causing issues.

AAUW Independence Branch March 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Sue Shineman said that anyone planning to attend the Re-entry Luncheon could meet at First United Methodist Church to carpool to the Brunch. At least five scholarships will be given: 2 from Toni Thornton, 2 from Greater Kansas City Branch, 1 from Parkville, and 2 from Interbranch Council.

Kathy Vest said that high school scholarship applications had been reviewed and three students were nominated for the single award. She reminded members that instead of a recipient from each high school, that a single \$1,000 scholarship would be awarded. She said that in 2023 8th graders would be considered for recognition as young ladies of achievement rather than the former practice of recognizing both 7th and 8th graders. The single 6th grade center has made recognizing 7th graders too difficult.

Jane Campbell thanked Jolene Cerveney for helping with hospitality.

Joyce Gillespie said that the annual brunch will be on May 14th.

Lisa Cox asked that all items be turned in by April 6th for the next newsletter. She also asked that anyone who has not received the newsletter from her new email address to let her know.

Lois Domsch won the door prize from Sue Raymond.

Renee thanked all for attending and there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel, Recording Secretary