



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881

## INDEPENDENCE BRANCH

Empowering women since 1940

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

### *President's Message:*

Mother's Day is just a few days away and I reflect on all the joy being a mother has brought me. I remember the many chores my mother did for me, ensuring my clothes were clean for school, breakfast was available, and the house was warm. Yet, I never realized the most important thing she did for me was set an example of a strong woman who opens doors for other women. My grandmother was an even better example of a strong woman. Grandmother started sharing with me at a very early age how important it is for me, as a young lady, to take a firm stand on issues that were important to me, not allow others to disregard me because I was a woman and she even told me to get a loan in my own name shortly after I receive my first full time job. I was so blessed to have them in my life. I hope that in my own way I can help other women. I don't have any daughters so I will help those women around me. I will listen to other women and their concerns. I will support women in power-especially at the polls. I will scold sexist remarks, adopt a zero-tolerance against belittling women, promote education for young ladies through my donation of money and my offer of guidance and support. I will keep my eyes open for ways to step up and promote fellow females. At our last meeting we were blessed to honor two fantastic women. Mayor Weir who put herself under public scrutiny to better her community with her leadership and wisdom and our young scholar who will be heading off to college soon to begin her journey as an adult. I pledge to encourage women to keep moving forward, expecting more and fulfilling their dreams. What can you do?



*Renee*

## Upcoming Events:

*~May 9<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for Annual AAUW Brunch Reservation and Payment. Reservation to Pat Bounds and \$15 payment to Lois Domsch.*

*~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.*

*~May 14 – AAUW Annual Brunch – 9 am. At First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Brunch will be provided by the church.*

## Jasmine Bartres ~ Student Scholarship Recipient

Jasmine Bartres, Van Horn student, is the recipient of the AAUW Independence \$1000 Student Scholarship Award. Kathy Vest presented the certificate to her at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Branch Meeting. Jasmine is a highly motivated student that has persevered and excelled throughout her schooling despite multiple challenges, including homelessness and the deportation of a parent.

Jasmine has taken multiple College Level courses while attending High School, as well as working 35 hours a week.

She plans to attend Kansas State University to study Architecture, with an emphasis in planning eco-friendly housing solutions for homeless individuals. Jasmine expressed great appreciation for the support of her social worker at Van Horn, Miss Jackson, and thanked the Branch for her Scholarship Award.



## Woman of Achievement ~ Eileen Weir

Joyce Gillespie presented Eileen Weir, Independence Mayor, the 2021-2022 Independence AAUW Woman of Achievement Award at the Branch Meeting on April 22, 2022. Joyce shared that Eileen could be thought of as an optimist, a volunteer, a friend, and a community-minded individual. Eileen

served on the City Council in Independence for two years prior to being elected as the 50<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Independence in 2014. She was elected for a second term in 2018. Mayor

Weir is the second female mayor of Independence, with Barbara Potts being the first. Mayor Weir 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.

In addition to being Mayor, Ms. Weir has served as a member of the Board for organizations including the Mid-America Regional Council, the Little Blue Valley Sewer District, the Independence Economic Development Council, the Kansas City Area Development Council, the Truman Library Institute, Truman Medical Center, ArtsKC, and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. Multiple Organizations and Initiatives benefit from her service on their committees: KC Rising, Eastern Jackson County Betterment Council, National League of Cities, and the Independence Chamber of Commerce. She serves as a member of the Junior Service League of Independence, Missouri Mayors United, Missouri Metro Mayors Caucus, Mayors Against LGBT Discrimination, and Mayors for Peace.

Mayor Weir thanked family, friends, and colleagues for supporting her efforts, as well as Independence AAUW, for the award.





## Eight Woman of Achievement Award Recipients

The ladies pictured above have all received the Woman of Achievement Award and were in attendance at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Branch Meeting. From left to right: Sue Shineman (2020), Eileen Weir (2022), Nina Anders (2017), Kathy Vest (1992), Patt Braley (1989), Alversia Pettigrew (2001), Kathy Killip (2013), and Jan Keeler (2014).

## Public Policy – Kelley Reetzke, Chairperson

Making a Difference in Your World



### LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

LWVKC **OPPOSES** this Voting Rights Bill

Bill No.: HB 1878

<https://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills221/sumpdf/HB1878P.pdf>

This bill:

- requires photo ID for absentee voting
- creates barrier for people without state or US issued ID
- similar bills struck down by the courts
- creates unnecessary costs for taxpayer

## **Public Policy (Cont'd) – Kelley Reetzke, Chairperson**

Call or email your State Senator to express your opposition. Not currently on the calendar, but next action is perfection in the senate chamber

<https://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/Default.aspx>

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LWVKC **OPPOSES** this Voting Rights Bill

**Bill No.:** SB 654

[https://www.senate.mo.gov/22info/BTS\\_Web/Summary.aspx?SessionType=R&SummaryID=6576394&BillID=71261044](https://www.senate.mo.gov/22info/BTS_Web/Summary.aspx?SessionType=R&SummaryID=6576394&BillID=71261044)

This bill:

- Modifies provisions related to elections
- LWV will face new burdens from the volunteer voter registration regulation/penalties
- Potential for unchecked partisan intrusion into election management.
- Sets up for an aggressive voter purge regime
- Language is vague regarding SOS withholding of funds from local election authorities

SB 654 is on the **Senate Calendar for Perfection.**

This bill has been on the LWVKC radar. The hearing has been rescheduled. There is still time (if you haven't already) to call or email to let your legislator know what you think of this bill

Find your senator here: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/Default.aspx>



### **Paycheck Fairness Act.**

Passed by the House, failed in the Senate.

Did you know the two senators from Missouri voted "NO" on this issue?

Call, write, or email Senators Blunt and Hawley to express how important this bill is to the women of Missouri! (See next Page for more info...)

## **Public Policy (Cont'd) – Kelley Reetzke, Chairperson**

Senators Blunt and Hawley home page with contact information

<https://www.senate.gov/states/MO/intro.htm>

To call your U.S. Senators through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at:

**(202) 224-3121.**

Suggested information for your message.

Hello, I am a constituent from [your city/state] and I am calling to urge the Senator to do their job and support the Paycheck Fairness Act. This critical legislation can help women, their families, and our overall economy rebound from the current crisis by guaranteeing equal pay for equal work.

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### **Engage in the Push for the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act!**

Why is the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act ([H.R. 1065/ S. 1486](#)) so important?

The bill requires employers to make reasonable accommodations for qualified employees affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, such as letting them carry bottles of water or take restroom breaks.

The PWFA passed the House on May 14, 2021. The Senate received the bill on May 17, 2021, and referred it to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Locate your representative by zip code.

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Follow this link to see how your representative voted.

<https://clerk.house.gov/Votes/2021143>

Committee Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Members

<https://www.help.senate.gov/about/members>

## Re-entry Luncheon

*Sue Raymond, Kelley Reetzke, Patty Chadwick, and Sue Shineman attended the Re-Entry Luncheon on April 9<sup>th</sup> at Trezo Mare in Kansas City. Pictured are Kelley Reetzke, Patty Chadwick and Sue Shineman.*



### April 2022 AAUW Financial Report

#### CHECKING ACCOUNT

<b>BALANCE ON HAND 3/31/2022</b>		<b>\$5316.58</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
4647    4/4/2022    AAUW MO Tributes State Conference	200	
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$200</b>	
<b>BALANCE ON HAND 4/30/2022</b>		<b>\$5116.58</b>

#### SAVINGS ACCOUNT

<b>BALANCE ON HAND 3/31/2022</b>		<b>\$3340.05</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$0.07</b>	
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>BALANCE ON HAND 4/30/2022</b>		<b>\$3340.12</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS 4/30/2022: Checking \$5116.58 + Savings \$3340.12= \$8456.70**

#### ISDF Temporarily Restricted Account

Statement 03/31/2021	<b>\$16341.55</b>
Statement 12/31/2021	<b>\$15326.55</b>

Interest accrued between 7/01/19 and 3/31/2021 was removed from the account. We were notified in February 2021 that we no longer had the endowed account both they and we thought we had.

The account, a 501c3, will increase only with donations. We will draw it down for our HS scholarships and other educational purposes as we designate for ISD students.

#### INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

3/22/2022 Initial investment with Stewardship Capitol, Ron Finke	<b>\$5000.00</b>
<b>Balance on Hand 5/01/2022</b>	<b>\$4973.26</b>

## AAUW Independence Branch -- April 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Patt Braley, Carol Brown, Jane Campbell, Jolene Cerveny, Patty Chadwick, Lisa Cox, Renee Freers, Joyce Gillespie, Karen Johnson, Jan Keeler, Kathy Kelley, Barbara Leabo, Karol Palmer, Sue Raymond, Kelley Reetzkee, Gail Metcalf Schartel, Sue Shineman, Judy Tyson, Kathy Vest

Guests: Nina Anders, Jasmine Bartres, Kathy Killip, Melissa Morawitz, Alversia Pettigrew, Jaime Simpson, Bob Weir, Carolyn Weir, Eileen Weir, Tom Weir

Renee Freers welcomed all in attendance, both in person and Barbara Leabo via Zoom at 7:03 p.m. She called upon Joyce Gillespie to introduce the Woman of Achievement for 2022.

Eileen Weir, the 2022 Woman of Achievement notably served on the Independence City Council for two years prior to being elected Mayor in 2014 and served two four-year terms as Mayor of Independence. Joyce said that Ms. Weir could be thought of as an optimist, a volunteer, a friend and as a community-minded individual. She cited the many organizations that Ms. Weir has served as a member of the Board for including the Mid-America Regional Council, the Little Blue Valley Sewer District, the Independence Economic Development Council, the Kansas City Area Development Council, the Truman Library Institute, Truman Medical Center, ArtsKC, and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. Her leadership includes serving other organizations as a member, committee member or officer.

Included organizations are KC Rising, Missouri Metro Mayors Caucus, Missouri Mayors United, Eastern Jackson County Betterment Council, United States Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, Mayors Against LGBT Discrimination, the Independence Chamber of Commerce, and the Junior Service League.

Ms. Weir accepted the award and thanked those who had encouraged and supported her efforts, including family, friends, and colleagues.

Sue Shineman then called forth past Women of Achievement: Patt Braley (1989), Kathy Vest (1992), Alversia Pettigrew (2001), Kathy Killip (2013), Jan Keeler (2014), Nina Anders (2017) and Sue Shineman (2020) to have their photo taken along with Ms. Weir.

Kathy Vest reported that the Scholarship Selection Committee had dined with the Scholarship recipient for 2022. She explained that rather than awarding three smaller scholarships to young women from each of the Independence high schools, that a larger, \$1000 scholarship was awarded to a single recipient. Jasmine Bartres, the scholarship recipient for 2022, was cited for having overcome being homeless and having a parent deported. Jasmine persevered, taking college courses in addition to her high school courses, maintaining a 4.0 grade point average, and working 32 hours a week at Wal-Mart. Ms. Bartres informed the group of her plans to attend Kansas State University to study landscape architecture and engineering with the intention of finding eco-friendly solutions to aid in providing housing for homeless individuals. She said that the Van Horn social worker, Miss Jackson, had been a great help to her and other students. She thanked the group for the scholarship assistance it provided.



## **AAUW Independence Branch -- April 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes (Cont'd)**

Renee told Jasmine that the AAUW Independence Branch and its members could be counted upon to support her in reaching her goals. She then called a short break to allow guests to chat with members prior to the business portion of the meeting.

After calling the meeting back to order, Renee:

- stated that she completed the STAR Award entry for the Branch and said that she believed the STAR guidelines would serve as a rubric for the Branch activities in the coming year;
- announced that the Missouri Conference would be held May 6 and 7, with five members from the Branch attending the conference; and
- reported that the Branch would honor several past leaders during the May 6 banquet.
- Sue Shineman announced that National voting was simple. Members will receive an email from Shannon Wolfe with instructions for voting.
- Renee asked members to pay dues via check given or mailed to Lois Domsch as the National software has a glitch and payment cannot be processed electronically at this time.
- She pointed out the two bags for depositing dues payments and payments for the May 14<sup>th</sup> Brunch were on the side table. RSVPs for the brunch must be made by May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Renee asked members to consider how to grow membership in the organization. She suggested that members consider inviting five people to join. She said she hoped that a social event might be held in August as part of recruitment efforts.
- Sue Shineman was thanked for her work on the 'no work' book sale.
- Jane Campbell thanked Lois Domsch and Gail Metcalf Schartel for their assistance with refreshments. She noted that Lois had provided cookies despite not being able to attend the meeting.
- Lisa Cox said that her Comcast e-mail has not been repaired so asked that all use her Gmail account instead.

Renee and Sue verified that members must hold a minimum of a two-year associate's degree to qualify for membership in AAUW. College students who attend a college with an AAUW affiliation may join for free and those who attend college at a non-affiliated school could join for \$18.81.

Kelley Reetzke said there were rare and old books that should be sold separately from the 'no work' book sale and said she would prepare information for them to be attached to the next newsletter to share with those who might want to purchase one or more of them.

Patty Chadwick won a door prize from Sue Raymond.

Renee thanked all for attending. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel, Recording Secretary