

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

Renee's Message

We can all list some really negative and even scary things about technology, the Internet, and how it can spread inaccurate and hurtful information. Yet, at the very same time, all of the advancements in technology offer us unbelievable resources at our fingertips. As I prepare to vote this month, I am amazed at what research I can do from my kitchen table. Heading to the polls informed with more than the information that wound up in my mail box or came through the local newspaper allows me to feel much more confident as I cast my vote. We don't always see the results we were hoping for, but we are allowed to cast our vote and make a difference. Sitting around and simply complaining about the way things are is a waste of time. Researching the issues, having conversations with those who have different opinions so we can grow and broaden our understanding, and then ultimately heading to the polls and casting our votes are such important things to do. I treasure the opportunity to learn, expand my thinking, and have my voice be heard by exercising my right to vote.



Renee



The November AAUW Independence Branch Meeting will be held on **November 15th**, because the Thanksgiving Holiday falls the next week on the 24th!!



The **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** at V's will be on Saturday, December 10th at 11:00 AM. The lunch will include: Toasted Ravioli, Chicken Lemonata with White Wine Sauce, Stuffed Pasta Shells with Tomato Sauce, Tossed Salad, Broccoli Normandy, Hot Garlic Toast, drinks (coffee, iced tea, and soft drinks). The cost is \$28.00 which includes tax and tip. Please pay by check and give to Patt Braley **no later than Dec. 1**. There will be Christmas stockings filled with candy bars to purchase. This is a great opportunity to invite guests. Barbara Leabo and Pat

Upcoming Events:

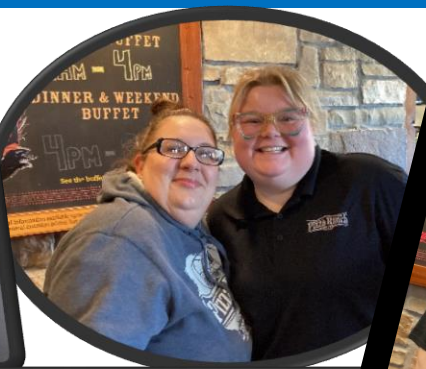
November 8 ~ Election Day!

November 8 ~ AAUW Book Club – **Fast Girls** by Elise Hooper, led by Debbie White.

November 15 ~ AAUW Independence Branch Meeting,
Program: **Book Banning and Current Legislation.** Speaker: Steve Potter.

November 15 ~ Please plan to pay for the Christmas Luncheon at the November meeting **OR** mail your payment, **by Dec. 1**, to Patt Braley (508 NW Murray Rd., Apt. 214, Lee's Summit, MO 64081...\$28, check payable to AAUW.

December 10 ~ **Christmas Luncheon** ~ V's Italian Restaurant, 10819 US Hwy. 40, Independence, MO 64055, 11am. **Bring your checkbook!**



Our Independence Branch sponsored a very successful fund-raising night at **The Pizza Ranch** on Bass Pro Drive, October 17. Many thanks to these dedicated members who volunteered at least three hours of their time: Sue Shineman, Jolene Cerveney, Sue Raymond, Lois Domsch, Nancy Comtois, Kathy Vest, Lisa Cox. Two special bussers that night were Sharon Mitchell and Lillian Schraml. Thanks too for various members who dined at the Ranch that evening or ordered takeout meals, plus those members who generously donated to support Branch programs and projects. Our grand total was about five hundred dollars. Thanks to Patt Braley, our new Treasurer, for ensuring a timely bank deposit. We look forward to 2023.

Joyce Gillespie, Chair



Pictured top to bottom, left to right: Sue Shineman with display board; Chalee and Tanya, Pizza Ranch manager; Pizza Ranch employees and Assistant Manager, Ron; Lois Domsch and Sue Shineman with display items; Sharon Mitchell, new member; Sue Shineman, Jolene Cerveney, Sue Raymond, Lois Domsch, Lisa Cox, and Kathy Vest with the tip bucket; Jane Campbell at the buffet.

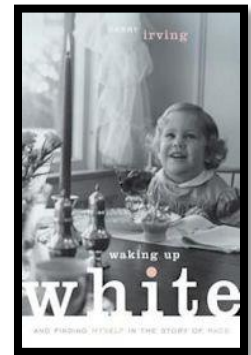
Inclusion Infusion - Understanding Unconscious Bias

While it isn't easy and often feels uncomfortable, learning to recognize unconscious biases within us is a critical step in becoming a more welcoming organization. Attitudes and perceptions we are unaware of may lead us to make choices that unintentionally exclude others.

Fortunately, once we understand how subconscious notions impact our actions, behaviors, and decision-making, we can start to foster a more inclusive, welcoming, and productive environment.

Only when we confront our biases are we able to truly recognize the value diversity brings to an organization like AAUW. It's important for our continued growth and sustainability as an organization to make a concerted effort to be inclusive and create spaces where everyone feels welcome.

Waking Up White, by Debby Irving is a good place to start learning more about yourself and unconscious bias. By sharing her sometimes cringe-worthy struggle to understand racism and racial tensions, she offers a fresh perspective on bias, stereotypes, manners, and tolerance.



November 15 Program

First Methodist Church

Social Time – 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Program – 7:00 p.m.



Speaker: Steve Potter, former director of the MCPL system

Topic: Book Banning and Current Missouri Legislation - the effects on readers in public and school libraries

AAUW Fund – “CENTURY CLUB 2022”

Examples of what the national AAUW Fund supports:

Research: Supporting the updates to and dissemination of Simple Truth and Deeper in Debt.

Programs: Filling the gaps when restricted funding does not cover 100% of the costs – NCCWSL, Work Smart/Start Smart/Money Smart, Empower.

Policy: Advocating for AAUW’s Values – the majority of our Policy Team’s budget is supported by Greatest Needs.

Operations: Supporting our infrastructure and sustainability

Membership: Providing support to our branches and states and offering opportunities to connect and engage – this includes our Connect Team and Site Resources.

Communications: In 2021, we had over 3.1 million social media impressions and our work has been cited in multiple National publications.

Our branch strives to meet the AAUW-MO Star Award and Branch Action Plan for 2022-2023 which includes this component for AAUW Fund - Branch Goals (Achieve 3 of 5)

- Appoint/maintain a branch AAUW Fund chair and communicate with State AAUW Fund chair. (Serve July 2022 through June 2023)
- Meet the \$30 per capita State goal for 2022 giving (Jan-Dec giving year). # of members 2/1/23 __46__ X \$30 = \$__1380__ Branch Total Giving \$_____
- Have 1 Century Club Member (\$100 or greater individual donation) per 25 branch members in 2022 (Jan-Dec giving year). # members _____ # CC members _____
- Have 1 Century Club Plus member (\$250+ or greater individual donation) per 50 branch members in 2022 (Jan-Dec giving year). # members _____ # CC+ members _____
- **50% of branch members give individually to Greatest Needs Fund in 2022 (Jan-Dec giving year).** # donors ____ / # members ____ = ____%

We’ve met 4 of 5 goals in recent years. We’d also like to meet the “50% of branch members” giving this year. A bonus—money donated now will be matched by the National Board!

Giving **\$100** to the **AAUW Fund** qualifies you as a Century Club Member and recognition by the **State**. Donations are calculated by calendar year ending December 31. You may donate at aauw.org or by check to AAUW Fund and give to Lois Domsch or Patt Braley by Dec. 10 at our Luncheon Meeting.

Alternatively, you may contribute \$100 cumulatively to the AAUW Fund, Independence School District Foundation-AAUW account and/or AAUW Independence “As Needed” Fund and receive the **Branch** Level “Century Club” Recognition. Donations are also due by December 10 to Lois or Patt.

Whether donating a lot or a little, every amount helps advance our priorities for equity for girls and women through research, education and advocacy.

Thank you for your continued support of AAUW!

Lois Domsch, Chair

October 2022 AAUW-Independence Financial Report

Patt Braley, Financial Officer

CHECKING ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 10/1/2022		\$5,763.20
RECEIPTS		
10/12/2022 Deposit - Pizza Ranch - member donation	\$50.00	
10/19/2022 Deposit - Pizza Ranch - tips/checks	\$260.00	
Deposit - Pizza Ranch - member donation	\$40.00	
Deposit -1 membership	\$93.00	
Deposit - Pizza Ranch – percentage	\$131.22	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$574
DISBURSEMENTS		
4662 10/17/2022 Dues to National - 1 member	\$77.00	
4663 10/17/2022 Bingham Waggoner - May deposit	\$50.00	
4664 10/17/2022 AHT Insurance - Liability Ins. 2023	\$200.00	
4665 10/25/2022 S Raymond - Sept event	\$49.74	
Visa Debit 10/29/2022 Dues to National - 1 member	\$77.00	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$(453.74)
BALANCE ON HAND 10/31/2022		\$5883.68

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 10/1/2022		\$3340.47
RECEIPTS		
Dividend – October	\$0.07	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$0.07
DISBURSEMENTS		
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$0.00
BALANCE ON HAND 10/31/2022		\$3340.54

TOTAL ASSETS 10/31/2022: Checking \$5883.68 + Savings \$3340.54 = \$9224.22

Stewardship Capital, Ltd. INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

BALANCE 9/30/22 \$4,748.60

ISDF Temporarily Restricted Account

STATEMENT 5/27/22 \$14,326.55

Public Policy, Kelley Reetzke, Chair

The Election is Over, Now What?

With the midterm elections over the world of public policy will get moving again. This is a good time to get reacquainted with the issues most important to AAUW.

While we wait for the newly elected to be sworn in check out the latest information on Equity and AAUW. <https://www.aauw.org/>.

Also, don't forget about the Two Minute Activist. <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

AAUW Independence Branch October 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Pat Bounds, Patt Braley, Jane Campbell, Jolene Cerveney, Patty Chadwick, Lisa Cox, Lois Domsch, Renee Freers, Joyce Gillespie, Karen Johnson, Jan Keeler, Kathy Kelley, Barbara Leabo, Karol Palmer, Sue Raymond, Kelley Reetzke, Sue Shineman, Judy Tyson, Kathy Vest

New Member Present: Sharon Mitchell

Guest in Attendance: Jackie Fairbanks

Renee opened the meeting at 7:09, welcoming members, guests and the speaker, Carolina Duin. Renee introduced Carolina, a Financial Advisor from AIG Retirement Services. Renee received invaluable financial advice from her, advice that was not mentioned by the three male advisors she had previously consulted.

Carolina Duin assists her clients in planning for retirement. She shared several facts about the retirement of women, as compared to men.

- Women are more likely to need assistance as they age, such as private nursing home care, with a median cost of \$100,000 annually.
- Women are 80% more likely to fall into poverty after retiring.
- Women tend to be more conservative than men when investing money
- Since women typically spend 20 years or more in retirement, this presents an opportunity to grow their money

Carolina also shared some tips for retirement:

- When minimum distributions are taken, pay the taxes on it and reinvest
- Create an online account with the Social Security Administration and use the estimator tool to estimate your retirement benefits: www.ssa.gov/myaccount/retire-calc.html
- Plan on needing at least 80% of pre-retirement income upon retirement.
- Be sure to ask questions when an advisor uses confusing terminology

Following the presentation, members asked questions, shared suggestions for investing, and thanked Carolina for her presentation. At 8:02 Sue Shineman led the members in an Inclusion Infusion activity centered on unconscious bias. Members discussed areas of unconscious bias in small groups at their tables, and each table shared the items that were discussed with the whole group.

Renee began the meeting at 8:20 by asking for a motion to approve the October minutes. The minutes were approved and seconded.

Kelley Reetzke, Public Policy chair, encouraged members to use election tools, and educate themselves and their relatives, particularly the younger, newer voters. Millennials and Gen Z make up 44% of voters and are being targeted for voter suppression. Check out the Public Policy section of the [October Newsletter](#) for links to several voter information sites

Sue Shineman shared that there were several voting handouts available to pick up on the table by the refreshments. She also shared information about a Forum on Thursday night, October 27, via Zoom. Go to LWVKC.org to register.

AAUW Independence Branch October 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes (Cont'd)

Barbara Leabo shared information about the Christmas luncheon at V's on December 10th. The cost is \$28 including tax and tip. She asked that members bring their checkbooks to the next meeting to pay for this event. Checks payable to AAUW, given to Patt Braley.

Lois Domsch provided information about the AAUW Fund. She asked members to consider making a tax-deductible donation nationally. This can be done directly to National AAUW, or a check to AAUW given to Patt or Lois. She explained Century Club and Century Club+.

Joyce Gillespie shared that 10 Members volunteered at Pizza Ranch. The fund-raiser was a success, with over \$500 raised.

Patt Braley shared information from the Financial Report. Some of the totals on the September Report were not visible in the newsletter. (We are working to remedy this!)

Kathy Vest shared information about Jasmine Bartres, our 2022 Scholarship winner. Her contact information will be included in the email containing the November Newsletter.

Jane Campbell thanked Lois and Sue for providing refreshments.

Patty Chadwick introduced her guest, Jackie Fairbanks.

The meeting was ended at approximately 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cox, Substitute Recording Secretary