

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

## *President's Message*

As the end of 2022 is right around the corner, I am thinking about my priorities for the new year. Time is one of my precious resources, although I don't often think about how important it is. When I stop and consider that, it reminds me of a quote I just love.

"The greatest reflection of your priorities is your time.

Whatever you say about what matters to you, the true test is where you place your time."

Nick Crocker. I work to keep this in mind when I am making choices about spending time with my family, on work projects and even when it comes to activities

I want to do for myself. I can't change how I have spent my time last year, I can't go back and spend more time playing with my kids or listening to my father's stories, but I do get to choose what I will do tomorrow and next year. I really like this quote, "Nobody's life is ever all balanced. It's a conscious decision to choose your priorities every day." - Elisabeth Hasselbeck. As the year comes to a close, I encourage you to consider what your priorities are. What do you want to accomplish, where do you want to contribute, where do you want to spend your precious time? Let's begin the new year with our priorities clear and our decisions based on those priorities. I am certain I will stumble and find myself spending time on things that are not my priorities but the priorities of others. I will need to practice getting up each day and considering how I am spending my precious time.

Happy New Year!



*Renee*

## Upcoming Events

December 10 ~ Christmas Luncheon/December Meeting ~  
11 AM at V's Restaurant, 10819 E US  
Highway 40, Independence, MO 64055.  
Patt Braley will accept checks the day  
of the luncheon, if you had not paid  
her yet. The deadline for reserving your  
spot was December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Stockings filled  
with candy bars will be available for  
purchase as a donation to the branch.  
You may wish to bring your checkbook!



December 13 ~ AAUW Book Club ~ Run, Rose, Run by Dolly  
Parton and James Patterson, led by Patty Chadwick.  
Book Club meets at Jane Campbell's house, 10:30 am.

## Last Chance...



To donate this calendar year to the  
AAUW Fund to help support national  
initiatives on equity for women and  
girls and be part of the State Century  
Club.

Send donations to Lois Domsch or  
Patt Braley or bring to the December  
luncheon...by Dec 10.

You'll also have a chance at the December luncheon to  
donate to branch causes and be part of the Branch Century Club.  
We thank everyone who has donated already!

Lois Domsch

## Jay Ashcroft Administrative Rule Information, Sue Shineman

### **Missouri secretary of state targets library books at state-funded libraries**

By Summer Ballentine - The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, a top Republican prospect for Missouri governor, wants to block public funding for library books that might appeal to the “prurient,” or sexual, interests of minors.

Ashcroft proposed the new rule on libraries this week. It does not include a more-detailed definition or include examples of which specific books would be restricted as appealing sexually to children or teenagers. The library proposal is what’s known as an administrative rule, which would have the same effect as a law if enacted.

“When state dollars are involved, we want to bring back local control and parental involvement in determining what children are exposed to,” Ashcroft said in a statement. “Foremost, we want to protect our children.”

**The Missouri proposal would require state-funded libraries to adopt policies on the age-appropriateness of literature, which is already common at both school and public libraries in the state. And under the rule, anyone could challenge access to books.**

**Libraries that violate the rules would risk losing state funding, which is doled out by the Secretary of State’s Office through the state librarian.**

In a statement, the Missouri Library Association called Ashcroft’s rule “an infringement on the professional judgment of librarians, and an effort to further stoke division in the communities that libraries serve.”

The group warned that small and urban libraries, which rely most on state funding, would face the greatest impact from the policy. Missouri Association of School Librarians President Melissa Corey said K-12 school libraries don’t receive many state grants, so the rules likely would impact local public libraries the most.

**Joe Kohlburn, who leads the Missouri Library Association’s committee on intellectual freedom, said books by queer and Black authors and books about women’s rights and reproductive health are frequent targets of book challenges in Missouri.**

**“It’s a culture-wars thing,” he said, adding that Ashcroft is attempting to “leverage the funding the State Library offers to undermine libraries in general and undermine their ability to serve historically marginalized populations.”**

Ashcroft has not yet announced a 2024 gubernatorial bid, but he listed his intentions for “statewide office” — not secretary of state, as he’s done in the past — on recent campaign documents.

He’s considered a strong potential gubernatorial candidate in large part because of name recognition. His father, John Ashcroft, previously served as Missouri governor, U.S. senator and as U.S. attorney general under former President George W. Bush.

The proposed rule comes as book challenges rise across the nation. Book challenges reached a decades-long high last year, according to the American Library Association, and challenges are set to break records again this year. The ALA documented 681 challenges to books through August, involving 1,651 different titles. In all of 2021, the ALA listed 729 challenges, directed at 1,579 books. Because the ALA relies on media accounts and reports from libraries, the actual number of challenges is likely far higher, the library association believes.

**A new law passed by Missouri’s Republican led Legislature this year made it a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail for educators to give K-12 students books with photos, drawings or other visual depictions that are sexually explicit. There are exceptions for anatomy, biology, art, or other images that are educational, and the law**

## Jay Ashcroft Administrative Rule Information (Cont'd), Sue Shineman

...**does not ban written descriptions that might be considered sexually explicit.** In Missouri, the state Constitution and state laws give statewide elected officials and state agencies the power to create additional guidelines beyond laws to help run government.

**Ashcroft's administrative rule proposal will be open for public comment Nov. 15 through Dec. 15. After that, his office has three months to rewrite the rule based on feedback, submit it as is or rescind it.**

**"We encourage all Missouri citizens to participate in the public comment period set to open on Nov. 15th," the Missouri Association of School Librarians said in a statement. "Support libraries – public, academic, and school – across Missouri and provide feedback on this restrictive and harmful rule change."**

A special legislative committee also reviews proposed rules to make sure they don't go beyond agencies' authority, but the committee can't veto a rule because of a policy disagreement.

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Linked are three statements from the American Library Association on Intellectual Freedom:

[Library Bill of Rights](#)

[Freedom to Read Statement](#)

[Code of Ethics for Libraries](#)

Key Points:

- Infringement on the First (Free Speech) Amendment
- Interferes with parent's role in parenting their children
- Oversteps the librarian's role and their longstanding best practices as shaped by the academic profession of Library Science
- Outside censorship of books and reading materials restricts access to educational practices that provide readers with "critical thinking skills" essential to participating in a democratic society.

Send your letter to Jay Ashcroft, Secretary of State, 600 West Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65101. Send a copy to Senators Barbara Washington and John Rizzo. They are both on the Administrative Rules Review Committee.

[john.rizzo.mo.gov/mem11/](http://john.rizzo.mo.gov/mem11/)

[barbara.washington@senate.mo.gov](mailto:barbara.washington@senate.mo.gov)

All emails sent to [comments@sos.mo.gov](mailto:comments@sos.mo.gov) must include '15-CSR 30-200.015' in the subject line. Comments can be submitted through December 15.

## **Woman of Achievement**

Hi ladies...please think about nominees for our 2023 AAUW Woman of Achievement.

Nominations should reflect professional / career information, volunteer / community activities, AAUW activities (if a member), educational history / achievements, words of accolade from friends / co-workers.

Nomination forms are available from Joyce and will be available at monthly meetings.

Please submit your nominations NLT 10 March 2023. Nominees will then be reviewed and selection confirmed by our selection committee.

Thanks for your continuing support of this long standing AAUW initiative to empower women in the greater Independence area.

Joyce Gillespie, Chairperson

## **Public Policy, Kelley Reetzke**

Why is it called a lame-duck session of Congress?

A "lame duck" session of Congress is one that takes place after the election for the next Congress has been held, but before the current Congress has reached the end of its constitutional term.

Congress may be "lame," but AAUW members act!

It is not too early to write incumbent or newly elected Senators to encourage their support for issues that are priorities. The League of Women Voters offer two suggestions.



1. The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.  
The *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act* (JLVRAA) will fully restore the *Voting Rights Act* (VRA) and ensure renewed oversight, accountability, and justice in our democracy.

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/support-John-Lewis-VRAA>

2. The Equal Rights Amendment

In January 2020, the final state voted to ratify the ERA. Now Congress must act to remove its ratification timeline so ERA can finally pass!

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/support-ERA>

Scroll to the bottom of each article for a fully scripted email that will sent directly to Missouri's US Senators.





## **A Day of Action for Pregnant Workers**

Pregnant workers need your help to push the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) across the finish line before the end of the year. While the legislation passed the House of Representatives in May 2021, the PWFA has stalled in the Senate ever since, despite bipartisan support. Tell the Senate they must pass PWFA before the end of the year!

### **This is where YOU come in:**

- Call our senators **AND** Senate Majority Leader Charles “Chuck” Schumer through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Here’s a suggested script for your message:

*Hello, I am a constituent from [your city/state] and I am calling to urge the Senator to do their job to ensure swift passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act before the end of this year. This critical legislation has the votes to pass, and pregnant workers cannot wait any longer for the protections it will ensure for them. Please pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act now!*

- Email Senators Josh Hawley and Roy Blunt and urge them to pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act before the end of the year!
- Ask your friends and family to join these actions!

Follow this link to learn more about the [Pregnant Workers Fairness Act](#) and **send an email, with suggested script, to Senators Hawley and Blunt.**

# November 2022 -- AAUW-INDEPENDENCE Financial Report

## CHECKING ACCOUNT

|                                 |                  |                                       |           |                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>BALANCE ON HAND</b>          | <b>11/1/2022</b> |                                       |           |                 | <b>\$ 5,883.68</b> |
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>                 |                  |                                       |           |                 |                    |
| AutoDep                         | 10/28/2022       | From AAUW - dues                      | \$        | 16.00           |                    |
|                                 | 11/7/2022        | Deposit - Bridge Money                | \$        | 120.00          |                    |
|                                 | 11/17/2022       | Deposit - Bridge Money                | \$        | 50.00           |                    |
|                                 | 11/16/2022       | Deposit - Member Donations to Jasmine | \$        | 165.00          |                    |
|                                 | 11/16/2022       | Deposit - December Luncheon           | \$        | 308.00          |                    |
|                                 | 11/16/2022       | Deposit - Century Club \$             | \$        | 300.00          |                    |
|                                 | 11/21/2022       | Deposit - Century Club \$             | \$        | 500.00          |                    |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>           |                  |                                       | <b>\$</b> | <b>1,459.00</b> |                    |
| <b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>            |                  |                                       |           |                 |                    |
| Visa Debit                      | 11/6/2022        | AAUW Fund - Bridge Money              | \$        | 120.00          |                    |
| Visa Debit                      | 11/6/2022        | AAUW Fund - Bridge Money              | \$        | 50.00           |                    |
| 4666                            | 11/15/2022       | Steve Potter - Nov. Program           | \$        | 50.00           |                    |
|                                 |                  | Jasmine Bartres - Student             |           |                 |                    |
| 4667                            | 11/15/2022       | Scholar                               | \$        | 165.00          |                    |
| <b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>      |                  |                                       | <b>\$</b> | <b>385.00</b>   |                    |
| <b>BALANCE ON HAND 11/27/22</b> |                  |                                       |           |                 | <b>\$ 6,957.68</b> |

## SAVINGS ACCOUNT

|                          |                   |                    |    |      |                    |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----|------|--------------------|
| <b>BALANCE ON HAND -</b> | <b>11/1/2022</b>  |                    |    |      | <b>\$ 3,340.54</b> |
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>          |                   | Corrected Dividend | \$ | 1.21 |                    |
| <b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>     |                   |                    | 0  |      | \$ -               |
| <b>BALANCE ON HAND -</b> | <b>11/27/2022</b> |                    |    |      | <b>\$ 3,341.75</b> |

**TOTAL ASSETS 11/27/2022: Checking \$6,957.68 + Savings \$3,341.75 + \$10,299.43**  
(INCLUDES KCIBC ReEntry Fund \$ 888.28)

## Stewardship Capital, Ltd. INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

11/27/2022 BALANCE \$ 4,860.65

## ISDF Temporarily Restricted Account

5/27/2022 STATEMENT \$ 14,326.55

## **AAUW Independence Branch November 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Patt Braley, Pat Bounds, Jane Campbell, Patty Chadwick, Lisa Cox, Lois Domsch, Renee Freers, Joyce Gillespie, Jan Keeler, Barbara Leabo, Gail Metcalf Schartel, Sue Shineman, Judy Tyson, Kathy Vest

Guests: Lindsay Cox and Steve Potter

On Zoom: Kathy Kelley and Melissa Morawitz

Renee Freers opened the meeting at 7:00 welcoming members and introducing the guest speaker, Steve Potter, the former Chief Executive Officer of the Mid-Continent Public Libraries.

Mr. Potter spoke on issues facing libraries today. He noted that the Library Bill of Rights was adopted by the American Library Association in 1939 in reaction to a book burning in East St. Louis, IL. It details how libraries should be providing information and materials to the public representing all points of view and standing up to censorship challenges. He explained that there is a difference between school libraries and public libraries. School libraries contain items that are compulsory reading whereas public libraries contain non-compulsory reading. School libraries are considered to act *in loco parentis* (in place of a parent).

Librarians have had more challenges in the first 8 months of 2022 (681 challenges with 1,651 titles) than all of 2021, when there were 729 challenges including 1,597 titles. Given the millions of library patrons and titles, these challenges represent a very small number but get attention as a squeaky wheel. Mr. Potter said that all libraries have a hierarchical system for dealing with complaints or requests for books to be removed. He said in the past two years of his employment, none had reached him as all were resolved by other individuals.

Mr. Potter noted that the current Missouri Secretary of State has proposed an administrative rule that would restrict any library receiving state funding from having any materials that might be considered to contain prurient information available. He explained that there was a 30 day comment period that started on November 15<sup>th</sup> for individuals to address the issue. He noted that while the Secretary of State estimated the cost of the rule would be \$500 to implement, that for the Mid-Continent Public Libraries the cost would exceed a half million dollars

After addressing questions from members, Mr. Potter ended his presentation.

Sue Shineman announced that AAUW was focused on supporting the issues impacting women, blacks, LGBTQIA people and reproductive rights, all of which would be targeted if this Administrative Rule is implemented. Sue encouraged everyone to write a letter to the Secretary of State, asking to have it rescinded. Also, to send the letter to John Rizzo and Barbara Washington, members of the Joint Review Committee on Administrative Rules. She went on to lead a brief Inclusion Infusion exercise.

Sue discussed the possibility of participating in a fundraising activity at Culver's. She noted that if the branch did fundraising twice a year at Culver's and at Pizza Ranch, approximately \$2,000 could be raised for scholarships. A motion (Sue Shineman/Lisa Cox) to hold a fundraiser at Culver's in April on a Monday was passed unanimously. Joyce Gillespie will set up the next fundraiser at Pizza Ranch in March. Sue will set up the one with Culver's for April.

Renee called for the approval of the October minutes. A motion to accept the minutes October 25 minutes as printed in the newsletter was made by Pat Bounds/Sue Shineman and was unanimously approved.



## **AAUW Independence Branch November 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Pat Bounds reported that 11 members had signed up for the December 10<sup>th</sup> luncheon at V's. The cost of \$28 is due by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Checks should be given or mailed to Patt Braley. Pat said that candy bars in stockings would be on tables to be replaced with checks to raise scholarship funding. In addition, there will be games and activities during the luncheon.

Lois Domsch reported on the AAUW Fund. She explained that one Century Club member was needed for every 25 members and at least one member was needed to give \$250. The final requirement is for 50% of members to donate to the Missouri AAUW Fund (It is suggested \$30 per member). Ten more members need to do this.

Sue Shineman reported that a record number of women were elected during the mid-term elections. Twelve women are now governors. 678 LGBTQIA individuals ran for office and 340 won their election. The mayor of Long Beach, CA is both an immigrant and gay. She noted this represented a 20% increase in LGBTQIA candidates. She said that Ashley Bland Manlove is the first LGBTQIA woman of color elected to the Missouri House of Representatives.

Patt Braley stated that the Financial Report was included in the newsletter.

Kathy Vest reported that she still had money donated to send to Jasmine Batres, the 2022 scholarship recipient and would accept additional funds before she mails the check to her. She noted that a member (Joyce Gillespie) had sent Ms. Batres a check separately from the collection.

Gail Metcalf Schartel distributed a list of suggestions from Sandy Whitehead on how best to prepare for doctor's visits. She reviewed the list and apologized for her absence in October. She also thanked Lisa Cox for taking and writing the October minutes in her place.

Renee noted that the speaker from October would not accept an honorarium. She wondered if it could be donated to the scholarship fund. Some discussion ensued and it was agreed to simply leave the funds in the general account.

Joyce Gillespie asked that members consider nominations for the woman of achievement.

Jane Campbell thanked Pat Bounds and Renee for their assistance with setting up the refreshments. She asked for volunteers for January. Jan Keeler and Lisa Cox volunteered.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel