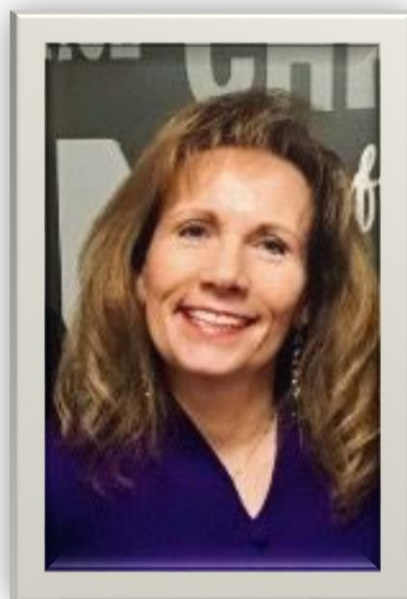


AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

### ***Renee's Message:***

The month of January is full of looking back over the previous year, looking forward to the new year ahead and thinking about how to make the most of the gift of another year. I have never made a New Year's Resolution. I certainly consider things I want to accomplish over the coming year and that might be what you are doing, as well. Popular goals include healthier choices, better financial choices, and/or how we spend our precious time. As the new year begins, I challenge you to think a little differently. For example, laughing is incredibly healthy and FUN. How about we all strive to laugh more? Like really laugh. If we laugh, and it is actually a fake laugh, our bodies don't know the difference and the same positive impact occurs. When it comes to financial choices, maybe we should consider how our spending will impact those closest to us? Time, our most valuable resource, might be best spent on creating ways to laugh more, share time with loved ones, and help out someone in need. These are just a few of my goals and they may spark some thought for you.



Happy New Year!

*Renee*

## **Upcoming Events:**

**January 24, 2023 ~ AAUW Independence Branch Meeting ~ Social Time – 6:30 pm/Meeting 7 pm. Program: “New Refugee Experience in the U.S.”, presented by Karen Wright, Literacy KC.**

**February 14, 2023 ~ AAUW Book Club ~ *The Light We Carry* by Michelle Obama, led by Gail Metcalf Schartel. 10:30 am, Jane Campbell’s house.**

## **Public Policy ~ Kelley Reetzke, submitted by Sue Shineman**

### **Passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act!**

You did it! Because of committed activists like you, the Senate voted 73 to 24 yesterday to pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA). With this overwhelming bipartisan support, PWFA passed as an amendment to the omnibus bill and will soon become law!

This momentous win will allow millions of pregnant people to **finally** provide for their families without compromising their health or pregnancies. It’s about time!

I can’t thank you enough for never giving up on a safer future for all workers! After the pandemic laid bare our country’s desperate need for paid leave and other family-friendly policies, I truly believe we’re on the cusp of revolutionary change ... change that wouldn’t be possible without you.

Together, we kept up the pressure on Congress to pass the PWFA, which will:

- Give pregnant workers access to basic accommodations like carrying a water bottle and taking bathroom breaks.
- Clarify that it is unlawful to discriminate against pregnant workers by forcing them out of their jobs unnecessarily or denying them reasonable accommodations.
- Prohibit employers from retaliating against pregnant workers who request accommodations.

This year, our advocacy took the form of countless letters to elected officials, in-person meetings with policymakers, a rally at the U.S. Capitol, social media posts and more.

For all the ways you’re making a better world for women and girls, I am grateful beyond words.

Wishing you a safe and cozy winter,



Gloria L. Blackwell  
Chief Executive Officer

## Membership ~ Barbara Leabo, Vice President

**Membership:** Our chapter gained a new member, Patty Petet, at our Christmas luncheon. Please invite people to our meetings. We need to continue to grow.

**College/University.** The state committee meets on ZOOM every month to discuss what's going on at different campuses throughout Missouri. Our chapter's committee always has something to share. We will be at Blue River MCC on March 7th for Equal Pay Day and Voter Registration. Let Sue Shineman or Barbara Leabo know if you'd like to help from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM.

## **AAUW National Election Update:**

Starting the week of January 16, AAUW members will be able to comment on and propose changes to the AAUW bylaws and Public Policy Priorities—an opportunity that comes around every other year. [AAUW's website](#) will provide all the information you need to tackle this important task. Comments can be submitted until Friday, January 27, at 5:00 pm ET.

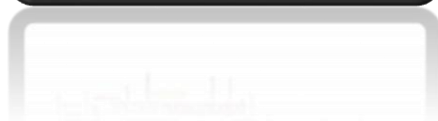
**Comments?**

## **Creating Inclusive Spaces – National Webinar – Sue Shineman, DEI**

How do you create inclusive spaces? What does it mean to create an inclusive space? Diversity is only the beginning, and it isn't enough. To create truly diverse spaces, those spaces also need to be inclusive, where all parties feel welcomed, appreciated, respected and heard — and have full access to all resources and can contribute to AAUW's success. Join the national AAUW Inclusion and Equity Committee in this conversation.

You may need to copy and paste this link in your browser.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zFKQ33aWq4&list=PLTL0yfGgwGXMyK\\_sroxieiKh4StRXtW3aN&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zFKQ33aWq4&list=PLTL0yfGgwGXMyK_sroxieiKh4StRXtW3aN&index=1) (58 minutes and 20 seconds)



Environments where people feel supported, welcomed, respected, and valued are actually more productive; everyone feels a greater connection to the organization's mission.

**TOTAL RECEIPTS**

## December 2022 - AAUW-Independence Financial Report (Continued)

### DISBURSEMENTS

Visa Debit	11/27/2022	AAUW Fund - Donations	\$ 650.00	
Visa Debit	11/27/2022	AAUW Fund - Bridge Money	\$ 30.00	
4668	12/10/2022	V's Ristorante	\$ 450.62	
Visa Debit	12/15/2022	AAUW Fund - Donations	\$ 70.00	
Visa Debit	12/16/2022	Dues to National - 1 member	\$ 77.00	
*****	11/29/2022	Duplicate Payment to National to be refunded - SOON??	\$ 650.00	***
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>			<b>\$ 1,927.62</b>	<b>(\$1,927.62)</b>
<b>BALANCE ON HAND</b>	<b>12/27/2022</b>			<b>\$ 5,846.56</b>

### SAVINGS ACCOUNT

<b>BALANCE ON HAND -</b>	<b>11/28/2022</b>		<b>\$ 3,341.75</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		Dividend	\$ 0.69
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>			0
<b>BALANCE ON HAND -</b>	<b>12/27/2022</b>		<b>\$ 3,342.44</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS 11/2 12/27/2022** Checking \$5846.56 + Savings \$3342.44 = \$9,189.00  
(Includes KCIBC-ReEntry Fund \$888.28)

### Stewardship Capital, Ltd. INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

12/27/2022 BALANCE \$4,824.43

### ISDF Temporarily Restricted Account

5/27/2022 STATEMENT \$14,326.55

## WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION (Form is on the following page)

Fill out the nomination form for Woman of Achievement and return to Joyce Gillespie, Woman of Achievement Chair, no later than March 31, 2023. [Joyceannegillespie@yahoo.com](mailto:Joyceannegillespie@yahoo.com) or 6140 Raytown Rd, Apt 401, Raytown, MO 64133-4016

- 1) Nominations are to be made by branch members.
- 2) Nominee must work or have worked, or volunteer or have volunteered in the Independence, MO area.
- 3) Membership in AAUW is optional.
- 4) A branch member must submit a written nomination listing the Nominee's achievements in the areas of: Professional / Career Experience and Volunteer / Special Activities and Educational Background (college degree is not required)
- 5) A brief statement of personal recommendation by the AAUW member making the nomination.

Joyce Gillespie

## AAUW Independence Branch Woman of Achievement Nominee

(Please feel free to submit the information in your own words or in paragraph format. Include any recommendations, words of accolade from friends or co-workers). Attach additional pages as needed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

AAUW Member making this nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Phone/Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINEE'S INFORMATION Professional / Career Experience:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer / Community Activities:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

AAUW Activities (if a member)

\_\_\_\_\_

Educational History and Achievements:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

On the reverse side, please write a brief statement telling the committee why you feel this nominee should be considered for this award.

Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send nominations to Joyce Gillespie, no later than March 31, 2023.

[Joyceannegillespie@yahoo.com](mailto:Joyceannegillespie@yahoo.com) or 6140 Raytown Rd, Apt 401, Raytown, MO 64133-4016

# Thank YOU!

## and

# Congratulations!

Thanks to your generosity, we met our goal for the national FUND - \$1774.00!

PLUS

\$100 was contributed as a memorial  
to the ISDF scholarship fund

AND

\$657.50 was contributed for Branch Needs to date  
Twelve members will be honored for Branch Century Club,  
six will receive State Century Club honors,  
and three will receive State Century Club Plus honors.

*Our branch has met 4/5 goals for the Fund Star in the MO Star Award and Branch Action Plan 2022-2023:*

- *\$30/capita sent to AAUW – we sent \$38.57/capita*
- *1 Century Club member/25 branch members = we have 6*
- *1 Century Club Plus member/50 branch members = we have 3*
- *Appointed a branch AAUW Fund chair who communicates with State Fund Chair – Yes*
- *Have 50% of branch members give individually to Greatest Need Fund – we met 35%, which still shows strong commitment to national AAUW by our Independence Branch!*

Thank you again for your financial commitment to AAUW. We look forward to recognizing and celebrating our Century Club members at the May meeting.

Lois Domsch, AAUW Fund Chairperson



## REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 'HIGH TEA'



**SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023      10:30 A.M. –12:30 P.M.**

***Joy Coffee – Café & Coffee Shop***

***14300 E US Hwy 40, Independence, MO 64055***

I-70 to south on Noland Road to 40 Hwy. 1 block east of Noland Road  
Next door to Church of the Four Corners

**HOSTED BY THE INDEPENDENCE BRANCH**

**COST: \$30**

**Cost helps pay for meals of scholarship winners and their guests**

### **AAUW Independence Branch Meeting Minutes.....December 10, 2022**

AAUW Independence Branch Christmas Luncheon

Members in Attendance: Pat Bounds, Patt Braley, Jane Campbell, Patty Chadwick, Lisa Cox, Lois Domsch, Renee Freers, Jan Keeler, Barbara Leabo, Sharon Mitchell, Chris Nagel, Sue Raymond, Sue Shineman, Judy Tucker

Guests: Debbie Abbott and Patty Petet

The Luncheon began at 11 am. Pat Bounds led the meeting with a Christmas Reading and a Holiday Song game. Stockings were available at each seat, filled with candy bars, to purchase as a donation to AAUW Independence Branch. (The total collected thus far is \$497.50.) There was not a business meeting held at the luncheon. Members and guests in attendance enjoyed a luncheon of Chicken Lemonata in white wine sauce, Toasted Ravioli, Stuffed Pasta Shells with tomato sauce, Tossed Salad, Broccoli Normandy, Hot Garlic Toast, and assorted beverages. The Luncheon concluded at approximately 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lisa Cox