



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881

## INDEPENDENCE BRANCH

Empowering women since 1940

Vol. 83 No. 7 March 2023

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

### President's Message

March celebrates Women's History and includes Read Across America Day. I was so excited to be invited to read at our local elementary schools, so I decided to combine the celebrations and focus my reading on strong women of the past while creating more strong women for the future.

I found three fantastic books to share with the students and I want to share them with you, as well. *I Dissent - Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark* by Debbie Levy, *She Persisted - 13 American Women Who Changed the World* by Chelsea Clinton and *She Persisted in Science* also by Chelsea Clinton.

I firmly believe in taking action to promote what we believe in and to be quite honest, I sometimes struggle to think of what action to encourage in my next newsletter section. This month I encourage you to impact the lives of young people. Think about the books you give those young people in your lives, consider offering to read to an elementary class and be thoughtful about the book you choose to read, or consider donating a book to a local library that promotes positive women in leadership. These are all little ways every one of us can make an impact on the future with something as cheap as a few minutes of our time at an elementary or a few dollars to a local library. In a time when people are trying to take books out of our libraries let's work together to put books in our libraries.

Renee



### Upcoming Important Dates

March 20	Pizza Ranch Fundraiser (p. 2)	5:00-8:00
April 15	ReEntry Tea (See p. 6)	10:30-12:30
April 19	Culvers Fundraiser	5:00-8:00

## Upcoming Events:

~ March 14 ~ AAUW Independence Book Club ~  
"Cake" by Charmaine Wilkerson, led by Jolene  
Cervený. Book Club meets at 10 am, Jane Campbell's house.

~ March 28 ~ AAUW Independence Branch Meeting =  
**Program: Women in the Military, presented by Andrea Simpson, Licensed  
Clinical Social Worker and Women's Veteran Program Manager, VA  
Kansas City Health Care**



### **Pizza Ranch**

Who.....AAUW Independence Branch

What.....Spring Fundraiser dining event

When.....Monday, March 20, 5–8 pm

Where.....Pizza Ranch, 4660 Bass Pro Drive,

Independence, 816-478-1110

How.....AAUW ladies needed to bus Ranch tables and assist guests as needed



**MOTTO.....BUILD THE BRANCH.....WORK THE RANCH.....**

### *Bingham-Waggoner Luncheon*

Our May meeting will be a luncheon at the Bingham-Waggoner Carriage House on Saturday, May 13. Lunch will be served at noon followed by our meeting.

We will be served an entree, side, and dessert and the price is \$22 (iced tea and coffee are included).

Checks should be made payable to AAUW.

We will need a final head count at our April 25 meeting.

Be sure to arrive early and/or stay after to shop.

Pat Bounds, Program VP

### **Assistance Needed!**

Corinne Mahaffey of AAUW-KC is looking for reader-judges for the Thorpe Menn Literary Excellence Award. They read books published each year by authors in the counties in the Kansas City area. They expect to read about 25 books of all genres (anything from children's books to poetry to novels) between February and the end of May. They run an awards ceremony in early October. Please contact Corinne at [corinne.mahaffey@gmail.com](mailto:corinne.mahaffey@gmail.com) if you are interested in assisting with this endeavor!



### **Nominating Committee Report 2023-2025 = Sue Shineman**

The following officers have been nominated, and when elected are eager to lead the Independence Branch of AAUW to the next level of advocacy and action. Voting will take place at the March 28 branch meeting.

AAUW Independence was founded in 1940 with the mission of advancing education for women and girls. Our mission today is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, advocacy and education.

President: Karol Palmer

Program Co-VPs: Patty Chadwick and Sue Raymond

Recording Secretary: Gail Metcalf Schartel

### **WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION**

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

## Public Policy = Kelley Reetzke

Check out this month's information on the Equal Rights Amendment, the Brennan Center for Justice, Women's "Herstory" Month, and House Bills to watch in Missouri by clicking [here](#).

### January-February 2023 - AAUW Independence Financial

Report = Patt Braley

#### CHECKING ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND      12/28/2022      \$5,846.56

RECEIPTS

2/6/2023    Christmas Stockings    \$90.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS      \$90.00      \$90.00

#### DISBURSEMENTS

4669    1/24/2023    January Speaker    -\$50.00

4670    2/28/2023    February Speaker    -\$50.00

-

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS      \$100.00      -\$100.00

BALANCE ON HAND      2/28/2023      \$5,836.56

\*\*\*\*\*      11/29/2022    Duplicate Payment to National  
To be refunded 3/15 - \$650.00

#### SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND      12/27/2022      \$3,342.44

RECEIPTS

1/1/2023    Dividend    \$0.71

2/1/2023    Dividend    \$0.71

\$1.42      \$1.42

DISBURSEMENTS      \$0.00

BALANCE ON HAND      2/28/2023      \$3,343.86

TOTAL CASH - 2/28/23      Checking \$5,836.56 + Savings \$3,343.86 = \$9,180.42 Total  
(Includes KCIBC-ReEntry Fund  
\$888.28)

#### Stewardship Capital, Ltd. INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

2/5/2023    BALANCE      \$4,916.14

#### ISDF Temporarily Restricted Account

2/23/2023    STATEMENT      \$14,426.55

## 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 scholarship winners' and their guests' meals**

**Please notify Sue Shineman the number planning to attend by Thursday, April 6**

**[sueshineman46@gmail.com](mailto:sueshineman46@gmail.com)**

**Please send payment by Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> to Patt Braley**

**508 NW Murray Rd., Apt. 214, Lee's Summit, MO 64081**

**Check made out to: AAUW Independence Branch**

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

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of meals: \_\_\_\_ Total for meals (\$30 each) \_\_\_\_ Indicate dietary restriction \_\_\_\_\_  
(gluten / dairy free, etc.)

Extra donation toward a guest luncheon: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra donation toward Reentry Scholarships: \_\_\_\_\_

**We look forward to your support of this important event.**



## AAUW Independence Branch February 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Patt Braley, Pat Bounds, Jane Campbell, Jolene Cerveney, Patty Chadwick, Nancy Comtois, Lisa Cox, Lois Domsch, Renee Freers, Joyce Gillespie, Karen Johnson, Jan Keeler, Barbara Leabo, Karol Palmer, Patti Petet, Sue Raymond, Gail Metcalf Schartel, Kelley Reetzke, Sue Shineman, Pat Taylor, Kathy Vest, Sarah Wimberly

Guests: Montel Evans, Rita Reynolds

Renee Freers opened the meeting at 7:04 and asked Sue Shineman to introduce the evening's speaker.

Sue introduced Montel Evans, principal of Thomas Hart Benton Elementary School. She noted that Mr. Evans was highly recommended by Sue Raymond and Jolene Cerveney after they heard one of his motivational presentations. Mr. Evans background included degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia, Graceland University and University of Central Missouri. His Twitter account is @MontelEvans.

Mr. Evans shared that as principal of William Southern Elementary he started the Southern Gentleman program for male students in response to social skill deficits noted by teachers. Male students had shown defiance and disrespect. As part of the program, students in the program participated in Man up Mondays, where participants dressed in shirt and tie. The program promoted learning leadership, respect and modeling the same to younger students. A similar program, Southern Belles, was developed for female students by Annie Dudek.

Mr. Evans presentation on 'Unconscious Bias vs. My Values & Beliefs' included information on confirmation bias, the halo effect, the horns effect and how each were inherent in everyone. His message emphasized the need to be thoughtful when confronting a personal bias, seeking other points of view, remaining curious about others, asking questions and doing research. Mr. Evans was well-received and merited great thanks from the group.

After a short break, Renee called the business meeting to order. She asked for review and approval of the January minutes. A motion (Lisa Cox/Pat Bounds) to accept the minutes was unanimously approved.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Renee Freers

- noted that the state convention would be held via Zoom from 9-noon on May 6<sup>th</sup>;
- reported a handbook on pay equity had been developed detailing how to hold 10 minute discussions with local city leaders and others with influence over the discrepancy between pay for women versus men;
- said the MO Star Award is due by April 1<sup>st</sup> and she will contact members for any information needed to complete it.

**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS:** Kathy Vest reported that 23 applications for the Branch's scholarship had been received: 5 each from William Chrisman and Van Horn and 13 from Truman High School. She asked for volunteers to read and review the applications. Those who volunteered were asked to meet at the end of the meeting to set a time and place for that review session.

**50 YEAR MEMBERSHIP:** Renee announced that Sue Shineman has been a member of AAUW for 50 years. Patt Braley and Lois Domsch will soon be 50 year members also. She said a better celebration recognizing the milestone would be held at a later date.

**FUNDRAISING:** Two fundraising events will be held. The first on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Pizza Ranch from 5-8 p.m. The second will be held at Culver's on April 19<sup>th</sup> from 5-8p.m. Volunteers are needed for both. Joyce Gillespie is the contact person for Pizza Ranch and Sue Shineman is the contact person for Culver's. Both events are to raise funds for the scholarship program. The group discussed signage and wearing similar shirts for the events.

**WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT:** Joyce Gillespie announced that nominations for the Woman of Achievement were due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. The presentation will be a part of the May meeting.

**TREASURY REPORT:** Patt Braley reported that the finance reports will be in the March newsletter. She said that the duplicate payment to National had been resolved and a refund would be issued mid-March. Sue Shineman encouraged members to delay renewing their memberships until they were contacted by National.

## AAUW Independence Branch February 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Continued)

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Sue Shineman reported that the Nominating Committee identified the following officers to be voted upon at the March 28 branch meeting: President: Karol Palmer; Program Co-VPs: Patty Chadwick and Sue Raymond; Recording Secretary: Gail Metcalf Schartel.

Sue Shineman made the following reports:

- **AAUW UPDATES:** February 2023 Susan Barley, AAUW Advancement Committee 314-361-2920 [barley702@gmail.com](mailto:barley702@gmail.com)
- **BRANCH AND STATE LOGOS** are now available on the national website: go to <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/>) Under “State and Branch Tools - Resources at the Ready”, click on “Download AAUW Logos and Branding Materials.” Under “Name” click “State and Branch Logos”, click “Final Logos”, locate your state file; within that file are the logos for the state and each branch!
- **MEMBERSHIP COUNT** – For the year 2022, national members 14,081; student members 578; College/University members 251. Missouri membership was 480. Independence membership was 41. We are the second largest branch in Missouri.
- **A NATIONAL SURVEY OF BRANCHES** was sent to all branch presidents and reflected activities from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. 259 submissions were received. AAUW has 667 branches with over 10 members. Most branches report 26-50 branch members. Independence did submit a response. 10 of 16 Missouri Branches submitted a response. The information in this survey will be used by national staff to create a new “join AAUW” 2-Page brochure, which they hope to have out in April.
- **REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS** - A High Tea will be held Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Joy Coffee – Café and Coffee Shop at 14300 E. US Hwy 40. The cost is \$30 per person. Six or seven \$1,000 scholarships would be awarded.
- **MARYVILLE TRIP** – On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Alma Nash, a suffragette member of the Missouri Ladies Military Band will be commemorated in Maryville. Those interested should contact Sue. It is estimated the trip will start at 8 a.m. and conclude by 4 p.m.
- **CENTRAL STATE REGIONAL CONVENTION** - The Central States Regional Convention will be held in October in St. Louis. Members of the National Leadership will be in attendance. More information will be forthcoming.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Barbara Leabo asked for volunteers to be at Blue River Community College for Equal Pay Day to give information to students and register voters on March 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sue Raymond, Sue Shineman and Pat Taylor agreed to help.

**DOOR PRIZE:** Jan Keeler received a door prize from the Membership Committee.

**MAY MEETING/LUNCHEON:** Pat Bounds announced that the May meeting will be a luncheon at the Bingham Waggoner Carriage House on May 13<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2 p.m. Cost will be \$22 a person and will be due by April 28<sup>th</sup> to Patt Braley.

**PUBLIC POLICY:** Kelley Reetzke reported on the ERA hearing that was held earlier the day of the meeting noting that 8 additional states are needed to secure its passage.

**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:** Jane Campbell thanked Nancy Comtois and Judy Tyson for their assistance with setting up the refreshments. Kelley Reetzke and Patty Chadwick volunteered to assist with refreshments in March.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel