

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

President's Message

Our national AAUW website never fails to amaze me with rich content and the depth of research they provide. Following is a section I captured from the Women in Leadership area that I felt led to share.



"Recent federal, state and local elections brought a surge of women leaders into public office. But while that progress is getting widespread attention, the reality is that women still lag far behind men when it comes to leadership roles. They remain significantly under-represented at the highest rungs of almost every field: corporate, government, nonprofit, education, law, medicine, finance and banking, and the military. In 2020, there were only 36 women leading America's biggest companies — that's only about 7% of all Fortune 500 CEO's. The problem is not a lack of qualified potential leaders to fill the roles. Women make up more than half of the U.S. workforce and they receive the majority of university degrees at virtually every level. So while qualified women are certainly in the pipeline, there are barriers and biases that keep them from attaining the highest — and most highly-compensated — leadership roles."

As I read this, I am reminded of how important it is to encourage women to never give up. Who knows, that extra kind smile we give a woman at church or in the grocery store might be just what she is needing. A word of support to a young lady who lives nearby or the new mom with her hands full and a baby on her shoulder could just be the emotional pickup she needs. It is easy for me to get wrapped up in my own challenges and think others have it all together. I sure hope that when a fellow woman needs a word of encouragement or my support in some way I will be there for them.

Renee

Upcoming Events:

April 15 ~ REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 'HIGH TEA' ~ 10:30 A.M. –12:30 P.M. ~ Joy Coffee – Café & Coffee Shop (Reservation deadline has passed)

April 19 ~ Culver's Fundraiser ~ 5-8 PM ~ Sue Shineman needs six volunteers for this fundraiser. *Please let Sue Shineman know if you can volunteer and please pass the word to your friends and families!*

April 25 ~ AAUW Independence Branch Meeting ~ Program: "Young Women in Politics and Leadership", presented by Rachael Gonzales & "My Journey from High School to UMKC Law School Graduate" presented by Margaret Stansell. Kathy Vest will present the High School Scholarship Award. Social Time starts at 6:30 PM/Meeting starts at 7 PM.

April 26 ~ Sexual Assault Awareness Day ~ College and University ~ Blue River Community College ~ 10 AM- 1 PM

May 9 ~ AAUW Book Club ~ 10:30 AM ~ Behind Every Great Man by Marlene Wagman-Geller, all members participate in review. Salad potluck at Jane Campbell's house.

May 6, Saturday ~ AAUW MO State Meeting via Zoom – 9 a.m. – Noon. Reservation will be required to receive the Zoom link.

October 19 – 21, 2023 ~ Central States Regional Conference in St. Louis. There will be Keynote Speakers, Issues & Action Speakers, Breakout Sessions, and Branch/State sharing times. We will have AAUW National staff on site with us and lots of exciting learning opportunities.



Equality is everyone getting a pair of shoes.



Diversity is everyone getting a different type of shoe.



Equity is everyone getting a pair of shoes that fits.



Acceptance is understanding we all wear different kinds of shoes.



Belonging is wearing the shoes you want without fear of judgment.

Inclusion Infusion – Shoes of Diversity = Shoes of Belonging ~ Sue Shineman, Chair

This month we will share about what kind of shoes are needed to carry out the mission of AAUW – advocating for rights for women and girls. It doesn't matter what kind of shoes we wear when we advocate! It does matter that the shoes we have are the correct size. Some shoes in our closet are rarely worn, but that doesn't mean we don't need them. They are necessary to complement many different outfits.



April 25 Branch Meeting

6:30 Social 7:00 Program

Don't miss out on the opportunity to hear from Rachel Gonzalez.

Rachel will be sharing her experiences working on issues and campaigns that align with AAUW Public Policy Priorities. The Gen Z Voters are advocating and making a difference in many cities and states.

Rachel will share how and why Gen Z voters are working so hard on topics important to all of us!

In 2017 as a graduating senior from Wm. Chrisman High School, she was awarded a special Leadership Scholarship from Independence AAUW. The selection committee saw the potential Rachel had at that time and wanted to invest in her future.

Plan now to attend!

College and University ~ Barbara Leabo, Chair

College and University need volunteers to help share info on Sexual Assault Awareness Day at Blue River Community College on Wednesday, April 26th, from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. **Please email Barbara Leabo at bleabo@yahoo.com if you can help.**

2023-2024 Dues Renewal

In October 2020, the national board approved a 3-year dues increase schedule. 2023-2024 will be the final year completing this motion. Our member dues cover only 13% of the national AAUW budget. There will not be an increase in state or branch dues. Total dues for Independence members will be \$98 and are due no later than June 1, 2023.

National dues = \$72 (\$69 is tax deductible)

State dues = \$10

Branch dues = \$16

CULVER'S – INDEPENDENCE

4220 S Little Blue Pkwy



AAUW SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

Independence Branch
American Association of University Women
Independence-mo.aauw.org

Come to Culver's – Eat – Enjoy
AND support scholarships for young women

Join us between 5 – 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 19

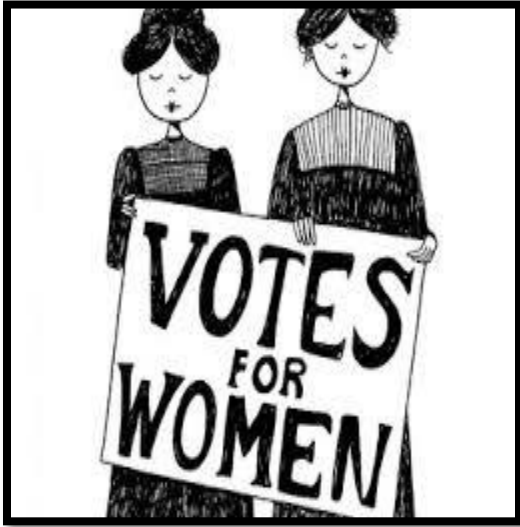
10% of sales and 100% of your generous tips

will help AAUW provide high school senior girls
with scholarships to attend college



AND FOR DESSERT

SEE YOU THERE !



AAUW NATIONAL BYLAWS VOTE

April 6 – Monday, May 16 at 5:00 p.m. ET.

Everyone should have received an email on April 5.

Subject: AAUW Election 2023

Check your email for this date from vote@simplyvoting.com. It contains your specific voting credentials.

The national governance committee and the board hope you will vote in favor of the proposed revised bylaws and help move AAUW forward.

The document presents for a vote restoring the requirement that each of the national committees must be comprised of a majority of individuals who are AAUW members, fixes the typos and missing words and where appropriate simplifies or further clarifies wording, and restores a 30-day advance notice requirement to inform the membership of possible board action on dues.

Another provision in the proposed bylaws would move election of the Chair and Vice Chair to the Board rather than continuing with the current practice of having the membership vote on these two positions. The governance committee and the board firmly believe the board is in the best position to understand the skills and experience needed in these positions and to select the right candidates for these roles.

Members are being asked to vote to accept the entire document, rather than voting on each article, because the reorganized provisions are all interrelated.

Malinda Gaul
Governance Chair

(The governance committee and the board continue to believe that the membership requirement should be considered in a separate later vote, so as not to hinder approval of revisions designed to enhance AAUW's governance practices. This will be presented in the future for a vote.)

Public Policy ~ Kelley Reetzke, Chair

Please click [here](#) to view the public policy newsletter information.

March 2023 - AAUW Independence Financial Report, Patt Braley, Chair

CHECKING ACCOUNT			
BALANCE ON HAND	2/29/2023		\$5,836.56
RECEIPTS			
	3/13/2023	ReEntry	\$160.00
		Branch Dues - 1	
	3/13/2023	member	\$16.00
	3/13/2023	Refund from National	\$650.00
	3/23/2023	Pizza Ranch	\$307.05
	3/23/2023	ReEntry	\$250.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS			\$1,383.05
DISBURSEMENTS			
		None	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			\$0.00
BALANCE ON HAND	3/27/2023		\$7,219.61
SAVINGS ACCOUNT			
BALANCE ON HAND	2/29/2023		\$3,343.86
RECEIPTS	3/1/2023	Dividend	\$0.64
DISBURSEMENTS		None	\$0.00
BALANCE ON HAND	3/27/2023		\$3,344.50
TOTAL CASH 3/30/2023	Checking \$7,219.61 + Savings \$3,344.50 = \$10,564.11 (includes KCIBC ReEntry Fund \$3,548.28)		
Stewardship Capital, Ltd. INVESTMENT ACCOUNT			
3/30/2023	BALANCE		\$4,794.22
ISDF Temporarily Restricted Account			
1/23/2023	STATEMENT		\$14,426.55

AAUW Independence Branch March 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Guests: Andrea Simpson

Jolene Cerveney opened the meeting at 6:59 p.m. by introducing the evening's speaker, Andrea Simpson.

Ms. Simpson spoke on women and the military. Her background includes a Master of Social Work degree and four years in the U.S. Army from 1989-1993. Her position in the army was to serve as a laboratory technologist at Fort Carson, CO, shipping blood supplies overseas during Desert Storm. Currently she works at the Kansas City Veterans Administration hospital's mental health clinic. She is Intimate Partner Violence Coordinator at the KCVA. She explained that women veterans have the same mental health issues as male veterans compounded by the ongoing issues of sexual harassment, rape.

She noted the branches of the U.S. military includes: Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Coast Guard, Coast Guard Reserve, Marine Corps, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy, Navy Reserve and Space Force.

She reviewed the codes by which military abide:

Appearance matters; Relationships go deep with actions; be a battle buddy; confidence is key; make the most out of down time; going into missions with focus; bottom line up front; you always have something more to do; and appreciate life. She elaborated on each of these.

She went on to recount a short history of women in the U.S. military noting that some women disguised themselves as men to serve in the era of the Civil War, including the first black woman who served with the Buffalo Soldiers in 1886. The number of women who served during World War I was 800 while 350,000 served during World War II with 88 detained as prisoners of war. Women were not officially sworn into the military until after World War II. Throughout the time women have (and continue) to serve, they have faced sexual harassment and demands for sexual favors to raise within the ranks. Degrading attitudes towards women have resulted in them being assigned to lower level areas such as clerical, mail and nursing positions. Prior to 2013, women were barred from serving in combat.

Ms. Simpson discussed the physical stress to women's bodies resulting in musculoskeletal issues wearing 40-60 pounds of equipment in addition to mental health issues, alcoholism, eating disorders, poor hygiene, hormone imbalances, skin disorders and suicidal tendencies. She and the clinic at the VA deal with women veterans on all of these issues. The clinic uses a holistic approach to treating women veterans including women-only support groups and a Transition Assistance Program (TAP).

She ended her presentation by discussing the Fisher House connected with the KCVA. It is a facility similar to the Ronald McDonald houses, in that families can stay there when a family member is at the VA for treatment. She said there were opportunities to volunteer at the Fisher House preparing meals or donating funds to support it.

After a short break, Renee called the business meeting to order. Sue Raymond reported for Inclusion Infusion of the successful trip several members made to Maryville, Missouri to recognize the Missouri Ladies Military Band.

Renee asked for review and approval of the February minutes. A motion (Pat Bounds/Judy Tyson) to accept the minutes was unanimously approved.

AAUW Independence Branch March 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Cont'd)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Renee Freers

- Gave a shout out to Joyce Gillespie for those who worked at Pizza Ranch to raise funds for the scholarship. Joyce reported that seven members had worked and raised \$357 in addition to the percentage of sales that would be sent;
- Reminded those that a similar fund-raising activity would be held at Culver's on April 19; and
- Reminded all that Women of Achievement nominations were due by March 31.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: Barbara Leabo reported that seven members had been at Blue River Community College on Equal Pay Day where 5 or 6 student members joined AAUW and 5 individuals were registered to vote. On April 26 volunteers are needed to be at Blue River Community College from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Sexual Assault Awareness Day.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS: Kathy Vest reported that her committee reviewed 22 applications for scholarships and had ranked the top three for consideration. A single \$1,000 scholarship will be rewarded.

Renee reviewed the Upcoming Events including the April 15th Re-Entry Tea at the Joy Coffee-Café and Coffee Shop; Culver's Fund-Raiser on April 19th; Blue River Community College Sexual Assault Awareness Day on April 26th; the State Conference Zoom session on May 6th and the May Luncheon Meeting on May 13th.

It was agreed that the student scholarship recipient would be recognized at the April Branch meeting.

MAY MEETING/LUNCHEON: Pat Bounds announced that the May meeting will be a luncheon at the Bingham Waggoner Carriage House on May 13th from noon to 2 p.m. Cost will be \$22 per person. RSVPs must be in by April 28th and the fee can be paid to Pat prior to or at the luncheon. Installation of officers, the historian's report, State Conference report and woman of achievement recognition will be the program after lunch.

FINANCE REPORT: Patt Braley said that the Finance Report will be in the April newsletter and will seem to have a substantial amount of money in the account due to the Branch accepting the funds for the Re-Entry Scholarship Tea and the May luncheon but noted most of those funds are earmarked to pay the final bills for both events. She reported that National had refunded the earlier overpayment by the Branch.

Barbara Leabo awarded Judy Tyson a door prize.

Joyce Gillespie said that \$179 was due from Pizza Ranch for the percentage of sales during the volunteer time, putting the total amount raised over \$500.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: Jane Campbell thanked Kelley Reetzke and Patty Chadwick for the evening's refreshments and Patt Braley and Karol Palmer volunteered to assist with refreshments in April.

Joyce Gillespie asked whether anyone had received the new AAUW emblem. Others commented that new t-shirts should be ordered.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel