



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881

## INDEPENDENCE BRANCH

Empowering women since 1940

Vol. 83 No. 9 May 2023

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

### **President's Message**

#### Have you Earned Your Tomorrow

Is anybody happier because you passed his way?  
Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?  
This day is almost over, and its toiling time is through;  
Is there anyone to utter a kindly word of you?

Did you give a cheerful greeting to the friend who came along?  
Or a churlish sort of "Howdy" and then vanish in the throng?  
Were you selfish pure and simple as you rushed along your way,  
Or is someone mighty grateful for a deed you did today?

Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast,  
That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?  
Is some single heart rejoicing over what you did or said;  
Does a man whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day, or lose it, was it well or sorely spent?  
Did you leave a trail of kindness or a scar of discontent?  
As you close your eyes in slumber do you think that God would say,  
You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?

Edgar Guest



While I was high school, I came across this poem and it immediately spoke to me. At that time, I did not consider its meaning to be one of my life's goals, yet helping those around me with even a smile of kindness has become one of my greatest goals in life. Years later, after my father passed away, I was moving my mother into a care facility and found a copy of the poem in my father's handwriting. I immediately put it in a safe place and cherish the thought that he too found it to be a worthy poem to remember.

When I began leading this group two years ago, I had big ideas in mind for what accomplishments we could achieve together. As time went on, I began to realize what was possible and what was not. As I pass leadership off to our next president, I hope you will remember me as a leader who truly cared for the people around her. I hope you have seen my belief in what AAUW's goals are and my desire to make the world a better place for women.

*Renee*

## Upcoming Events:

~May 6 ~ **AAUW MO Annual Meeting via Zoom** ~ 9am-Noon ~ Must have pre-registered via the flier sent by Sue Shineman.

~May 9 ~ **AAUW Book Club** ~ *Behind Every Great Man*, by Marlene Wagman-Geller, All Members participate in Review (Salad Potluck), meets at Jane Campbell's House.

~May 13 ~ **Independence Branch Annual Meeting** and Luncheon at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate Carriage House.

~May 15 ~ **Deadline for AAUW Voting!** You should have received an email with a link for voting, your Elector ID, and Password.

~ July 24 ~ **Pizza Ranch Fundraiser** ~ 5-8 pm ~ Volunteers Needed! Contact Joyce Gillespie!

Renee,

*The Independence AAUW members would like to extend their thanks for all of your hard work to benefit the branch as our President over the last two years! Thank you for being our fearless leader!*

*Independence AAUW Members*



## **2023 KCIBC Scholarship Recipients from KCKCC**



Left to right: Sue Shineman, 2023 Reentry Scholarship Chair, Felicia Chance, Kevinisha Lockhart, Orlanda Alonso Herrera, and Daniela DaLuz.

Absent: Ashley Marcial, recipient of the Toni Thornton scholarship

The recipients and their guests were honored a High Tea held at Joy Coffee – Café & Coffee Shop. 42 members and guests gathered to share in this annual celebration.

## IN FOCUS with AAUW National



### MEMBERSHIP

#### It's Membership Renewal Time!

Email reminders went out this week for your AAUW membership renewal for this year, and we thank you in advance. To renew, visit the Community Hub at the [AAUW login page](#). Members who renew before their membership expires receive a free, one-year subscription to Ms. Magazine!

#### Apply to Serve on an AAUW National Board Committee

Serving on an [AAUW committee](#) is an important way to use your skills and expertise, give back to AAUW and shape the future for women and girls. We encourage interested members to apply for the next two-year term, which begins July 1. [Applications](#) will be accepted until May 10.



### LEADERSHIP

#### NCCWSL 2023: Engage, Learn and Lead — Step into Your Power!

We're in the final stretch of registration for the 2023 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders! NCCWSL is back—live and in person—from May 31–June 3, 2023, at the University of Maryland, College Park. To sponsor a college woman's attendance, more details, or to register, visit [NCCWSL](#) online!



### ECONOMIC SECURITY

#### The ERA: Where It Stands

After working with Senate leaders and their staffs on the [Equal Rights Amendment \(ERA\)](#), our national policy team attended this week's ERA press conference after [Senate Joint Resolution 4](#) fell short of the 60 votes needed to remove the deadline for the ratification of the ERA as part of the Constitution. We are heartened that the door is open for the Senate to reconsider the bill and will continue to fight for ERA's passage.

### ***AAUW National ~ Sue Shineman (cont'd)***

#### **AAUW Launches the Oral History Project (via PCI/Publishing Concepts)**

AAUW is working with PCI (Publishing Concepts) to conduct a comprehensive member data verification and an Oral History Project.

The data verification allows you to make important revisions to your member record and ensure that you receive all the latest information crucial to your AAUW membership. The Oral History

Project will collect stories from members to memorialize the history of AAUW through the years. This is an opportunity for you to share your firsthand experiences with AAUW and how the organization helped shape your life.

PCI will contact AAUW members directly through postcards and emails (addressed to you from Katrina Sun Breese, Sr. Director of Institutional Advancement). Participation is voluntary, and you are not obligated to purchase any products to be part of the Oral History Project. We hope you'll participate! Get more details about the member data verification and [Oral History Project](#) on AAUW's website.

**College and University:** Sue Shineman and Barbara Leabo spent Wednesday, April 26th at Blue River Community College. They shared information with students and staff about Denim Day, the last Wednesday of Sexual Assault Awareness month, which is April.

Barbara Leabo, College and University Chair

### **Woman of Achievement, Joyce Gillespie, Chair**

*Hello.....the well-deserved 2023 Woman of Achievement award will be presented at our Saturday, 13 May luncheon at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate. Please attend with your friends to honor our awardee. Make luncheon reservations with Patt Braley, \$22 per person.*

### **Pizza Ranch Fundraiser, Joyce Gillespie, Chair**

*The Branch is scheduled to volunteer at the Pizza Ranch, Monday, July 24, 5-8 pm to build up our Scholarship fund.....*

*Build the Branch...Work the Ranch....*



**April 2023 - AAUW - Independence Branch Financial Report**

Patt Braley, Financial Officer

**CHECKING ACCOUNT**

<b>BALANCE ON HAND</b>	<b>3/28/2023</b>		<b>\$7,219.61</b>
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3/30/2023	Deposit – KCIBC ReEntry	\$1444.00
4/3/2023	Deposit – KCIBC ReEntry	\$ 300.00
4/3/2023	Deposit – May Luncheon	\$ 88.00
4/3/2023	Deposit – Pizza Ranch	\$ 70.00
4/10/2023	Deposit – KCIBC ReEntry	\$ 590.00
4/11/2023	Deposit – KCIBC ReEntry	\$ 260.00
4/17.2023	Deposit – KCIBC ReEntry	\$ 380.00
4/28/2023	Deposit – May Luncheon	\$ 220.00
4/28/2023	Deposit - Dues – 11 members	\$1,104.00

<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>\$4,452.00</b>
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**DISBURSEMENTS**

Void 4671	4671	3/28/2023	March Program – Andrea Simpson (Refused to personally accept)	
	4672	3/30/2023	Reissue to Fisher House	\$ 50.00
	4673	4/15/2023	Joy Coffee – High Tea X 42	\$ 880.00
	4674	4/15/2023	Felicia Chance – Scholarship	\$ 1,000.00
	4675	4/15/2023	Orlanda Herrera – Scholarship	\$ 1,000.00
	4676	4/15/2023	Kevinisha Lockhart – Scholarship	\$ 1,000.00
	4677	4/15/2023	Joy Coffee – High Tea X 2	\$ 44.00
	4678	4/15/2023	April Program – Rachel Gonzalez	\$ 50.00
	4679	4/25/2023	S. Shineman – ReEntry Expense	\$ 29.59

<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>\$ 4,053.59</b>
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<b>BALANCE ON HAND</b>	<b>4/30/2023</b>		<b>\$ 7,618.02</b>
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**SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

<b>BALANCE ON HAND</b>	<b>2/29/2023</b>		<b>\$3,343.86</b>
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<b>RECEIPTS</b>	4/30/2023	Dividends Updated	\$2.01
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<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>None</b>	
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<b>BALANCE ON HAND</b>	<b>4/30/2023</b>		<b>\$3,345.87</b>
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**TOTAL CASH**

<b>4/30/2023</b>	<b>Checking – 7,618.02 + Savings – 3,345.87 = Total Cash \$10,983.89</b> (includes KCIBC ReEntry Fund - \$ 1084.69)
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**Stewardship Capital, Ltd. INVESTMENT ACCOUNT**

4/30/2023	BALANCE	<b>\$4,837.11</b>
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**ISDF Temporarily Restricted Account**

1/23/2023	STATEMENT	<b>\$14,426.55</b>
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## **Public Policy ~ Kelley Reetzke**



### ERA Update.

Removing the deadline date for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. (SJRes4) is the next step toward ratification. Currently, the resolution is on the Senate calendar for future consideration.

April 24, 2023

Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) filed cloture (procedure for ending a debate and taking a vote) to proceed to voting on SJRes4. In other words, Sen. Schumer wants to secure an immediate vote on the resolution.

April 26, 2023

Senators were given notice of the motion and upcoming vote to invoke cloture. A 3/5 majority is required.

April 25, 2023

In a 51-47 vote, the majority was not met and the motion to proceed was rejected. (Cloture was not invoked).

The vote summary showed Missouri Senators Hawley and Schmitt voted “nay”.

Pick up the phone and call Senator Hawley at (202) 224-6154 and Senator Schmitt at (202) 224-5721 and ask why they are against the ERA.



### What's up in Missouri?

#### Public library funding back in Missouri budget.

Missouri House of Representatives added 4.5 million dollars in funding (back) to the state budget in response to a lawsuit filed by the ACLU against the new Missouri state law banning books.

[Missouri Senate Bill 562](#); Creates new provisions relating to state contracts for minority and women's business enterprises.

[Missouri House Bill 575](#); Creates provisions relating to breast examinations.

## AAUW Independence Branch April 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Guests: Rachel Gonzalez, Norym Powell, Johannes Powell, Kelly Powell, Myron Powell

Renee opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m welcoming members and guests.

Sue Shineman introduced the evening's speaker, Rachel Gonzalez, a graduate of William Chrisman, was the 2017 recipient of the Independence Branch of AAUW's leadership scholarship. She noted Rachel would provide additional details on her background. Ms. Gonzalez recounted her interest in politics from age nine when she found there were no female presidents.

At that time, she began attend political rallies and became involved in politics at the local and state level. That interest morphed into national involvement in the Democratic Party. She campaigned for Hillary Clinton in Missouri, Iowa and Kansas during the 2016 election and was Missouri's youngest delegate at that year's Democratic National Convention. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Missouri Western State University and interned at the Democratic National Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Among her accomplishments were organizing a March for Lives to bring attention to gun violence prevention. And a Smart City Expo Atlanta which included mayors from both the United States and international cities to discuss issues confronting all major cities. She is active in Netroots Nation, working to show others how to fund raise, plan events and be advocates. She currently serves as a National Organizing Manager for Brady United Against Gun Violence working to implement the Safer Communities Act which restricts those involved in domestic violence from obtaining guns for a period of five years.

She spent some time discussing the issues that most concern those in Generation Z (Those born between 1997 and 2012). The top five issues are:

- Gun Violence Prevention
- LGBTQ+ Issues
- Reproductive Freedom
- Acting on Climate Change
- Student Debt Relief

She cited Jackson County's recent ruling against Conversion Therapy (programs to force LGBTQ+ to become straight) as a recent success and noted that other March for Lives against gun violence were being planned. She answered a few questions and encouraged the most recent recipient of the Independence Branch's Scholarship to be bold in approaching her education by advocating for herself and her interests. She suggested not being afraid to approach instructors for clarification and guidance, getting involved in activities related to her interests and generally pursuing her career goals.

The group applauded Ms. Gonzalez on her accomplishments and encouraged her to speak to the group again in the future.



## AAUW Independence Branch April 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Cont'd)

**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS:** Kathy Vest then introduced the recipient of the Independence Branch's Scholarship for 2023. Norym Powell is a senior at Van Horn High School who plans to major in Animal Science at the University of Missouri Columbia before attending Veterinary School. Ms. Powell introduced her parents and brother and discussed her love of animals and work at Old Town Veterinary Clinic. She said while she had participated in basketball and track, she found her work through the clinic and experience with the Innovation Center was more rewarding. She thanked AAUW for their support.



After a short break, Renee called the business meeting to order.

Sue Raymond gave a short review of the activities completed during Inclusion Infusion sessions at meetings over the year. Renee acknowledged that while writing the STAR report, she was able to complete the inclusion section easily based upon those sessions. Sue Raymond and Patty Chadwick will serve as co-chairs of the Program Committee next year and will plan more activities.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Renee asked for review and approval of the March minutes. A motion (Sue Raymond/Pat Bounds) to accept the minutes was unanimously approved.

**WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT:** Joyce Gillespie thanked those who had made nominations for the Woman of Achievement and said that the winner selected would be announced and recognized during the May meeting.

**FINANCE REPORT:** Patt Braley reported that National had refunded money overpaid. The Re-entry event went well and the KCIBC came out a bit ahead on that event. She said that dues must be paid by June 1. Members can pay dues on-line or by giving Patt a check. Dues are \$98.

**MAY LUNCHEON:** Pat Bounds reminded all that the luncheon on May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Bingham Waggoner Carriage House on May 13<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2 p.m. Cost will be \$22 per person. RSVPs must be in by April 28<sup>th</sup> and the fee can be paid to Patt 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. The menu for the luncheon is a club wrap, bacon-ranch potato salad and apple pie. She encouraged members to arrive early to shop at the Carriage House gift shop.

**RE-ENTRY EVENT:** Sue Shineman reported that 42 attended the tea. All five recipients were in attendance. All recipients attend Kansas City, Kansas Community College. Organizers plan to review the application process and put the application on-line for next year.

**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:** Barbara Leabo explained that Denim Day would be April 26 from 10-1 at Blue River Community College. She encouraged others to attend in addition to herself and Sue Shineman. She went on to explain that Denim Day marks Sexual Assault Awareness Day. It is on the final Wednesday of April and first became an event after a judge in Italy cited a rape victim's attire in jeans as being a reason for her assault. At one time, many organizations and companies had a Denim Day wherein employees could pay a \$5 contribution to wear jeans for the day. The money collected went to organizations addressing sexual assault.

**NEWSLETTER:** Lisa Cox said that items for the May newsletter were needed by May 1.

Kathy Vest asked if anyone could attend the Van Horn awards meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 to present the scholarship to Norym Powell.

Renee called for a vote and the slate of officers was approved unanimously. Sue indicated the officers would be officially inducted at the May meeting.



## **AAUW Independence Branch April 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Cont'd)**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Sue Shineman reported as chair of the Nominations Committee, the following members for officers for 2023-2024:

- Karol Palmer – President
- Sue Raymond and Patty Chadwick - Co-Vice-Presidents for Programs
- Gail Metcalf Schartel – Recording Secretary

**VERIFICATION POSTCARD:** Sue Shineman said that the postcard and email requesting member verification was legitimate and was being used by National to assess needs for the organization.

**STATE CONFERENCE ZOOM MEETING:** Sue Shineman said that the state meeting would be held via Zoom from 9:00-noon on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. There is no fee for registering. She noted that October 19-21, a regional conference would be held in St. Louis. She expressed hope that 8-10 members of the Independence Branch would attend that conference as it will have many sessions on a variety of topics.

**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:** Jane Campbell thanked Patt Braley and Karol Palmer for the evening's refreshments.

**PIZZA RANCH:** Joyce Gillespie thanked those who worked at Pizza Ranch. She said that July 24<sup>th</sup> would be the next Pizza Ranch fundraiser and seven women would be needed to help from 5-8 p.m. that evening. She said that a check from Pizza Ranch had yet to be received.

Barbara Leabo gave a door prize to Gail Metcalf Schartel.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel