

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

President's Message-June 2023

Happy summer, everyone! Hope this finds you staying cool!

Does anyone remember "Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer?" I remember hearing this catchy tune by Nat King Cole as a kid. Well, as fond as I am of this song, it would NOT be the theme song of our AAUW Independence board this summer! A more fitting title might be: "Those Hard-Working, Clear-Thinking, Still-a-Little-Crazy Days of Summer."



The Program Committee under the direction of Sue Raymond and Patty Chadwick and the Membership Committee under the direction of Barbara Leabo and Karen Johnson met in June. Patt Braley and the Finance Committee will be working on the budget for the up-coming year, and the board will be meeting at the end of June. Lots of great ideas have been generated in these meetings to help create a successful AAUW year. You already should have received the information from the Membership Committee about the brunch they have planned to meet and greet prospective new members. Save the date: July 19th, 11:00-1:00 at the Golden Acres Clubhouse for this brunch. Send Barbara Leabo contacts for new members.

As the in-coming (read as "newbie") president, I want to express my gratitude for the service and dedication of our officers, board members, and entire membership. "It takes a village," and I certainly will need all your help. I welcome your suggestions, corrections, and guidance.

I began with a musical reference, so I'll end with another musical blast from the past: as The Happenings sang, "See you in September, See you when the summer's through."

Take care,

Karol Palmer (That's me in 1966 when "See You in September" was released.)

"Stronger Together as we advocate for women and girls"

Upcoming Events:

~July 19 ~ **A Brunch Celebrating The First Women's Rights Convention** ~ Hosted by the Membership Committee. **Please send names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails of potential new members to Barbara Leabo at bleabo@yahoo.com by July 1st!** This event is for prospective members and the AAUW member that invites them. Event held at Golden Acres Clubhouse, 1717 S Lake Drive, Independence, MO 64055.

~July 24 ~ **Pizza Ranch Fundraiser** ~ 5-8 pm ~ **At least 7 volunteers are needed to help bus tables!! Please email joyceannegillespie@yahoo.com if you are available!** Money earned from this fundraiser goes to support the AAUW Independence Branch High School 2023-24 Scholarship.

~September 26 ~ **AAUW Independence Branch Meeting** ~ 6 pm ~

~October 19-21 ~ **AAUW Central States Regional Conference** ~ St. Louis, Missouri, Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch ~ Conference Registration Forms available July 1.

Please start thinking about attending the

AAUW Central States Regional Conference October 19-21 in St. Louis.

Registration will open in July. Our hope is to have at least 10 Independence members join in this incredible learning opportunity. Eleven states are participating and there is an impressive lineup of presenters, including Gloria Blackwell, AAUW National CEO, National committee members, and board directors.

Important issues will be highlighted in different breakout formats, as well as the opportunity for branches and states to share their 'success stories' with each other.

There will be scholarship money available from AAUW MO, as well as funds built into the Independence budget. Put these dates on your calendar now! See flyer attached. Contact Sue Shineman with any questions.

The Membership Committee met on June 13th to discuss ways to get new members and reach out to former members to join Independence branch. We will be having a **Brunch celebrating the First Women's Rights Convention**, held at the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, NY, on July 19 and 20, 1848.

We need names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails. **Members, we need everyone to give us names. Please send them to Barbara Leabo - bleabo@yahoo.com** by July 1, 2023.



Come and help celebrate the

FIRST WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION - 1845

AAUW

American Association of University Women
will be providing brunch

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Golden Acres Clubhouse

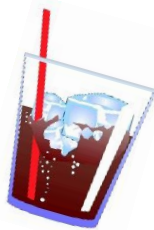
1717 S Lake Dr.

Independence, MO

RSVP

Barbara Leabo - bleabo@yahoo.com

Karen Johnson - kajohnson2724@gmail.com



Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

AAUW Independence Branch

July 24, 2023

5-8 PM

Proceeds benefit the
AAUW Independence Branch
Scholarship Fund



Work the Ranch.....

Build the Branch....

Contact Joyce Gillespie,
joyceannegillespie@yahoo.com

Woman of Achievement ~ Joyce, Gillespie, Chairperson

Jolene Cervený

The AAUW Independence Branch May luncheon meeting convened at the Bingham Waggoner estate, Saturday, May 13. During the business meeting, the Woman of Achievement award was given to Jolene Cervený.



Jolene became a member of the AAUW Independence Branch in 2015. Using her college education and management administrative skills, Jolene served as Committee chair providing leadership on at least four different committees, Public Policy, Membership, STEM and Hospitality. She served admirably as our Branch President beginning 2019, serving two years during the challenging COVID pandemic. She was responsible for fund raising activities to build up our Scholarship fund at the Pizza Ranch for almost two years. As an activist and woman, Jolene provides positive inclusive leadership as she works easily with Branch members encouraging active involvement in branch initiatives and programs benefiting local girls and women. She is active in her church and other community involvement volunteer service to Independence. Jolene's creativity, enthusiasm and boundless energy, plus her desire to succeed make her an outstanding member of our Branch and our 2023 Woman of Achievement.

One of Jolene's daughters, Dawn Bresette, and a close church friend, Kelly Johnson, were Jolene's guests for the luncheon meeting. Jolene graciously accepted the award, followed by laudatory comments from Sue Shineman and Sue Raymond. Branch members provided a warm round of applause.



Jolene and daughter, Dawn Bresette



Joyce Gillespie with Jolene Cervený

May 6 Annual Meeting

Awards

AAUW MISSOURI 2022-23 STAR AWARDS

10-STAR BRANCHES

Ballwin-Chesterfield
Boonville*
Columbia
Ferguson-Florissant *
Independence
Kansas City *
Kansas City Northland *
Kirkwood-Webster Groves

Parkville

St. Charles

St. Louis

8-STAR BRANCHES

Nevada

7-STAR BRANCHES

Canton

6-STAR BRANCHES

Jefferson City

2022 AAUW MO CENTURY CLUB PLUS MEMBERS

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch

Carol Anthony
Susan Barley
Sandy Brody
Erlaine Eltomi
Karen Francis
Harriett Hirschfeld
Doris Nistler
Margaret Taber

Boonville Branch

Carol Cox

Columbia Branch

Kathryn Allen
Jane Biers
Marianne Fues
Diane Ludwig
Kathleen Slane

Ferguson-Florissant Branch

Shirley Breeze
Dorothy Stade

Independence Branch

Jane Campbell
Lois Domsch
Sue Shineman

Joplin Branch

Marilyn Dishman-Horst

Kansas City Branch

Ardyce Pearson
Ellen Johnson

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch

Julia Muller
Jane Robert
Lynne Roney
Jeannie Webdell

Nevada Branch

Judy Campbell

Parkville Branch

Sandra Fogt
Debra McArthur

St. Charles Branch

Teresa Brecht

St. Louis Branch

Susan Barley
Carol Davis McDonald

2022 AAUW MO CENTURY CLUB Members

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch

Lorna Anderson
Anonymous
Anonymous
Marcia Block
Bette Bude
Carol Derington
Jean Elliott
Margaret Estes
Joan Fromme
Genevieve Gibson-Newman
Mary Jermak
Joyce Katz
Michele Mangnall
Barbara McQuitty
Ann Patrice O'Shaughnessy
Nancy Price
Judith Schaefer-Piet
Patricia Shores
Janet Sloey
Arlene Spector
Julia Triplett
Marsha Weppelman
Mary Kay Wolfe

Boonville Branch

Maryellen McVicker
Canton Branch
D'Ann Campbell

Cape Girardeau Branch

Jean Cairns

Columbia Branch

Anonymous
Patricia Carlson
Jane Crow
Linda Evans
Pat Merrill
Sue Tillema

Ferguson-Florissant

Lillian Boly
Patricia Murray

Independence Branch

Patricia Braley
Renee Freers
Jan Keeler
Melissa Morawitz
Gail Scharlt
Ruby Smith
Judy Tucker

Joplin Branch

Dorothy Iwan
Teresa Massa

Kansas City Branch

Stefanie Hatfield
Corinne Mahaffey
Wanda Perkins

Kansas City Northland Branch

Diana Curry-McGuirk
Mary Seidt

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch

Barbara Johnson
Marsha Koch
Carol Davis McDonald
Deborah McWard
Kathyrne Meyer

Nevada Branch

Phyllis Sprengle

Parkville Branch

Su Bacon
Betty Dusing
St. Charles Branch
Bonita Dillard
Geraldine Jacobs
Pam Kulp
Susan Moellering
Barbara Olive
Grace Poertner
Karen Schneider
Betty Takahashi

St. Louis Branch

Nancy Collins
Ellen Irons
Linda Lindsey
Janet Scott
Diane Sher

The Program Planning Committee has an exciting slate of presentations coming your way for 2023-2024! Plan to attend every meeting and outing! In store for you:

Sue Raymond and Patty Chadwick, Program VP Co-Chairs

Committee members: Kathy Vest, Sue Shineman, Barbara Leabo, Karol Palmer

Our traditional potluck dinner with a twist of Mingle Bingo and pursuing membership in the Chamber of Commerce.

Invite guests for this fun opportunity!!



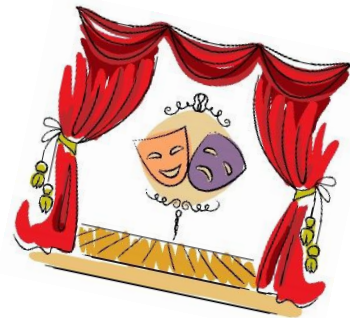
- A report from the Regional Conference;
- Missouri District 29 state representative Aaron Crossley will give us a look at "Legislation in Review".
- Montel Evans will speak on how the Independence ISD is focusing on Equity
- Community Services League – programs that benefit women thru housing and education opportunities
- Each meeting will also include an Inclusion Infusion topic

Proposed outings with invitee opportunities

Attend City Theatre as a group

Community orchestra performance and dinner

Pharaoh- view a movie and invite the community



See you at the September 26th program 6:00 PM at FUMC

Public Policy ~ Kelley Reetzke

It's Time to Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act!

Update: On March 9, 2023, the Paycheck Fairness Act ([H.R. 17](#) and [S.728](#)) was reintroduced in Congress. For more information go to the Two-Minute Activist: [Paycheck Fairness Act](#). Read the bullet points to review the major points of the bill.

Urge Your Members of Congress to Support the Healthy Families Act

The Healthy Families Act ([H.R. 2465](#) and [S. 1195](#)), which would provide full-time employees the right to earn up to seven job-protected paid sick days a year. Read more about the [Health Families Act](#).

You are encouraged to send letters about both bills to your Senators. Scroll to the bottom of each article for the email page. (AAUW has provided draft language but changing the letters into your words is even more effective!)

May 2023 - AAUW Independence

Financial Report

Patt Braley, Financial Officer

CHECKING ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 4/25/2023 **\$7,618.02**

RECEIPTS

5/16/2023	Deposit - Luncheon	\$44.00
5/16/2023	Deposit - Pizza Ranch	\$224.87
5/16/2023	Deposit - Dues - 6 members	\$588.00
5/27/2023	Deposit - Dues - 2 members	\$196.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS **\$1,052.87** **\$1,052.87**

DISBURSEMENTS

4680	5/13/2023	Bingham-Waggoner - Lunch	\$368.00
4681	5/13/2023	S. Shineman - Misc.	\$70.82
4682	5/16/2023	J. Gillespie - Ach. Award	\$10.49

Visa	National - Dues - 18 members	\$1,404.00
	(plus 4 honorary life members)	

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS **\$1,853.31** **-\$1,853.31**

BALANCE ON HAND 5/30/2023 **\$6,817.58**

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 5/30/2023 **\$3,345.87**

(no activity yet)

TOTAL CASH 5/30/23

Checking - \$6,817.58 + Savings - \$ 3,345.87 = Total Cash \$ 10,163.45
(includes KCIBC ReEntry Fund - \$ 1,084.69)

Stewardship Capital, Ltd.

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

5/30/2023 BALANCE **\$4,816.88**

ISDF Temporarily Restricted Account

1/23/2023 STATEMENT **\$14,426.55**

AAUW Independence Branch May 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Pat Bounds, Patt Braley, Jane Campbell, Jolene Cervený, Lois Domsch, Renee Freers, Joyce Gillespie, Jan Keeler, Kathy Kelley, Barbara Leabo, Melissa Morawitz, Karol Palmer, Sue Raymond, Gail Metcalf Schartel, Sue Shineman, Judy Tyson

Guests: Mary Kronour, Dawn Bresette, Kelly Johnson

Renee opened the business portion of the meeting at 12:40 after all had enjoyed a delicious luncheon. The minutes from the April meeting were considered and approved unanimously on a motion by Pat Bounds/Joyce Gillespie.

Renee then called upon Joyce Gillespie to present the 2023 Woman of Achievement. Joyce gave information on the Nebraska background and AAUW work done by Jolene Cervený. She noted that during the COVID years, Jolene worked tirelessly to keep the Independence Branch active via Zoom meetings and fund-raising activities that called for little personal contact. Sue Raymond and Sue Shineman spoke about Jolene's efforts as well. Jolene accepted the award and introduced her daughter Dawn Bresette and good friend Kelly Johnson. She said that she would continue to strive for achievement.

Karol Palmer then noted several edits to the draft of the Historian's Report sent out electronically and said that a final copy would be emailed to members.

Lois Domsch announced 18 members of the Independence Branch had given a total \$1976 to the AAUW Fund during the year and recognized that the Branch had met the Star Award Standards for donations as well. She recognized the following:

- State Level Century Club: Patt Braley, Renee Freers, Jan Keeler, Melissa Morawitz, Ruby Smith, Judy Tucker, Judith Tyson
- State Level Century Club and Branch Century Club: Gail Metcalf Schartel
- State Level Century Club Plus: Sue Shineman, Lois Domsch
- State Level Century Club Plus & Branch Century Club: Jane Campbell
- Branch Century Club: Patty Chadwick, Barbara Leabo, Christina Nagel

She handed out thank you cards to those recognized who were present. She also noted that the fund-raising efforts of Jolene Cervený and the Pizza Ranch events arranged by Joyce Gillespie combined with AAUW Fund donations resulted in more funds raised than the totals raised at the past few annual book sales.

Renee discussed the recognitions made during the State Meeting held via Zoom on May 6. The Independence Branch was recognized with the 10 Star Branch Award based upon efforts of the entire board. She encouraged attendance at the October Regional Conference. She then called upon Sue Shineman.

Sue discussed topics covered by the speakers at the State Conference. Malinda Gaul discussed the difficulty of getting leadership positions filled in some branches. National is considering allowing affiliate memberships, possibly combining Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kansas into a single unit to make for a more efficient process. Colleen Norman from the Missouri Library Association spoke on censorship and book bans. Sue encouraged all to watch the recorded Zoom meeting.

AAUW Independence Branch May 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Sue Shineman reported that she had been very impressed with the Van Horn Scholarship Presentation. She had presented the AAUW Scholarship to Norym Powell. The \$1,000 award from AAUW represented a part of the \$160,000 in scholarships received by Norym. Another young man at Van Horn received \$713,000 in scholarships.

Sue announced that a meeting on Title IX would be held from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday May 16th at the Kansas City Public Library. Those interested should contact her to arrange to carpool.

Sue Shineman then conducted the installation of officers. The following officers accepted their positions for the 2023-2024 year:

- Kathy Kelley – Corresponding Secretary
- Gail Metcalf Schartel – Recording Secretary
- Patt Braley – Financial Officer
- Barbara Leabo – Co-Vice President of Membership
- Sue Raymond – Vice President of Programs
- Karol Palmer - President

Sue called Pat Bounds forward to thank her for her service on the Board. She then called Renee Freers forward to thank her for her service as President of the Branch. Both women were warmly recognized by all present.

Patt Braley announced that individuals could pay their annual dues directly to her or do so on-line. She also called for anyone who had unpaid Branch-related business expenditures to provide her with receipts for reimbursement prior to June 1.

Renee asked Lois to explain where donations went. All donations to the AAUW Fund go to National; donations given to the Branch from fundraising goes toward the scholarship program and other Branch expenses. Lois said contributions could be made directly to the Independence School Foundation for the AAUW Scholarship.

Renee closed the meeting by commending and recognizing the work of mothers and wishing all a happy Mother's Day.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel