

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

President's Message March 2024 Newsletter

Happy spring, everyone! It is hard to believe that March is here already. We're winding down our program year, and the events in the next couple of months are coming fast and furious. Woman of Achievement nominations are due March 31. See the nomination form in this newsletter. At our March 26th branch meeting our guest speaker will be Bridget McCandless, City Council Member At-Large, and we will hold the election of officers. Soon we will be voting to pass a national bylaws amendment to open up AAUW membership, or in other words, drop the degree requirement for AAUW membership. Voting opens on April 3 and ends on May 15. The Greater Kansas City Interbranch Council Re-Entry Scholarship Award luncheon will be April 13 at the First United Methodist Church in Independence. Please plan to attend and make your reservation by April 4. Our spring fundraiser at Pizza Ranch is on April 15. Please volunteer to work from 5-8 PM to help raise money for our scholarships and other projects. The presentation of our High School Student Scholarship will take place at our April 23rd branch meeting. The month of May brings the AAUW MO State Meeting in Columbia on May 4. Our final branch meeting of the 2023-24 year will be a luncheon at the Bingham-Waggoner Carriage House on May 11 and will include the installation of officers. I know I'm throwing out a lot of dates so mark your calendars! Let's join together and support these events to help conclude a successful year.



Karol

Upcoming Events:

☞ March 26 ~ AAUW Independence Branch Meeting – Program: Bridget McCandless

☞ March 31 ~ Woman of Achievement Nominations due

☞ April 3 - May 15 ~ Voting window ~ AAUW National ~ National Bylaws Amendment

☞ April 6 ~ AAUW Membership Outing ~ Independence Branch ~ **The Diary of Anne Frank** ~ see Membership News, page 3 of the newsletter.

☞ April 13 ~ The Greater Kansas City Interbranch Council Re-Entry Scholarship Award luncheon (**The deadline for reservations is April 4.** The registration form and information is on page 5 of this newsletter.)

☞ April 15 ~ Pizza Ranch Fundraiser ~ Independence Branch ~ 5-8 pm/4660 S Bass Pro Drive, Independence.

☞ May 4 ~ AAUW MO State Meeting in Columbia

March Program



On March 26, Bridget McCandless, Independence City Council Member At-Large, will join us to speak about some Independence charter changes and general obligation bonds for the city. These are issues that may be voted on within the next year, so come and stay informed! Our members also have submitted questions to Bridget that address such topics as the issues of homelessness, safety, and new developments. See you on the 26!

Hello..... AAUW Independence Branch ladies.

Our Pizza Ranch fundraising event benefitting Branch scholarships is Monday April 15, 5 to 8 pm....three ladies have already volunteered...three or four more volunteers would be perfect.....you may work one, two or three hours. Some of you may tally our proceeds after 8 pm. If you have an AAUW t-shirt, please wear it, plus comfortable pants and shoes that evening...

It is a blessing to meet and greet Ranch guests. Young Children always enjoy a smile and extra attention with their beverages and flatware.

Thanks for your time and effort as we move into a successful 2024.



Please let me know soon of your availability. joyceannegillespie@yahoo.com

Committee News ~ Barbara Leabo

College and University: On Tuesday, March 5th, Sue Shineman, Lois Domsch, and Karol Palmer went to Longview Community College to register voters. Thank you for helping and giving up your time. They only registered one voter. March 19th is Equal Pay Day Celebration at Blue River. If you'd like to take part that day, please let Sue Shineman sueshineman46@gmail.com or Barbara Leabo bleabo@yahoo.com know. We will be working from 10-1.

Membership: Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 6, 2024. Please join other members and bring a guest for dinner and theater. We will meet at El Pico at 6:00 PM for dinner, then proceed to the Sermon Center to watch *The Diary of Anne Frank*, which begins at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$10 (seniors) or \$12. They can be purchased by calling (816) 370-6654 or they can be purchased at the door. Please let Karen Johnson kajohnson2724@gmail.com or Barbara Leabo bleabo@yahoo.com know if you want to join us. You can do just dinner or just the play or both.

Woman of Achievement Nominations ~ Karol Palmer (See form, p. 4 of the newsletter)

It's time to be thinking about our annual Woman of Achievement nominations. Women of Achievement have been honored by our branch since 1957. We are proud to recognize outstanding women in our community. Please find the nomination form attached to the March newsletter. The nomination form can also be found on our Independence AAUW [website](#). Nominees do not have to be members of AAUW. Please fill out the nomination form and return it to Karol Palmer no later than March 31, 2024. The Woman of Achievement recipient will be honored at our luncheon on May 11, 2024, at the Bingham Waggoner Carriage House. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Karol Palmer.

WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION

Fill out the nomination form for Woman of Achievement and return it to Joyce Gillespie, Woman of Achievement Chair

- 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 (a college degree is not required)
- 5) A brief statement of personal recommendation by the AAUW member making the nomination.

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 Karol Palmer, no later than March 31, 2024. palmer9141@sbcglobal.net

or 14608 E. Berkshire Dr., Independence, MO 64055



Reentry Woman Scholarship Award Luncheon

April 13, 2024

First United Methodist Church
400 W. Maple, Independence, MO 64050

Gather 11:00 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m.
Program and Awards 12:30 p.m.

\$30.00 / person
Cost helps pay for meals of scholarship winners and their guests

This event is a fundraiser for the Reentry Scholarship Fund

Sponsored by

American Association of University Women
Greater Kansas City Interbranch Council

Independence – Kansas City – Kansas City Northland – Parkville
Hosted by Independence Branch

Questions? contact sueshineman46@gmail.com or call 816-365-1180

Please send payment by Thursday, April 4th to Patt Braley
508 NW Murray Rd., Apt. 214, Lee's Summit, MO 64081
Check made out to: AAUW Independence Branch

Name: _____
Branch: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____
No. of meals: _____ Total for meals (\$30 each) _____
Extra donation toward a guest luncheon: _____
Extra donation toward Reentry Scholarships: _____

We look forward to your support of this important event!



**Upcoming Webinar: Busting Myths & Enhancing Support —
Advancing Workplace Success for Women**

What: This webinar will feature a panel of outstanding AAUW fellowships & grants alumnae moderated by AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell to discuss the critical importance of policies that support advancing work and life, their impact on women in the workforce, and strategies to foster economic well-being for women.

Who: Open to public

When: March 20, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. ET.

How: [Register here](#).

Questions? Please reach out to global@auw.org.



March 12 is Equal Pay Day 2024

Each year, this symbolic day is used to raise awareness around and combat the impact of pay inequities. Equal Pay Day 2024 is on March 12 and marks the current state of the gender pay gap for women: 84% for full-time, year-round workers and 78% for all workers (including part-time and seasonal).

To see the calendar for Equal Pay Day activities visit <https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/equal-pay-day-calendar/>

Pay Gap FAQs: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/pay-gap-faqs/>



Deeper in Debt: Women & Student Loans

Eye opening research and data. Check it out! <https://www.aauw.org/resources/research/deeper-in-debt/>



AAUW: Where We Stand. Voting Rights.

The information found in this report is an updated version of what was shared in a newsletter last year. With an election in November, it's important to stay current. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/position-voting-rights/>

National Voter Registration Day will be September 17, 2024!!

January/February Financial Report ~ Patt Braley, Financial Officer

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024

AAUW INDEPENDENCE Financial Report

Patt Braley, Financial Officer

CHECKING ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 1/1/2024				\$ 3,378.38
Deposit	2/9/2024	Tshirts	\$	205.00
Uncashed Check	2/27/2024	Check 4696	\$	50.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS			\$ 255.00	\$ 255.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Check	Date	Description	Disbursement	Deposits
	4700 1/23/2024	CSL - Speaker	\$ 50.00	
	4701 2/1/2024	Sonshine Sports	\$ 348.94	
VOID	4701 2/9/2024	(Incorrect Amount)	\$ (348.94)	
	4702 2/9/2024	Sonshine Sports	\$ 319.10	
	4703 2/27/2024	Montel Evans -Speaker	\$ 50.00	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			\$ 419.10	\$ (419.10)

BALANCE ON HAND 2/29/2024 **\$ 3,214.28**

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND 1/1/2024				3351.51
	1/31/2024	Interest	0.71	3352.22
	2/29/2024	Interest	0.67	3352.89

XX

SUMMARY

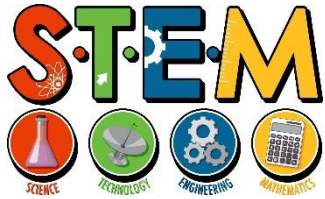
TOTAL CASH ASSETS -

Checking Account		\$ 3,214.28
(includes KC-IBC Fund)	\$ 984.69	
Savings Account		\$ 3,352.89
Community America Credit Union CD		\$ 2,563.19

INVESTMENTS

Stewardship Capital,	Schwab Invest.	\$ 5,095.20
ISDF Temporarily Restricted Account		\$ 14,426.55

GRAND TOTAL - AAUW-INDEPENDENCE **\$ 28,652.11**



STEM ~ Lois Domsch, Chair

STEM is going full steam ahead. We're working with two schools—one re-establishing a connection we had before COVID and the other a new contact.

We've identified several commercial products that look promising and we need our members' help in gathering some consumable items for their hands-on projects that are hard to find in stores but you'll probably find in your homes:

- Metal coffee or other cans with lids
- Small wood blocks (like kids play blocks)
- Sand packaged in quart Ziplocs
- Craft pom-poms of various sizes

If you have any of these, please bring them to the monthly meeting or contact Lois Domsch for pick up. We'll also be gathering/purchasing for them common items such as cotton balls, straws, rubber bands, masking tape, scotch tape, aluminum foil, pipe cleaners, index cards, and playdough.

What challenges could you imagine kids will be tackling with these items? How about these:

- Construct a model of a person or animal that can hold the most weight.
- Create a barrier that will keep a sponge dry when water is it.
- How many drops of water can you fit on a penny? A quarter? Find a way to fit more than 30 drops on a penny.
- Using the items in your STEM Bin create a WORKING TOY.
- Using only the items in your STEM Bin, construct a TOOL that helps make work easier.
- Using the items in your STEM Bin, create a structure with an AREA of at least 24 square inches.



Do you have contacts with Independence elementary schools and could provide an introduction to them for the committee?

Would YOU like to join our committee and have fun helping teachers have STEM fun with the kids?

Let Lois know! lois@domsch.com

AAUW Independence Branch February 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Pat Bounds, Jane Campbell, Patty Chadwick, Lois Domsch, Joyce Gillespie, Karen Johnson, Kathy Kelley, Jan Keeler, Barbara Leabo, Karol Palmer, Patty Petet, Sue Raymond, Kelley Reetzke, Gail Metcalf Schartel, Sue Shineman, , Kathy Vest

Guests: Montel Evans, Lydia Istomina

AAUW Independence Branch February 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes (Continued)

MEMBERSHIP: Barbara Leabo said that she hoped to get a group together to attend the Community Theater's play, Anne Frank, on either April 5th or 6th. She asked those who were interested which date would be best and questioned whether there was any interest in having dinner before the play. More information will be available at the March meeting.

STEM: Lois Domsch reported that she had spoken with Mary Morgan, former AAUW member and project leader for the STEM work at Proctor. Mary gave Lois the contact name, a librarian, at Proctor, whom Lois will work with to re-establish our STEM work there. She mentioned that she was a book buddy at Timothy Lutheran School and was working with the 2nd grade teacher there to pilot lessons from the STEM Challenge Box by Carson Dellosa. She questioned whether some members would like to help refill the STEM bins at Proctor and perhaps gather materials for STEM projects to deliver to other area schools.

FUND RAISING: Joyce Gillespie said seven volunteers were needed to work at Pizza Ranch on Monday, April 15 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. to raise funds for scholarships. She thanked those who had worked in the fall when she was unable to attend.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: Joyce stated that she, Kathy Vest and Jolene Cerveney had met and identified Patt Braley for Treasurer, Kathy Kelley for Corresponding Secretary and Karen Johnson for Membership Vice-President candidates for next year. The formal election of the slate of officers will be at the March meeting with induction of officers held in May.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Kathy Vest asked for volunteers to read 25 scholarship applications. Volunteers will meet at Kathy's home on March 13th. Kathy spoke about a proposed new scholarship for someone who completed a two year degree using the A+ program. It would be a \$500 scholarship paid directly to the college or school at which the student would pursue further study. The student would have to submit an application and be admitted to their selected program to be awarded the scholarship. More information will be provided at a later date.

It was noted that the Pizza Ranch fundraisers generate \$1400-\$1500 for scholarships each year.

HOSPITALITY: Jane Campbell thanked Pat Bounds and Jan Keeler for the evening's refreshments. She announced that Kathy Kelley and Joyce Gillespie would provide refreshments for the March meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Karol announced that Lisa needs newsletter articles by March 7th. Karol also noted she and a few others had participated in an on-line legislative retreat. Gail reported that she had sold two of the books from past book sales for a total of \$151, with a few others listed on eBay and that she would be taking books to Prospero's later in the week in hopes of selling more. All the funds will go towards scholarships.

Pat Bounds won the door prize.

Sue Raymond asked for prayers for her daughter as her cancer has metastasized and spread.

Lois noted that a movie, The Cabrini would be shown at the AMC Theaters in March. She noted that a 2:15 p.m. showing would be on March 12th. [The movie is about the first American saint.]

Joyce Gillespie said that Jackson County Historical Society's banquet would be held at the end of March with tickets available for \$80 apiece or \$800 for a table of ten.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel