



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881

## INDEPENDENCE BRANCH

Empowering women since 1940

Vol. 85 No. 2 October 2024

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

### President's Message October 2024 Newsletter

2024 is a big, important election year. In addition to the presidential race, every Missouri statewide office, a U.S. Senate seat, every U.S. House race, much of the Missouri General Assembly, and several Missouri constitutional amendments are on the ballot. Before you head to the polls, it's important to make sure you prepare. My message this month is in the form of a series of questions to help you get ready for November 5. How many of these questions can you answer without looking them up?



- What is your U.S. Representative district? Who are the candidates?
- Who's running for U.S. Senate in Missouri?
- What are the Missouri statewide offices on the ballot? Who are the candidates?
- How many ballot questions are there? What issues do they address?
- What is your Missouri Senate district, and who are the candidates?
- What is your Missouri House district, and who are the candidates?
- Does Missouri have early, no-excuse voting? If so, when does it start?

No worries if some of these questions stumped you. A good place to find answers is [vote411.org](https://vote411.org). There you will find election information brought to you by the League of Women Voters. You can find what's on your ballot, check your registration, and find your polling place. The Jackson County Election Board ([jcebmo.org](https://jcebmo.org)) is also a good source of information. KCUR ([kcur.org](https://kcur.org)) also has a voter guide. Share these resources with friends and family. Let's get out and vote!

Karol

Upcoming Events:

- ~ **October 18** ~ What's on Your Ballot ~ Online presentation ~ See section below.
- ~ **October 22** ~ Branch Meeting ~ See next Section.
- ~ **October 28** ~ Pizza Ranch Fundraiser, 5-8 pm. See details on page 3.
- ~ **November 2** ~ Women's March ~ See section on page 3.
- ~ **November 5** ~ Election Day!!
- ~ **November 12** ~ AAUW Book Club ~ Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt, led by Doris McCartney. Meeting held at Jane Campbell's home, 10:30am.
- ~ **November 19** ~ Century Club Fund Drive ends.

AAUW Independence October Meeting  
October 22, 2024

First United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
400 West Maple



6:30 Gather to enjoy social time  
7:00 Program: Bridget McCandless,  
Independence City Council Member-at-Large

“What’s on Your Ballot?”

On November 5, Missouri voters will decide on five ballot questions. Join an online presentation by the League of Women Voters Kansas City and the Kansas City Public Library to learn about what questions voters will see on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot and how the ballot question process works in Missouri.

Friday, October 18, 2024

12:00-1:00 PM

RSVP

<https://kclibrary.org/calendar/whats-your-ballot-2>

## Learn More About the Electoral College

On September 17, which was Constitution Day, the program “The Electoral College: Its Origins, History, Problems, and Possible Solutions” was presented by the League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County, AAUW Columbia, and the Mid Missouri Civil Liberties Association.

This program was recorded and can be found at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHSiiPUklil>



Karol Palmer, President

The Fall Pizza Ranch event is Monday, October 28, 5–8 pm. Currently, there are six members on the volunteer list. A few more ladies are always welcome as we continue to support our Scholarship fund benefitting young women in the greater Independence area, as well as other branch projects. This service opportunity gives us the privilege to interact with diners in a friendly, kindly manner as they enjoy Ranch meals. This major fund raising event has been cheerfully celebrated by our members through the years. Thank you.

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

Joyce Gillespie, Fundraising Chair

## Women's March Kansas City 2024

November 2

10:00 AM

City Market Park in the River Market, Kansas City

Members of the Inter Branch Council of Kansas City (IBC KC) are planning to attend. We will be going to support human rights and gender equality; however, we will not be attending under the banner of AAUW. More information can be found at:

[www.wmkc24.com](http://www.wmkc24.com)

If you are interested, please contact Karol Palmer, 816-769-1930.

## Public Policy October Newsletter ~ Kelley Reetzke, Chair

**Research shows women don't vote when they lack crucial information on the candidates and discussion around policy.**

### **Voter Guides**

Share these guides with your families, friends and neighbors.

#### [It's My Vote 2024 Voter Issue Guide](#)

AAUW has provided an Issue Guide, information on key ballot initiatives, and nonpartisan voter guides for nationally competitive U.S. House and Senate contests.

#### **How to Vote in Missouri.**

##### [Missouri Voters Guide](#)

This is an excellent resource. I was particularly interested in the section on Accessible Voting. I may have to make a couple of phone calls and check this out.

#### **League of Women Voters**

##### [VOTE411 Voters Guide](#)

Includes a list of phone numbers to call if election day issues occur. Also included is a section called, [Making a Voting Plan](#). There are a couple of nifty items included. Create a [personalized](#) ballot and candidate information guide. You can even print [Voting Plan palm cards](#) to hand out to friends and family.

#### **Two-Minute Activist**

##### **Affirm the Equal Rights Amendment**

The demand for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is long overdue and more urgent than ever. Without the ERA in the Constitution, advances in women's rights that we took for granted are at risk of being weakened or even reversed.

Please contact your representative today to ensure they sign and support **Discharge Petition No. 6**, which would force a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives on the bill to remove the timeline and recognize the ratification of the ERA (HJ Res 25). We need a majority of the House (218 signatures) to have the resolution come up for a vote. The petition currently has [214 signatures](#).

Follow this link: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/era/> scroll down to “**Contact Information**”.

## AAUW Working for Mother's Refuge Gala on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Left to right: Debbie Abbott,  
Sue Shineman and Karol Palmer.



## AAUW Independence Scholarships Planning Committee

I would like to form an ad hoc committee to discuss and plan for our scholarship awards. Some questions to think about might include:

- For the past few years, we have given one \$1000 scholarship to an Independence senior. Do we want to continue with one scholarship or increase the number of scholarships?
- The money in the ISD Foundation Scholarship Fund (approximately \$13,426) does not draw interest or income. When it is spent down, it is gone. How should we plan for the future?
- What do you want the celebration of our scholarship recipient(s) to look like at our April, 2025, meeting?
- How should we utilize the Barbara Leabo scholarship money (\$3000)?

If you are interested in making plans as we go forward with our scholarship award program, please contact Karol Palmer (816-769-1930).



“ANNOUNCING” the AAUW Fund Drive. Contribute this year and help us meet our goals:  
\$30/member and  
50% participation

Bring your “FUND” bag back to—or get one at—the October meeting for a taste of “success”.

*We wrap up the FUND drive Nov 19, 2024.*

**See the following article on the Century Club.**



## Century Club 2024 – AAUW Independence

*Independence Branch has a great tradition of supporting AAUW scholarships and programs at the national and local levels. Since 2015 AAUW Independence has recognized members who have made personal donations to the AAUW Fund and to our branch projects. Your support to these funds is greatly appreciated and helps us meet our budget!*

“CENTURY CLUB” refers to a \$100.00 donation in any of these levels:

### State Level: “Century Club” Recognition

- \$100.00 donation to national AAUW Fund – tax deductible-
- To support the programs and projects at the national level.
- Checks made to AAUW or on-line donations at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org), (log on to your personal profile and follow the prompts)

### State Level: “Century Club Plus” Recognition

- \$250.00 to national AAUW Fund – tax deductible –
- To support the programs and projects at the national level.
- (Checks made to AAUW or on-line donations at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org))

### Branch Level: “Century Club” Recognition

\$100.00 cumulative donations to any of the following:

- **AAUW Fund** – tax deductible – to support the programs and projects at the national level. (Checks made to AAUW or on-line at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org))
- **Independence School District Foundation** – tax deductible – local high school scholarships. (Checks made to ISD Foundation: AAUW account on the memo line OR submit to AAUW Finance Officer and she will send in.)
- **AAUW Independence “As Needed” Fund** – flexible funds for additional branch projects. (Checks made to AAUW Independence)

*Contributions to the fund(s) of your choice will be credited within the calendar year (same as national AAUW: January 1-December 31, 2024). Recognition will be given at our annual May luncheon.*

**Deadline for 2024 Century Club contributions is November 19, 2024.** Checks may be given to Patt Braley, Financial Officer, or to Lois Domsch, AAUW Fund Chair.

Thank you for your continued support of AAUW!

**Lois. Domsch, Chair**



**2024 September AAUW INDEPENDENCE Financial Report**

**Patt Braley, Financial Officer**

**Community America Credit Union**

**CHECKING ACCOUNT**

**Balance on Hand 9/1/2024 \$ 4,418.12**

Transaction	Date	Description	Disbursement	Deposits	Balance
Deposit	9/3/2024	Dues - Landers		\$ 99.00	
Deposit	9/3/2024	Pizza Ranch - %age		\$ 156.54	
Deposit	9/3/2024	CD cashed		\$ 3,027.75	
Transferred		New CD issued	\$ 3,127.75		
Visa Debit	9/9/2024	Dues - Lowrey	\$ 82.00		
Visa Debit	9/9/2024	Dues - Landers	\$ 82.00		
Visa Debit	9/9/2024	AAUW Fund	\$ 250.00		
Deposit	9/9/2024	AAUW Fund		\$ 250.00	
Deposit	9/9/2024	AAUW Fund -bridge		\$ 70.00	
Total Disbursements			<b>\$ 3,541.75</b>		
Total Deposits				<b>\$ 3,603.29</b>	
<b>Balance on Hand</b>	<b>9/30/2024</b>				<b>\$ 4,479.66</b>

**SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

<b>Balance on Hand</b>	<b>9/1/2024</b>		<b>\$ 3,357.11</b>		
	9/30/2024	Interest	\$ 0.69		
			<b>\$ 3,357.80</b>		

**SUMMARY OF ALL ACCOUNTS**

**TOTAL CASH ASSETS -**

Checking Account	9/30/2024		<b>\$ 4,479.66</b>		
(includes IBC fund)		\$984.69			
Savings Account	9/30/2024		<b>\$ 3,357.80</b>		
CACU - CD	9/30/2024		<b>\$ 2,637.30</b>		
(Branch)		Rate 4.93 %			
CACU - CD - Leabo	9/30/2024		<b>\$ 3,039.27</b>		
(Leabo Fund)		Rate 4.7930 %			

**INVESTMENTS**

StewCap/Schwab	9/30/2024		<b>\$ 5,196.21</b>		
Summer 2 ISDF Temporarily Restricted Account			<b>\$ 13,426.55</b>		

**GRAND TOTAL - AAUW-INDEPENDENCE \$ 32,136.79**

## AAUW Independence Branch September 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jane Campbell, Patty Chadwick, Lisa Cox, Lois Domsch, Joyce Gillespie, Kathy Kelley, Jan Keeler, Karol Palmer, Sue Raymond, Kelley Reetzke, Sue Shineman, Gail Metcalf Schartel

After enjoying a potluck meal, Karol Palmer called the meeting to order. It was noted that Patty Chadwick had distributed 2024-2025 yearbook.

Sue Shineman led those present in reciting the AAUW Mission and Vision statements. She discussed a letter drafted to the University of Missouri regarding equity. She reported that National AAUW is working on something to address Missouri issues with DEI. National also indicated that AAUW can endorse saying yes to Amendment #3. Sue will distribute a template to communicate with legislators to members. She said that once received, those who had family members enrolled in Missouri colleges to consider having them send the letter to the college's newspaper for publication. Sue also said that National AAUW would provide a paper explaining ballot issues to branches.

It was announced that early no-excuse voting in Missouri begins on October 22.

National AAUW has established member rights and responsibilities. [Member Responsibilities \(aauw.org\)](#) These include being respectful, promote inclusivity and equity for all, pay dues and donate, stay informed, vote, and commit to engage. Those things members should avoid include hostility, racism, discrimination, rudeness, exclusion and entitlement.

Sue then led groups to discuss four questions including what made each person in the group the same and how each member was unique; the roles members had in other organizations; and what was seen as barriers to recruiting members to AAUW. Each table reported on their discussions. Sue summarized that members of the organization need to feel valued, be included, be a team member, be heard, and be accepted for themselves.

In Patt Braley's absence, Karol reviewed the budget that was printed in the yearbook. Scholarship questions will be addressed at a future meeting. Sue Shineman noted that the four branches discussed the issues with the Re-entry scholarship and had voted to support the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Scholarship (NCCWSL) this year. Joyce Gillespie asked that the total amount of donations from working at the Pizza Ranch be reported on. After this discussion, the members present voted unanimously to approve the budget as submitted.

Lois Domsch then discussed the AAUW Fund. She distributed candy to those who had already given to the fund. Donations received in October, November and December will be matched. She distributed fall-themed bags to all, requesting that they return them with donations at the next meeting.

Gail Metcalf Schartel reported that she, Sue Shineman and Karol Palmer had visited Blue River Community College on the 17<sup>th</sup> and had registered a dozen students to vote and had fielded questions from those already registered and those who did not have their IDs with them. Gail handed out a quiz about the roles of those who would be elected to members,



## AAUW Independence Branch September 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes (Continued)

as she had at Blue River. She announced that there were three other dates for participation at Blue River Community College: October 8<sup>th</sup> is the final day to register voters; October 17<sup>th</sup> will ask students to take the pledge to wear purple on October 24<sup>th</sup> in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and on October 29<sup>th</sup> will have information on knowing the ballot, providing non-partisan information to students. Volunteers are needed for each day.

Jane Campbell asked for volunteers to provide refreshments for the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Jan Keeler and Lois Domsch volunteered to do so.

Lisa Cox said that items for the October newsletter were due by October 4<sup>th</sup>.

The following announcements were made:

- Several members volunteered to assist the Mothers Refuge Gala at GEHA on October 4<sup>th</sup>;
- If needed a board meeting would be held via Zoom on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. with all members invited to participate;
- Women's March Kansas City 2024 will be held November 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 10 a.m. from City Market Park;
- Information from AAUW "It'sMy Vote" can be found at [Voter Education : AAUW Action Fund](#);
- November 5 Ballot information was distributed to members by Karol. She will also email copies to all members;
- The Missouri League of Women Voters Columbia/Boone County, AAUW-Columbia Branch and MidAmerica Civil Liberties Association presented "The Electoral College: Its Origins, History, Problems and Possible Solutions" on September 17<sup>th</sup>. [I have not found the link to it yet.];
- KCUR offers a voter guide for November 5<sup>th</sup>;
- Karol will forward information about Project 2025 from the Center of American Progress to members. It can be found at [Center for American Progress](#) scroll down and find multiple articles and videos about this topic;
- On October 10 from 4-8 p.m., the Independence Square will have a "Ghouls Night Out". Information can be found at [Ghouls Night Out - Independence \(indepssquare.com\)](#);
- Joyce Gillespie asked for 7 members to volunteer at Pizza Ranch on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Jan Keeler, Patty Chadwick, Jane Campbell, Karol Palmer and Lois Domsch volunteered.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel