



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881

## INDEPENDENCE BRANCH

Empowering women since 1940

Vol. 85 No. 8 April 2025

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

### ***President's Message***

April 2025

Seventeen members from the four metro-area AAUW branches met for an organizing meeting on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. The group met at the First United Methodist Church and was hosted by the Independence branch. This was a great opportunity for members from across the area to get acquainted with each other and share ideas on how to work more closely together. Our discussion was very productive, and we were able to put together a tentative calendar for the upcoming program year, 2025-2026, including plans for several joint meetings. I want to thank all who took time out of their Saturday morning to attend and participate and help make this first gathering a success. Also, many thanks to our Independence branch members who brought or sent refreshments. Those in attendance were:



Independence-Lois Domsch, Patty Chadwick, Jane Campbell, Sue Shineman, Sue Raymond, and Karol Palmer (Sending refreshments were Joyce Gillespie and Kelley Reetzke)

Kansas City-Linda Berube and Corinne Mahaffey

Northland-Di Curry McQuirk, Melody Shoger, Gayle Matsuoka

Parkville-Su Bacon, Debra McArthur, Candi Strong-Lapides, April McArthur, Lindsey McArthur, and Kathy Potter

As our metro collaboration moves forward, we must keep in mind that this year will bring challenges and maybe even some confusion as we strive to coordinate our plans. However, I truly believe we have taken a very important first step towards a stronger metro-wide AAUW, and it is exciting! The results will be well worth it! Another metro planning meeting is scheduled for the morning of June 21, 2025, and will be hosted by the Parkville and Northland branches.

Stronger Together  
Karol

### **Upcoming Events:**

**April 22 ~ Branch Meeting** ~ 6:30 pm Social Time/7 pm ~ Presentation of High School Scholarship (see additional information below).

**May 3 ~ State Meeting via Zoom**, 9am to Noon. See additional information below. Click to see a flyer with a registration link.

**June 7 ~ Branch Meeting:** Event to be held at Café Verona from 3:00-5:00 p.m. with Cindy McClain speaking. Having a good attendance at this presentation is important. The cost to attend is \$25.

### **April 22<sup>nd</sup> Branch Meeting**

Our branch meeting on April 22 is the recognition of our high school scholarship winner. Our recipient is Deryan Banks from Chrisman High School. She is planning on attending the University of Missouri at Columbia and majoring in computer engineering.

As we have in the past few years, we will be taking up a cash collection on April 22 to present to Deryan. If you wish to contribute to this gift, please bring cash which will be placed in a card. The card will be at the membership table for your donations as you arrive before the meeting.

### **May 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Meeting Via Zoom 9:00 AM-12:00 PM**

Click [here](#) to see the attached flyer for details about our Missouri State Meeting on May 3, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. **In the flyer there is a link to registration. The deadline for registration is April 30.**

You are invited to a “Pathway Party” (Watch Party) at the home of Karol Palmer. Let’s gather, view the state meeting, and enjoy some time together – with food, of course! Karol will provide coffee, tea, juice, and quiche. If you are able, attendees are asked to bring sides such as fruit, rolls, or muffins. Please call, text, or email Karol to let her know if you are planning to attend!

*As your AAUW MO State President, I am personally inviting you to join us in Finding a Path Forward!*

*Your first step is to attend the State Conference on May 3!*

- **Pathways. Finding a path forward! Our path!**
- **What does that look like? NOW is the time to learn more.**
- **Together we will make it happen!**

This year your state board and committees have been focused on Action and Advocacy. For those of us country music fans, the Toby Keith song 'A Little Less Talk and A Lot More Action' comes to mind. As AAUW Members, we have the opportunity to truly make a difference in the future of women and families. We are good at 'talking the talk,' but NOW IS THE TIME to put our talk into ACTION!

I encourage you to be part of this important work and to join in the ACTION. There is much work to be done and YOU are needed!

*Please don't miss this opportunity to learn from our outstanding speakers!*

Katrina Sun Breese, AAUW Senior Director of Institutional Advancement will deliver a very timely message to us about a membership pathway and some innovative ideas. She will also share updates from national. Dr. Amber Bengé is a dedicated educator and advocate for equity and justice. She is Co-Executive Director of the Missouri Equity Education Partnership, championing educational equity throughout the state.

AAUW was founded on the issues and concerns of Education and Equity. It is now up to us to keep our mission moving forward on the pathway!

Each Missouri branch is encouraged to host Pathway Parties so members can join and share the State Conference as a group. I look forward to seeing you on May 3 as we find pathways forward together, recognize branch achievements, and honor some of our own with Woman of Distinction and Outstanding Member awards.

Additional conference information and the registration link are included in the attachment.

If you are watching at a 'Pathway Party', each person needs to register so everyone receives a conference packet prior to the meeting.

Action & Advocacy - Living the Mission of AAUW

Sue Shineman

### **College/University:**

Karol Palmer and Gail Metcalf Schartel represented AAUW at Blue River Community College on March 27th to provide information on Equal Pay Day. Numerous students stopped by to spin the wheel, answer some questions about the disparity in pay between women and men in a number of categories to earn a prize. . . an AAUW Bookmark and Payday candy bar.

## Pizza Ranch Fundraiser March 24

“Working the Ranch and Building the Branch” were Karol Palmer, Patty Chadwick, Sue Raymond, Jan Keeler, Joyce Gillespie, Jane Campbell, and Lois Domsch.

Thank you, ladies and all who came out to support us!



## Special Outing ~ Radium Girls

Several members of our branch enjoyed a special outing on the evening of March 29. The group met at 3 Trails Brewing Company on the Square for drinks and for sandwiches from the Brewer's Wrap House. Then they attended "Radium Girls" at the City Theater of Independence at the Sermon Center. Inspired by a true story, the play focuses on Grace Fryer, a young factory worker who paints luminous watch dials with the newly discovered "miracle cure," radium. As a mysterious rash of terrifying illnesses afflict the girls working in the factory, Grace fights for her day in court to seek justice from her employer, the U.S. Radium Corporation. Those attending were: Patty Chadwick, Kelley Reetzke, Jane Campbell, Sue Shineman, Kathy Vest, Sue Raymond, Jan Keeler, Gail Metcalf Schartel, and Karol Palmer.



## Election of Officers

As required by our by-laws, a quorum of 20% of our membership voted by email to elect our officers for 2025-2027:

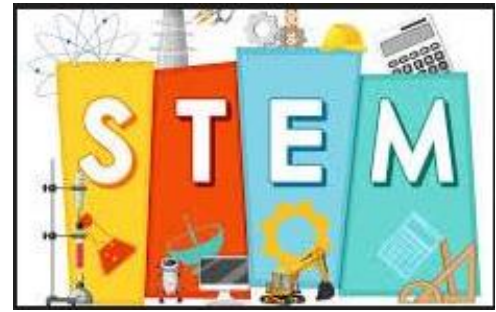
Co-Presidents Kelley Reetzke and Karol Palmer  
Recording Secretary Gail Metcalf Schartel

**Community America Credit Union**

	StewCap/Schwab	3/31/2025		\$ 5,266.97
	Summer 2024	ISDF Temporarily Restricted Account		\$ 13,426.55
<b>GRAND TOTAL - AAUW-INDEPENDENCE</b>			3/31/2025	<b>\$ 32,579.50</b>



## STEM and Literature Link ~ Lois Domsch, Chair



Our branch is working with a 2nd ISD elementary school –Korte. The librarian, Lisa Chiles, has been linking books she reads to the class with some hands-on activities already, but she is excited to use the STEM Boxes to give a more structured approach to the lessons. We have supplied her with some consumable materials to go with the supplies she already has. She would like us to present our program to all the elementary librarians at a workshop in the fall.

Our AAUW-MO STEM Chair has shared with us a list of books that focus on girls and women in the STEM fields. Our librarian contacts, Lisa Chiles and Jodi McHenry from Proctor are thrilled to get this list to add to their lessons. I've attached it for you, too. Maybe you could use the books for your grandkids or great-grandkids. Click [here](#) to view the literature link.

## **AAUW Independence Branch February 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

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

Guests: Jolene Cerveney, Teresa Dorsch, Brandon Schnur

Karol Palmer called the meeting to order at seven o'clock and welcomed all. She asked Sue Raymond to introduce the evening's speakers. Sue introduced Teresa Dorsch and Brandon Schnur from the Englewood Arts Center.

Ms. Dorsch outlined the goal of Englewood Ars which is to make the visual and performing arts accessible and to create affordable housing for educators, artists, and the existing community. In 2019 students from the Metropolitan Community Colleges in the Construction and Building Sciences program were utilized to help transform the former Comprehensive Mental Health building into the Englewood Arts Center. The goal was to develop a regional arts center to engage the community. The group worked to attain special zoning for the Englewood Area. A \$4M capital campaign is underway with \$3.6M raised.

The building includes exhibition space, a glass blowing studio, and a performance center on the first floor. The second floor has a ceramics studio and classrooms. The third floor includes painting and fiber studios, artist's studios and exhibition space. On the lower floor there is a woodshop and metal fabrication area. In addition, there is an exterior gathering space and a shop featuring goods made by the various artists in residence. Spaces within the Englewood Arts Center have areas available to rent for group gatherings. Classes and workshops are also offered in all mediums.

Various groups, including Special Olympics and Polynesian Cultural Festival have been hosted in the facility. During the summer there are camps for kids with 50% of those attending from lower income families with scholarship assistance. Participants receive two meals each day and take home meals. In 2024, 150 students participated in the summer camps.

Artists in Residence have studio space in exchange for working 10 hours a week with classes and producing items to sell in the on-site shop. The Artists in Residence have housing in the immediate area.

## **AAUW Independence Branch February 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Continued)**

Having established the Englewood Arts District, there are plans to help grow the neighborhood by working to build new homes on vacant lots, encouraging people to rehab existing homes and building auxiliary housing in backyards.

More information on all offered by the Englewood Arts can be found at <https://www.engagewoodarts.art>.

After answering many questions, the speakers were thanked for their presentation.

At 8:00 p.m., Karol called the business meeting to order.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Karol reported that the scholarship committee had met to discuss the application for the Barbara Leabo Memorial Scholarship for students at Blue River Community College. Gail distributed copies of the proposed application.

Kathy Vest said that the high school scholarship applications would be read and rated at her home on March 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m.

**NOMINATIONS:** Kelley Reetzke and Karol Palmer have been nominated to serve as co-presidents. Gail Metcalf Schartel has agreed to remain as Recording Secretary and rather than a single Program Vice President, a group including Lois Domsch, Karol Palmer, Sue Raymond, and Sue Shineman will serve as Program Coordinators to organize future programs .

**PROGRAMS:** At the Board Meeting on June 10, 2025 the program coordinators and all members are asked to attend and discuss program ideas. In addition to Branch meetings, the group hopes to implement the plan to have joint meetings/programs with other branches of the KC IBC.

**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:** Gail reminded members that the Branch would be at Blue River Community College on March 27 from 11:30-1:00 for Pay Equity Day and again on April 23, 2025 for Sexual Assault Awareness (Denim) Day.

**WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT:** Karol reminded the group that nominations for Woman of Achievement were due by March 31.

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE DAY OF THE CHILD:** The Day of the Child event has been rescheduled for September 6, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. She, Lisa Cox, Lois Domsch, Karen Johnson, and Judy Tyson have been brainstorming ideas for a STEM activity for the day.

**MARCH OUTINGS:** On March 8 (International Women's Day) members will meet at V's Restaurant at 11:30. Sue Raymond reviewed RSVPs she had received and asked that all let her know prior to that day to assure table space is saved. This is lunch on one's own with a Pot of Gold opportunity to contribute to scholarship funding by buying candy bars.

On March 29, 2025 members are invited to meet for dinner at Brewer's Wrap House at 5:00 p.m. before going to see 'Radium Girls' at the City Theatre of Independence inside the Sermon Center at 7:00 p.m. Sue Raymond will check to see if tickets need to be purchased prior to the day of the performance.

**FUNDRAISER:** Joyce Gillespie asked for volunteers to work at Pizza Ranch on Monday March 24 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Many present volunteered to be there.

**AAUW METRO MEMBERS MEET UP:** There will be an AAUW Metro Members Meet-Up including the Kansas City, Parkville, KC Northland, and Shawnee Mission branches hosted by the Independence Branch from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 5 at the First United Methodist Church.

**APRIL BRANCH MEETING:** On April 22, 2025 at 6:30 in the church, the High School Student Scholarship Award recipient will be recognized at the meeting.

## **AAUW Independence Branch February 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Continued)**

MISSOURI STATE MEETING: Members are encouraged to attend the Missouri State Meeting via Zoom on May 3, 2025 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

JUNE 7, 2025 MEETING: The group discussed ideas for publicity for the event to be held at Café Verona from 3:00-5:00 p.m. with Cindy McClain speaking. Having a good attendance at this presentation is important. The cost to attend is \$25.

NEWSLETTER: Lisa Cox requested that items for the newsletter be submitted by March 7<sup>th</sup>.

HOSPITALITY: Jane thanked Kelley Reetzke and Patty Chadwick for providing refreshments for the evening. Lisa Cox and Karen Johnson volunteered to provide refreshments for the April meeting.

Kathy Vest won the door prize.

Karol said that she would ask members to vote on officers via e-mail.

Lois Domsch gave an update on Patt Braley, who had fallen and was hospitalized.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Metcalf Schartel