

"AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research"

Branch Officers 2013-2014

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National Web Site:

www.aauw.org

**Empowering Women
Since 1881**

Year - End Gathering

Saturday, June 21, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

Sue Barley's Condo

We will use the beautiful setting of Sue's condo as a time to visit after so many months and to have a conversation about the direction of the branch – "cocktails and convos," as the national office promotes, except maybe we'll have wine and cheese with our "convo." We would like to address the results of the survey that was sent out a few months ago and hear your thoughts about what you would like to see us do in the coming year or two.

In addition, Jan will tell us about her experience as a delegate to **Vision 2020** in Philadelphia, an organization that "works:

- to achieve women's economic and to achieve women's economic and social equality by the year 2020, the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment that granted women the right to vote;
- to support and coordinate with equality goals of national allies (e.g., AAUW) that represent more than 20 million women and girls;
- to advance initiatives of delegates who represent all 50 states."

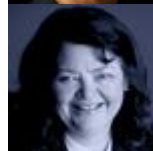
Missouri Delegates



Dayna Stock, Manager, (formerly) Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life at UM-St. Louis



Janet Scott, Publisher, St. Louis PubliHers, Inc.



Rebecca Richardson, Owner, Axis Architecture (AAUW member in the Kansas City area)

If you haven't already responded to my e-mail, please RSVP to me, Jan, or Sue. If you would like to contribute, you might bring a sweet or savory dish to share, but this is optional. Sue will provide beverages. (Thanks, Sue!)

New AAUW Research Reports

Moving the Needle: Women in Computer Science and Engineering is schedule for release later this year. In 2015 *Women in Leadership* will be released.

1,000 STRONG
\$10 x 1,000 = \$10,000

*Stand with 1,000 Missourians for equal rights. Help put Virginia Minor's bust in the Hall of Famous Missourians.**

Virginia Minor led the fight for women's suffrage in Missouri. In 1882 she led hundreds of women in an effort to get women the right to vote under the 14th Amendment. With her husband as her lawyer, she sued; but the Supreme Court, in *Minor v. Happersett*, decided that women were not covered by the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal citizenship for all Americans. Not until 1971, nearly 100 years later, did the Court finally apply the 14th Amendment to women. After losing the case, she studied law and continued her work for women's suffrage until her death in 1894.

BE 1 OF 1,000! Send your \$10 (larger donations welcome) to the Missouri Women's Network Education Fund to help pay the sculptress for her work. Contributions are tax deductible. Make checks payable to Missouri Women's Network Education Fund and mail to Joyce Schuetz, 528 Oak Ridge Trails Ct, Ballwin, MO 63021. A tentative date for the unveiling of the bust is September 10, 2014.

*Busts are on permanent display in the Missouri capitol. They are privately funded.

MEMBER NEWS:

Happy April Birthdays!

3 – Connie Stoker
 7 – Amy Weisser

Happy May Birthdays!

17 – Nancy Brown Collins
 20 – Lois Eason

Happy June Birthdays!

27 – Deb Burris

Happy July Birthdays!

8 – Barbara Johnson
 27 – Ellen Irons

Happy August Birthdays!

4 – Fran Irwin
 27 – Gwen Cotton

Jan and Carol have been "down and out" lately. Carol had a total knee replacement, and Jan developed pneumonia after her trip to Philadelphia for Vision 2020. Sorry if we have fallen behind in our branch duties. Sometimes it just takes time for the body to repair and recover.

AAUW Dues Time:

Your 2013-2014 AAUW membership expires on June 30, 2014. You may renew your national, state, and branch dues in one of two ways.

The preferred way is by credit card paid directly to AAUW at <http://www.aauw.org/>. You will receive an immediate receipt. At the website, scroll down to "Member Services Database" (MSD) and follow directions to enter (you will need your member number and your special password). If you have never visited the MSD, follow directions to "register." Enter the MSD, click on "renew my membership" on the left, and follow directions to pay.

The other option is to send your check made out to AAUW (**not** AAUW St. Louis) to Susan Barley, 4 N. Kingshighway Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108.

- *Branch member* dues: Association \$49 + State \$10 + Branch \$12 = \$71.00
- *Branch member life* (if you have paid to be a life member): Association \$0 + State \$10 + Branch \$12 = \$22.00
- Honorary Life (**50 year**, application submitted to AAUW): Association \$0 + State \$0 + Branch \$0 = \$0.00
- Dual Member, Primary Branch in **Another State**: Association \$0* + State \$10 + Branch \$12 = \$22.00
- Dual Member, Primary Branch in Missouri: Association \$0* + State \$0* + Branch \$12 = \$12.00
- Student Affiliate (Undergraduate level, currently enrolled): Association \$17 + State \$3 + Branch \$6 = \$26
- College-University Representative Branch Member: Association \$0** + State \$10 + Branch \$12 = \$22.00

*Paid through primary branch

**Association dues covered by C-U partner dues

You also may make donations to AAUW Funds at the same time as you renew your membership online or when you renew by postal mail. If renewing by postal mail, please make a separate check for your donations. Your donation check should be made payable to AAUW Funds. If you wish to designate your donation, please write in the memo line where you would like your gift to be given - *Educational Opportunities, Legal Advocacy Fund, Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, Public Policy, and/or Leadership Opportunities*. For the 2014-2015 year, AAUW will distribute \$3.7 million to 245 women for graduate and post-graduate studies.

People desiring to join AAUW as new members should contact Carol Davis McDonald, membership vice president, davis-mcdonald@juno.com, or Susan Barley, finance officer, barley702@gmail.com.

Do you know someone who is graduating from a two-year or four-year institution this year? Give that person a completely free national membership. If that person lives in Missouri, state membership is also free.

AAUW St. Louis Contributes to AAUW Funds:

Pushing forward with the AAUW mission of philanthropy, during 2013, branch members contributed \$1,865 to various AAUW Funds and AAUW's charitable work. Six of our members were Century Club members (each giving \$100 or more to AAUW). Congratulations and much thanks to Sue Barley, Mary Bruemmer, Carol Davis McDonald, Helen Shopmaker, Connie Stoker, and Margaret Weck.

St. Louis Branch Member Joins AAUW Legacy Circle:

Mary Bruemmer, AAUW member since 1969, has joined the AAUW Legacy Circle. By providing for AAUW in her estate plan, Mary will help ensure that AAUW will continue its mission in the future. Mary joined eleven other AAUW Missouri members who are also committed to the future of women and girls. To honor her as a Legacy Circle member, she received the exclusively designed AAUW Legacy Circle pin.

Joining the Legacy Circle can be done by leaving AAUW as a beneficiary in your will, retirement plan, or insurance policy. All you need to do to join is to let AAUW's national office know that you are including AAUW in your estate plans by completing one easy form. You do not have to provide details and exact figures. There is no minimum amount required. The information is confidential. If you want to create an AAUW Charitable Annuity that can provide you with tax savings and income during your lifetime, there is a \$10,000 minimum required, and you have to be at least 75 years of age.

If you are interested in learning more about the Legacy Circle, contact Sue Barley, barley702@gmail.com or 314-361-2920. or contact Catherine Heffernan at the AAUW Planned Giving Office, heffernanc@aauw.org or 877-357-5587. Additional information may also be found on www.aauwlegacy.org.

Watch for the every-member survey coming out shortly. This survey is important for the national officers and staff to gauge the feelings of the membership on a number of important issues and initiatives.

AAUW Quick Facts: Common Core Standards

The American Association of University Women believes that quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society. AAUW is committed to ensuring strong academic principles and bias-free public education that closes the achievement gap for all children.

AAUW strongly supports high-quality public education for all students. All students should graduate high school ready to succeed in their next steps. AAUW supports states' voluntary adoption of Common Core standards. If states choose not to adopt these official standards, AAUW urges them to adopt similarly robust and comprehensive standards. All students deserve a world-class education, no matter where they live.

What is Common Core? The Common Core State Standards Initiative ("Common Core") is a state-led, voluntary effort that established a single set of educational standards for K-12 in English and mathematics. The standards are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter college programs or the workforce.

The standards establish what students need to learn, but they do not dictate how teachers should teach. Teachers continue to devise lesson plans and tailor instruction to the individual needs of the students in their classrooms.

Origins and Current Status: The National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) developed Common Core and continue to lead the initiative. Teachers, parents, school administrators, and experts from across the country, together with state leaders, provided input into the development of the standards.

The federal government had no role in the development of the Common Core and has no role in its implementation. The initiative is a state-led effort, and adoption of the standards is in no way mandatory.

Forty-five states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity have adopted these standards.

Common Criticisms: Critics of Common Core have called it a "federal takeover" and "bad for teachers and parents." Much of the criticism stems from the myth that Common Core mandates that states adopt a set curriculum. States are not required to adopt Common Cores. If a state does adopt Common Core, its schools are able to design their own teaching to meet the standards.

Additional Resources:

- *Position on No Child Left Behind/Elementary and Secondary Education Act.* American Association of University Women, www.aauw.org/resource/aauws-position-on-no-child-left-behind/
 - *Frequently Asked Questions.* Common Core State Standards Initiative, www.corestandards.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions
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Downtown Lunch Group

Here are the places to be on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:45 AM. Please join us – we have lots of good conversation:

- June 17 Tripel Brasserie, 1801 Park Ave
- July 15 The Fountain on Locust, 3037 Locust
- Aug 19 Mama Josephine's, 4000 Shaw

AAUW ¡Adelante! Book Group

Where: Barnes & Noble, Chesterfield Oaks Shopping Center, 1600 Clarkson Rd.

When: 1:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month.

Contact: Teri Brecht, tebrecht@yahoo.com. AAUW members from all St. Louis area branches are welcome.

Upcoming books:

Sep 25 - *In the Shadow of the Banyan*, by Vaddy Ratner

(Future selections to be decided when the new AAUW list is published.)

Evening Book Group

This is a joint group with the Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch. The group meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM at the St. Louis Bread Company (unless otherwise indicated) in the Greentree Shopping Center in Kirkwood located at the corner of Woodlawn and Manchester Road. You are welcome to come at 6:30 PM for dinner before the discussion. Friends, family, and guests are always welcome to join the discussion. Contacts: Barbara Johnson, 314-962-3501, or Kay Meyer, 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer@yahoo.com. Here is the reading list for the next few months:

May 19 Planning meeting

June 16 *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II*, by Denise Kiernan

Equality Day Brunch

Join women activists on this special day! Celebrating the 94th anniversary of women getting the vote, the Missouri Women's Network (chaired by AAUW of Missouri past president and past AAUW regional director Shirley Breeze) will again host an inspiring and informative brunch with good food, presentations, political action, awards, election and legislative issues, and networking opportunity. Join us on **August 23, 2014**, from 9:30 AM (registration) till 2:00 PM at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7750 Carondelet (Crystal Ballroom), Clayton. Free hotel parking on the orange level of the garage behind the hotel (entrance at 7777 Bonhomme).

Make your check payable to Missouri Women's Network and mail it, along with your name, address, e-mail, and phone number, to *Julia Triplett, 401 Oakmont Circle, Ballwin, MO 63011*. Deadline: August 16th. For additional information or late reservations (a limited number), call Shirley Breeze (314-831-5359) or Pat Shores (636-938-3958).

Brunch and program: \$37.00 (scholarships available)

Student price: \$15.00

Optional: Donation to the educational fund and/or the scholarship fund, MWN membership dues (organization \$30, individual \$20).

Legal Advocacy Update

Supreme Court Upholds State Ban on Affirmative Action Policies: In April the U.S. Supreme Court released its decision in *Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action*, a case previewed during our Supreme Court member call last October. The 6-2 ruling upheld a 2006 Michigan ballot initiative that amended the state constitution to prohibit affirmative action admissions at state universities. At issue was not the constitutionality of affirmative action policies but whether the ballot initiative was constitutional. AAUW signed on to an amicus brief urging the court to strike down the ban.

While AAUW is disappointed in it, the ruling does not affect affirmative action policies currently in place in other states. In fact a joint statement issued by the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice on May 6 declared that the ruling leaves "intact the court's prior holdings, recognizing that institutions of higher education and elementary and secondary schools may use all legally permissible methods to achieve their diversity goals." AAUW strongly supports affirmative action policies and will continue to resist similar bans in other states.

Washington Update

Senate Roundtable Addresses Campus Sexual Assault: On Monday, Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) convened the second of three roundtables focusing on how Title IX enforcement can help fight campus sexual assault. Panelists included **AAUW's Government Relations Manager Anne Hedgepeth** and representatives from the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, campus administrators, Title IX coordinators, legal advocates, and students. The discussion highlighted the necessity of each university to develop Title IX-compliant campus policies and strengthen enforcement through increased training, education, transparency and data collection. As Hedgepeth noted, "At the end of the day, getting the information that we create to schools is key," reinforcing the need for well-trained Title IX coordinators and student access to supportive services on campus. The Senate Roundtable is available on C-SPAN.

AAUW Cheer: In the lead-up to a floor debate on Sen. Elizabeth Warren's (D-MA) student loan debt refinancing bill, several senators this week referenced *Graduating to a Pay Gap*, **AAUW's 2012 research** on the gender pay gap and student debt. Citing AAUW, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) said women are hit by a "double whammy" when trying to repay their loans because college-educated women earn on average 82 cents for every dollar paid to men. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau **also cited AAUW's report** in their testimony on student debt in a Senate Budget committee hearing on Wednesday.

AAUW Jeer: Despite the Senate's confirming the majority of President Barack Obama's judicial nominees, including more than 40 in the last six months, 38 judicial vacancies still remain without a nominee. These delays cannot be tolerated. Not only can the federal courts be a shield for civil rights laws like Title IX and the Equal Pay Act, but they're also often the

last, best hope for women who have experienced discrimination in education, employment, health care, and other aspects of their lives. A strong judiciary is critical to American women.

AAUW Cheer: On May 22nd, the Illinois Senate passed a resolution ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment! Congratulations to the AAUW-IL members who have been working on this issue all year as a part of their joint Impact Grant with Missouri. AAUW-IL mobilized quickly when the bill was scheduled for a Senate committee hearing (held the day before floor passage by the full Senate) by sending out an action alert resulting in more than 300 messages to senators – and more than one-third of the messages were sent within two hours of the alert going out! This morning, they sent another action alert directed at the Illinois House, with the hopes that the House will consider the ERA before the legislative session ends next week.

AAUW supports congressional legislation that would remove the deadline for states to ratify the ERA. Once the deadline is lifted, only three more states need to ratify the amendment for it to become law – and as you can see, Illinois is getting close! Tell your federal elected officials to support this legislation today!

AAUW Jeer: Florida Rep. Charles Van Zant (R) asserted that Common Core standards will cause children to “become as homosexual as they possibly can.” Although the comments were recently discovered on video, they originated from his speech in March at an education conference. Glenn Beck echoed the sentiment by comparing Common Core to slavery.

AAUW supports the Common Core standards and is disappointed to hear opponents – and elected officials, no less – making unfounded and offensive statements about this state-led effort to better prepare our nation's students to succeed.

Bits and Pieces

- The National Institutes of Health announced on May 21st that clinical trials must include female laboratory rats. The new guideline intends to eliminate gender bias from scientific research. The lack of a female variable in lab studies has led to adverse drug effects on women after products have been released, a harm which the NIH seeks to mitigate.
- In May the U.S. Senate confirmed Diane Humetewa, the first Native American woman to ever serve as a U.S. District Court judge. Justice Humetewa, a Hopi Indian, previously served as U.S. attorney for the District of Arizona.
 - On May 22nd, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act by a 325-98 vote. The House excluded amendments such as Rep. Jackie Speier's (D-CA) which addressed the way military sexual assault would be prosecuted. As the Senate takes up the legislation, AAUW will continue to advocate for legislation reflecting our priorities.
 - On May 20th, the Employee Benefit Research Institute released a report showing women lag behind men in total

due to the gender wage gap, which results in women's making and receiving smaller retirement contributions on average than men.

- This has been a busy month for the Common Core Standards. The governors of Oklahoma and North Carolina signed legislation repealing the standards in their states. Each state will develop and implement its own standards instead. In other news, AAUW-NYS joined forces with other national groups to organize support for the Common Core by launching a series of teacher-testimonial videos on the need for the educational standards. AAUW supports the Common Core standards and applauds AAUW-NYS for their coalition work.

- In response to the White House's 60-page task-force report outlining recommendations for the “My Brother's Keeper” initiative aimed at young men of color, more than 200 African-American men signed an open letter asking President Obama to create a similar program for young women of color.

- A Public Religion Research Institute survey revealed that a majority of Americans support the contraceptive coverage mandate within the Affordable Care Act. Sixty-one percent said they believe publicly held corporations should be required to provide contraceptive coverage to their employees. These results come as the public awaits a decision from the Supreme Court in the *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby* case. AAUW has signed on to an amicus brief in this case supporting employee's access to contraceptive coverage.

- This week, advocates charged that Congress' continued delay in passing AAUW-supported legislation to strengthen the Voting Rights Act, which was weakened by a 2013 Supreme Court decision, leaves many voters vulnerable to infringements of their voting rights. On a related note, a study released this week found evidence of underlying discriminatory intent behind many voter ID laws.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jun 5-7	NCCWSL
Jun 13-14	Midwest Regional Conference (9 states)
Jun 16	Evening Book Group, 7:00 PM
Jun 21	St. Louis Branch meeting at Sue Barley's, 2 PM
Aug 23	27 th Annual Equality Day Brunch, 10 AM
Sep 25	Adelante book group, 1:30 PM

Anything you want to share with our members? Please send articles and information for the newsletter to Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Drive, Manchester, MO 63011-4215, or davis-mcdonald@juno.com.

