

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

Who we are...

The Saint Louis Branch of AAUW supports the broad goals and actions of AAUW by holding public outreach events, engaging in political action, collaborating with local organizations and educational institutions regarding AAUW topics, and by supporting area young women and girls directly. We promote a "You Can Do It" approach. We are one of five branches in the Saint Louis, MO, area that comprise the AAUW Metro Saint Louis Interbranch Council (IBC).

Branch Officers, 2017-2018

Jan Scott, Co-President
 314-727-6876
 jan@wypstlouis.com

Carol Davis McDonald
 Co-President, Newsletter, Website
 636-227-0511
 davis-mcdonald@outlook.com

Susan Barley, Finance Officer,
 AAUW Fund, Bylaws and Policies
 314-361-2920
 Barley702@gmail.com

Ellen Irons
 Director

Sally McGowan
 Director

Lisa Taylor
 Director

Web Sites:

Branch Web Site:
<http://stlouis-mo.aauw.net>

IBC Web Site:
<http://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net>

State Web Site:
www.aauwmo.org

National Web Site:
www.aauw.org

AAUW St. Louis Annual Member Meeting
Sunday, June 24th - 2:00 - 4:00 PM
at the home of Jan Scott
7850 Adkins, St. Louis 63123

We will introduce and welcome new members, share updates on our recent events, and hold our annual officer elections. Our program presentation will be:

"AAUW NATIONAL - NEW DIRECTIONS"

A report from the attendees of the AAUW Missouri State Conference regarding the remarks made by our national CEO, Kim Churches.

Changes in Work Smart, online resources, social media, priority policy areas AND MORE!

Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to Ellen Irons, ironnew@msn.com, so we can have a count. Feel free to share with others. Invite a friend!

For more information, contact Ellen at 314 580-0834 or Jan Scott at 314-727-6876

Our May 30th Event with the St. Louis Press Club

Members of the St. Louis Branch, other AAUW branches, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the St. Louis Press Club, and the Women's Foundation of Greater St. Louis, and guests were treated to a delicious lunch at the Missouri Athletic Club-West and an excellent panel discussion on *#MeToo and What's Next? Three Perspectives on Sexual Harassment and Due Process for Women in the Workplace.*

L to R: **Jo Mannies**, reporter, St. Louis Public Radio; **Donna Harper**, attorney at Sedey Harper Westhoff; **Mildred Galvin**, senior VP and senior partner, FleishmanHillard; **Leatha Johnson**, EEOC supervisory investigator



BRANCH MEMBER NEWS

Happy July Birthday!

8 - Barb Johnson
27 - Ellen Irons

Happy August Birthday!

16 - Linda Lindsey
27 - Gwen Cotton

Happy September Birthday!

26 - Carol Davis McDonald

We were notified that **Bonita Johnson** recently joined the St. Louis Branch. The national membership office indicated that Bonita is a graduate student. Her address was listed in El Paso, TX. We have not heard from her yet about which school she is attending and what her local address is. You might add her to your directory with the following contact information: Phone 915-479-1252 and e-mail address bonita255@aol.com.



UPDATE: Amy is now at home and looks forward to visits from her AAUW friends. She responded to our meeting invitation: "Would love to join you, but not quite ready for that yet. Getting out of the house is difficult for me without transportation. Please keep me in the loop---means so much to hear from you. If anyone would like to visit, I have plenty of free time!! Just give me a call: 314-835-7531."

Our thoughts and prayers are with long-time branch member, **Amy Weisser**, as she struggles with meta-static lung cancer. Lung tumors pressing against her spine broke two vertebrae,



so she is paralyzed from her navel down. Daughter Rebecca and husband Fred will be her caregivers. Amy says hi to everyone. She misses us. This is a picture of Amy taken at the School of Social Work's hooding ceremony for Master's candidates at the University of Kansas in May 2013.

Farewell to Lisa Taylor, one of our branch directors. Lisa decided to transfer to the Ferguson-Florissant Branch, which meets at a more convenient location. Thank you, Lisa, for being a part of our branch and for providing insight into Title IX.

With her departure, one of the three director positions is vacant. If you would like to be a part of our board, please contact Jan or Carol (contact information on page 1).



Membership Dues 2018-19

The AAUW year begins anew on July 1, 2018, and your current membership expires on June 30. As you know, the AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase the national annual membership dues from \$49 to \$59 in 2018-19. AAUW Missouri dues are \$10, and St Louis Branch dues are \$12, which totals \$81 for the coming year. *Fifty-six dollars of the national dues is tax deductible.*

The national membership office is mailed a renewal form to each member who has an email address on file. Just click on the link in the message to renew. You do not need to log in to renew. With one click, pay dues with your credit card. It's simple, safe, and efficient. Instructions are in the email message. The alternate method is to send your \$81 check, *payable to AAUW*, to Sue Barley. For those without email addresses, Sue will print out the form and send it to you.

NOTE: *When renewing your membership, please take time to review your listing in the membership directory. Send any changes to Carol to be included in the next directory update. Her address is in your membership directory.*

Do you have an experience, an opinion, or something new in your life that you would like to share with branch members? If so, email Carol at davis-mcdonald@outlook.com or call her at 636-227-0511.



IBC Branches - Events:

AAUW KIRKWOOD-WEBSTER GROVES BRANCH:

- What - Branch meeting: Celebration Brunch with very special guest speaker **Mary Lou Sanelli** from Seattle, WA. Sanelli works as a writer, speaker, and columnist. She has published seven collections of poetry and three works of non-fiction. Her recent collection of essays, *Among Friends: A Memoir*, is a book of self-discovery - dauntless, smart, funny, and beautifully written (#1 in Non-Fiction, Barnes & Noble, a Goodreads notable book); and her latest book, *A Woman Writing*, are both in bookstores now. Among Friends, Falling Awake, her regular columns, appear in Seattle's *City Living Magazine*, *Art Access* magazine, as well as the *Peninsula Daily News & Lilipoh* magazine. She has written for the *Seattle Times*, *Seattle Metropolitan Magazine*, Morning Edition, National Public Radio, Seattle's NPR affiliate station KUOW FM, and many other publications and radio stations. She has also presented to many AAUW groups in the Seattle area, Oregon, and California. She will be in St. Louis as a guest author at the GFWC Conference and offered her services to us as well. Join Mary Lou Sanelli as she explores the subject of friendship in women's lives.
- When - Saturday, June 23, 11:30 a.m.
- Where - Kirkwood United Methodist Church, 201 W. Adams, Kirkwood 63122
- RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/>

ST LOUIS INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)

The AAUW St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council (IBC) consists of representatives from each of the St. Louis AAUW branches. The following officers from each branch are members of IBC: president, program vice president, membership vice president, and a member-at-large. All AAUW members are invited to attend meetings and participate in IBC activities.

The next IBC meeting will be Tuesday, August 28, 7 p.m., at the Bridgeton Trails County Library. All AAUW members are welcome to attend.

IBC MEET 'N EAT LUNCH (formerly Downtown Lunch)

You are invited to meet and lunch with area AAUW members on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 11:45 am. Good conversation and interesting restaurants! For reservations and car pooling, contact Kay Meyer at 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer@yahoo.com.



Jun 19 **Square One Brewery**, 1727 Park Ave, Lafayette Square

Future lunch locations to be determined.

IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP

This group, started in 1996 as a component of AAUW's diversity outreach program, meets in September, October, and January through May to discuss books written from diverse perspectives. AAUW members from all St. Louis area branches are welcome.



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

When: 1:30 pm the 4th Thursday of the month

Contact: Teri Brecht, tebrecht@yahoo.com

Sep 27 *Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman's Journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim*, by Sabeeha Rehman. Reviewer: Betty Takahashi

Future selections will be determined in September.

Area Events That Support the AAUW Mission

This section contains information about events that are sponsored by local organizations that support our AAUW mission. If you know of an event that you would like to see listed here, submit information about it to Carol.

National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis (NCJW) Advocacy in Action 3rd Thursday

(Bring your own) Lunch & Learn Program: Justice for Sale?

Courts are the last line of defense for many of our most important liberties. Now some legislators are working to replace the Missouri Non-Partisan Plan for selecting judges with either elections or direct appointments by the governor. What's wrong with that? Plenty! Representatives from the Missouri Bar Association will explain – in plain English – exactly why our current system is the best one around and what we need to do to protect it for future generations.

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We will begin gathering at 11:30 AM. Speakers will begin at noon. Please RSVP to Lisa at 314-993-5181 or llong@ncjwstl.org so that we can be sure to have adequate seating.

When: Thursday, June 21, 11:45 am

Where: NCJW St. Louis, 295 N. Lindbergh

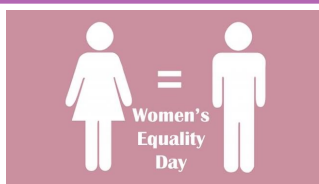
RSVP: <https://www.ncjwstl.org/lunch-and-learn/>

Mark Your Calendar

The annual Missouri Women's Network's **Equality Day Brunch** will be held on

August 25th at the Clayton Plaza Hotel from 9:30 a.m.

until 2 p.m. A save-the-date flyer will be sent out as soon as it is received. You may buy ad space in the program to honor important women in your life.



NATIONAL

Voting for Bylaws Changes!

Voting opened on April 25 and closed on June 9th. There were three amendments:

PROPOSAL 1 - Shall AAUW implement a staggered-term model for the AAUW Board of Directors that includes directors serving for three years per term, with four elected and one appointed each year? PASSED, 96.61% affirmative

PROPOSAL 2 - Shall the AAUW Bylaws be amended to allow up to five non-members of AAUW to be members of the AAUW Board of Directors? FAILED, 54.47% affirmative

PROPOSAL 3 - Shall the AAUW Bylaws be amended to eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW? FAILED, 47.73% affirmative

There are many passionate voices on the issue of the educational membership requirement, as well as on the proposal to admit a small portion of current non-AAUW members to board director positions. Opening the membership has been a highly debated issue in AAUW for many years. Our membership is grappling with different viewpoints about the future of the organization. We encourage branches and members to continue discussing these issues with fellow members and with valued community stakeholders to ensure voices and ideas are shared. Because our organization is a democracy, members may raise these proposals again, as well as other ideas for membership vote.

24.34% of AAUW Missouri voted. The national average was 19.82%. <https://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>

AAUW Washington Update

Congress is considering three bills that would help improve workplaces for all employees:

- the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act
- the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act
- the Healthy Families Act.

By providing greater protections to pregnant workers and increasing the availability of paid sick, family, and medical leave, these bills would go a long way toward helping working parents balance the responsibilities of work and family.

The House of Representatives may soon vote on a bill to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA) that would ultimately put a college degree further out of reach for many Americans – especially women. We must keep the pressure on. [Tell your representative to oppose the PROSPER Act \(H.R. 4508\) and any HEA reauthorization that fails to promote equity in education.](#)

Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Revocation-on-Divorce Statutes.

[The Supreme Court ruled](#) this week in *Sveen v. Melin* that revocation-on-divorce statutes, which automatically revoke the prior beneficiary designation of a spouse upon divorce, do not violate the contracts clause of the Constitution. The case involves a Minnesota woman who was the named beneficiary on her ex-husband's life insurance policy when he died. Revocation-on-divorce statutes, like Minnesota's, more frequently revoke the beneficiary designations of women, thus depriving them of benefits, which can negatively affect financially vulnerable divorced women. Due to the disproportionately negative impact that revocation-on-divorce statutes have on women's economic security, [AAUW joined an amicus brief in support of the plaintiff, which was cited in Justice Gorsuch's dissent.](#)

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf (D) recently took action on pay equity by signing an [executive order](#) that ends the practice of state agencies requiring a job applicant to provide their [salary history](#) during the hiring process. The governor also called on the General Assembly to pass similar protections for all working women in Pennsylvania.

AAUW of Pennsylvania State Public Policy Chairs Barbara Price and Ann Pehle were instrumental in advocating for this progress in their state, and those contributions were recognized when Barbara was invited to speak on behalf of AAUW-Pennsylvania at the signing ceremony. Hear Barbara's moving remarks starting at the 20 minute mark in [this video](#). If you're interested in advocating for executive action on pay equity in your state, [contact us for support!](#)

Illinois became the 37th state to [ratify](#) the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) last week, leaving the ERA only one state away from [potential addition](#) to the U.S. Constitution. AAUW of Illinois played an active role in pushing the resolution through the state legislature – members contacted representatives, attended hearings and rallies, and even distributed an ERA-themed coloring book to legislators. AAUW is proud of our members’ dedicated advocacy, and continues to support the passage and ratification of the ERA.

Another Salary History Ban. Last month, Gov. Phil Scott (R-VT) [signed](#) a salary history ban into law, adding Vermont to a growing list of states that prohibit employers from inquiring about an applicant’s prior salary during the hiring process. AAUW members played an active role in the bill’s passage by [testifying](#) and submitting [public comment](#) in support, and were even invited to attend the bill signing. Public testimony before state legislatures is one way AAUW activists, branches, and states can influence policy. If you’re interested in testifying on a bill in your state, [contact](#) the AAUW policy team for technical assistance, sample language, and tips.

Support the Federal Pay Data Collection and Encourage Employer Fair Pay Practices

In 2016 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) created a **wage data collection**, designed to help the EEOC better identify trends with respect to discrimination in pay based on gender, race, or ethnicity. Data is necessary to identify trends of problematic pay practices, as well as to encourage employers to proactively correct improper pay disparities they find. However, in August 2017, the [Trump administration halted the implementation](#) of the salary data collection; but the decision was not a final one. The EEOC has the power to move forward by submitting this data collection again and we must urge them to act.

June 30 - Last Chance to Join the In-It-for-Life Membership Campaign

Upgrade your current membership to a life membership! Show your commitment to advancing equity for women and girls by gifting a life membership or upgrading your own today and put your values into action. Lifetime membership in AAUW is a one-time, fully tax-deductible gift of \$980. Become a life member or gift a life membership today!

Bits and Pieces:

✦ AAUW recently [published](#) a new research report on women’s representation in nonprofit leadership. *Broken Ladders: Barriers to Women’s Representation in Nonprofit Leadership* explores the **underrepresentation of women in leadership** in sectors like nonprofit organizations and postsecondary education, where women make up the majority of workers.

✦ Attorney General Jeff Sessions [announced](#) that **victims of domestic abuse and gang violence** will no longer qualify for asylum. The decision [overturned](#) precedent set by the Board of Immigration Appeals. The National Taskforce to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, of which AAUW is a member, issued a [statement](#) opposing the decision.

✦ A report released by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) [found](#) that **many high school athletics administrators weren’t aware of their Title IX coordinator** or didn’t feel supported by them. GAO recommends that the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights ensure Title IX coordinators are aware of existing tools and guidance and encourage them to work with athletics administrators. AAUW members and gender-equity advocates can play an important role by [delivering](#) resources to schools in their communities and helping to support Title IX coordinators in performing their duties.

✦ U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos [clarified](#) in a Senate hearing on Tuesday that **schools cannot call U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to report undocumented students**, a change from her earlier statement at a House Education and the Workforce committee hearing that calling ICE on students was a “local” decision. DeVos’ correction came after a [number](#) of civil rights groups, including AAUW, signed a [letter](#) demanding that DeVos affirm that schools must comply with *Plyler v. Doe*, the U.S. Supreme Court case that decided undocumented students have the right to an education.

AAUW Outlook Magazine

ACTION!

Outlook, our award-winning, quarterly magazine, is now available on line (by default) at www.aauw.org, typing <Outlook> in the search box. If you wish to have a printed copy delivered by the postal service, you may request it via www.aauw.org by doing a search for <Outlook> and filling out a form. You will need your membership number. If you need assistance, contact connect@auw.org or call 800/326-AAUW.