



Newsletter of the Saint Louis Branch (Since 1893)

2019-2020, No. 1

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

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, 2019-2020

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Branch Web Site:
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IBC Web Site:
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State Web Site:
www.aauwmo.org

National Web Site:
www.aauw.org

Thoughts From Your New Branch President, Ellen Irons

I am very grateful to have been elected president of the AAUW St. Louis Branch at our most recent annual membership meeting on May 21, 2019. So many kudos and thanks go to our two co-presidents, **Jan Scott** and **Carol Davis McDonald**, who have served the branch for several back-to-back terms. You gals absolutely ROCK!

Founded in 1893, the Saint Louis Branch is the very first and the oldest branch organized in the St. Louis region. I am honored and feel a great sense of responsibility to serve and build our branch. Three main goals I have for this coming year are:



1. Continue the momentum of holding at least one and possibly two main programs that are educational and open to the public. These include public speaker/panel events, workshops, educational sharing and networking, and other type events.
2. Find ways to continue building a sense of community within our branch – I'd like to start a Google Email group for our branch (to be discussed), encourage more social events and find more ways to network and share. NOTE: Sue Barley is hosting the December brunch this year Sunday, December 15.
3. Serve as a way for our members to engage in ways that are most meaningful to them – we always get more involved when we work on our passions! (My passion this year is surrounding the 2020 Centennial of the 19th Amendment coming up on Aug 26, 2020. More on this in future issues.)

I want to hear about what's nearest and dearest to your heart. Please contact me at ironnew@msn.com. (Continued on Page 2)



Save the Date!

The annual December luncheon returns to **Sue Barley's** home. Put **Sunday, December 15**, on your calendar. You will receive details in November.

Plans Still in the Works for Our St Louis Branch Programs 2019-20

We are still planning our activities for the coming year. Our planning group should meet Tuesday, October 15, 2019. Please contact Ellen Irons at ironnew@msn.com if you have ideas or want to attend. We usually meet at Pasta House in University City, 6pm, on the second Tuesday of each month.

From our May 2019 Annual meeting, here are our top ideas:

- The 100th year anniversary of Getting the Vote for Women is August 26, 2020. Many area organizations are developing plans for activities. We could make this a main focus for our branch.
- Work Smart/Closing the Gender Pay Gap is still a key issue this year. What activities appeal to us to tackle?
- We discussed the idea that we focus on the ERA – awareness, who's doing what in other states, what we are doing in MO, the importance of still pursuing the ERA legally.

We Did It! AAUW Delivers on Negotiation-Training Goal

With a lot of help from our members, AAUW hit a major milestone in our partnership with the **Coca-Cola Foundation** to teach women everywhere to negotiate effectively. As of August 23, we've trained 102,656 women to ask for the salary they deserve, either through Work Smart Online or in-person workshops.

We knew our goal of reaching 100,000 women through Work Smart in less than a year would be ambitious. But we also knew our members would deliver — and you did (and then some). To further expand the program, we're entering into strategic partnerships with women.nyc, Starbucks Global Academy, the city of Wichita, and many others.

Good News for Branch Member Lynn Voss

Even though the **Sue Shear Institute** has been officially dissolved, the **Sue Shear Leadership Academy** is now subsumed under the College of Education (COE) at UMSL. Lynn has been assigned to run that program next spring along with two other COE programs under the Citizenship Education Clearing House (CECH) designation: a Voting program and a Local Government program.

Lynne is just at the beginning stages of determining how involved the CECH programs will be and what will be possible for the calendar year, assuming Leadership Academy will be offered in the Spring of 2020. The College of Education is also conducting a national search for a new endowed professor for the Teresa M. Fischer Endowed Professor of Citizenship Education in the College of Education who will provide oversight and leadership to these programs.

Lynn expects to continue to update the Sue Shear database and will follow up with the advisory board as it relates to their new role and/or input into the Leadership Academy.

AAUW Fund, by Sue Barley

As a member organization, AAUW relies on contributions from members to support our mission. So far, in 2019, **Sue Barley, Mary Bruemmer, Nancy Collins, Gwen Cotton, Kathleen Farrell, Carol Davis McDonald, and Margaret Weck** have supported AAUW with donations to help AAUW carry out its bold, strategic vision for the future. There are still three months remaining in 2019, and everyone is encouraged to contribute to one of the funds: Education and Training, Economic Security, Leadership, and Greatest Needs. Check out the AAUW website for more information about these funds. Contributions to AAUW are fully tax-deductible and can be made online at <https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/> or sent to: P.O. Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045.

Honorary Life Member



AAUW celebrated with **Mary Bruemmer's** becoming an Honorary Life Member. This is an honor given by AAUW to a member who has paid dues for fifty years. Honorary Life Members are exempt from ever again paying national AAUW, state dues, and branch dues. **Sue Barley, Carol Davis McDonald, and Jan Scott** presented Mary with her letter, certificate, and pin in September. Mary joined AAUW in 1969 and became a member of the St. Louis Branch, shortly after St. Louis University was accredited for membership. Mary is unable to participate in branch activities, but she is always with us in spirit and support. Congratulations, Mary!

Sue Barley reads letter of congratulations from AAUW CEO Kim Churches to Mary.



A friend made a beautiful scrapbook for Mary on the occasion of her 99th birthday. If you stop by to visit her, she will show it to you, along with pictures from her birthday party in February 2019.



A message from Amy

Our longtime member Amy Weisser said she would love to join us but is unable to get out and about. However, she would love to hear from us. "My welcome mat is always out for AAUW." Her address and phone number are in the directory. Her e-mail address is amyweisser@gmail.com.



Join the AAUW Legacy Circle

What do AAUW's most compassionate and dedicated supporters have in common? For many, it's their special commitment to AAUW through the Legacy Circle. The Legacy Circle is an esteemed group of visionary supporters who are advancing AAUW's mission long into the future through planned giving.

When you decide to leave a planned gift to AAUW National in your will, trust, or estate, you too can join the AAUW Legacy Circle. Planned gifts such as bequests, beneficiary designations, or other deferred gifts are a wonderful way to support AAUW at no cost to you during your lifetime.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.aauw.org/legacy/>, or contact Sue Barley, barley702@gmail.com with any questions you might have.



Our condolences to **Sue Barley** on the loss of her husband, Bob, who passed away on June 2, 2019, at their home in Bonita Springs, FL. "Bob was a passionate fisherman, a dedicated boater, and an avid golfer. Later he found a new love with bridge and enjoyed an amazingly supportive group of friends. Besides his love and devotion to his family, he also loved theatre, to travel, listen to jazz, learn and play jazz piano, and root for the Cardinals."

AAUW METRO ST LOUIS INTER-BRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)

IBC consists of representatives from each of the St. Louis AAUW branches (Ballwin-Chesterfield, Ferguson-Florissant, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, and St. Louis). The following officers from each branch are members of IBC:

- President
- Program vice president
- Membership vice president
- A member-at-large.

All AAUW members are invited to attend meetings (quarterly, third Tuesday of August, November, February, and May) and participate in IBC activities. The next IBC meeting will be Tuesday, November 26, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at the Bridgeton County Library.

IBC MEET N EAT (formerly Downtown Lunch Group) has disbanded.

IBC 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

Oct 24 *The Only Woman in the Room: Why Science is Still a Boys' Club*, by Eileen Pollack
Reviewer: Betty Takahashi, St. Charles

Jan 12 *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, By Bryan Stephenson
Reviewer: Kay Meyer, Kirkwood-Webster Groves

IBC BRANCHES - Events

Ferguson-Florissant Branch:

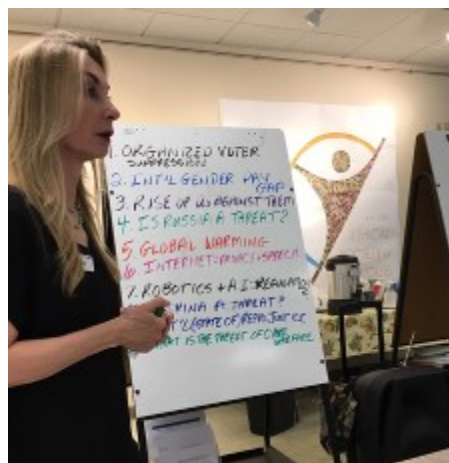
The Ferguson-Florissant Branch kicks off its centennial celebration of women getting the vote with an opening reception on Sunday September 15. The reception will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the parlor of the First Presbyterian Church, 401 Darst, Ferguson.

Virginia Minor, a/k/a Barbara Kay, will visit and explain her actions in trying to get the vote for women. After unsuccessful attempts in lower courts, her case landed in the Supreme Court, where she was also defeated. Refreshments will be served. For additional information, call 213-522-0413, 314-831-5359 or 313-921-7109. Information will be available at the reception on the many initiatives AAUW pursues for women's rights. Everyone is invited.

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch:

Oh Thursday morning, September 12, 2019, AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Fall Branch for members and prospective members. They kicked off another outstanding year and got inspired to take the actions necessary to strengthen emphasis on education and training, economic security, and leadership. Everyone was encouraged to wear white to celebrate the day in honor of the suffragists.

Ballwin-Chesterfield has invited other branches to join them for their annual Eleanor Roosevelt Walk on October 15, 2019, at 10:30 AM. It currently is planned for the Des Peres City Park at Ballas and Manchester roads; but the location may change because of construction. All walkers and non-walkers are invited to attend the fundraiser to celebrate Eleanor's birthday and to support AAUW's educational research. Bring a salad or dish to share and stay for a picnic lunch. Water, lemonade, coffee, and dessert will be provided. For more information, contact Eileen Krahman (krahmaneileen@gmail.com) or Carol Derington (carol.derington@sbcglobal.net). No fees, but a donation should be made to further research. We are asked to make checks payable to <AAUW Fund> with code 4450 (Education and Training Fund) on the memo line, as well as our branch (St. Louis Branch code is MO7052).



KWG Member Tricia Bishop (formerly Scott), International Relations Lecture Series chair, coordinating the selection of programs for the 2020 IRLS, a 90+ year project of AAUW and the Tuesday Women's Association at the Ethical Society. The series takes place from January through April.

AAUW of MISSOURI

AAUW of Missouri is planning a regional conference to include several other states, including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. The dates are June 17 (Wednesday) through June 20 (Saturday morning). Conference centers have been booked on the weekends for weddings, so this was scheduled as a weekday event was scheduled. Since national conventions will not be occurring in the near future, this is a way to network with other states without the high cost of a convention in a major city. More information will be coming as planning continues, but mark your calendar and plan for a fun women's get together.



Launch of 2020 19th Amendment 100-Year Anniversary Information Sharing Project

In recognition of the importance of the 100-year anniversary milestone next year, the AAUW of Missouri board chartered a state board committee to assist in information sharing across the state. The initial committee has developed a handout to share with the branches.



The IBC will be collaborating this year on activities and events to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary.

Members might find interesting the *New York Times* article about the complex history of the women's suffrage movement. ([This link will take you to the article.](#)) For years, the drive for women's suffrage was presented mainly as the story of middle-class white women and iconic national leaders like Anthony and Stanton, but there were many more involved.

PUBLIC POLICY -- provides an opportunity for you to be an informed citizen and have your opinions heard. To advocate for issues doesn't mean that you must attend rallies or walk the halls of the Capitol. You can be an arm-chair advocate. Stay informed and watch out for fake news, speak up at meetings, make phone calls, write post cards, talk about your issues, and donate money. You can also turn your birthday party into a fundraiser for one of your issues or write letters to the editor.

Where can you go to check if the news is fake? Here are a few sites to try: [FactCheck.org](#), [Snopes.com](#), and [Hoax-Slayer.com](#). AAUW MO will again focus on gender equity, get out the vote, and Title IX. If you haven't registered for Work Smart online, please do so. Go to [salary.aauw.org](#). AAUW is committed to closing the gender pay gap by 2030. The crowds in the stands cheered when the U.S. Women's Soccer team won the World Cup and shouted, "Equal pay!" It's time! Become involved. "We realize the importance of our voice only when we are silenced." --Malala Yousafzai

VOTING IN 2020

As we enter the next election season, it behooves us to consider some of the controversies surrounding voting in the United States. Two of the major concerns that surface prior to every election are **voter suppression** and **voter fraud**. These two areas are very inter-related. Voter suppression is using various, seemingly valid means to curtail or hamper voting. This includes purging voter rolls, eliminating voting sites, limiting voting hours and days, poll taxes, voter registration schemes, literacy tests, poor preparation of voting personnel, limited staff at polling places, various voter ID systems, outright discrimination, and a myriad of other actions.

Related to voter suppression is the whole issue of **redistricting (or gerrymandering)** to design a voting district in favor of one party. Voter fraud is the outright misuse or mismanagement of voting itself. This includes voting more than once in a single election, voting on someone else's credentials, and other schemes.* Many people who study voting strongly believe that the way we handle elections in

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the US needs to be changed. They believe that voting times, places, and days should be extended, giving voters more options and thus more people the opportunity to take advantage of their voting rights. Voting is at the very basis of our democracy. We should be ever vigilant about its proper management and accessibility.

*Legislators who want to limit election access frequently state that there is rampant fraud. This surfaced in Missouri’s 2000 election. After several allegations and investigations, a very, very limited number of cases was found. In the 2,361,586 votes cast in that election, only six cases of fraud could be validated.

Sources: American Association of University Women, Brennan Center for Justice, USA Today, The Week

AAUW NATIONAL



Reach for the Stars — All 5 of Them!

AAUW recently launched a Five-Star Recognition Program to acknowledge the work of our states, branches, and other affiliates to advance gender equity in their communities. Earn stars — and perks! — for supporting AAUW’s mission in each of five vital areas:

- Advancement
- Communications
- Programs
- Public policy and research
- Governance and sustainability.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF)

Victories in the Courts

LAF Supported Case, [Portz v. St. Cloud State University](#), Decided in Favor of Female Student Athletes

In early August, a judge in the U.S. District Court in the District of Minnesota [found in favor](#) of a class of female student athletes at St. Cloud State University (SCSU) who alleged gender discrimination in violation of Title IX.

In March 2016, the SCSU athletic department announced plans to cut six teams from its athletic program, including both the women’s tennis and Nordic skiing teams. At the same time, the school also unveiled a roster management plan — a way to cap participation on men’s teams and pad participation on women’s teams — designed to achieve Title IX compliance. Plaintiffs who are, or recently were, members of SCSU’s women’s tennis and Nordic

ski teams, allege that SCSU violated Title IX. They represent a class of all present, prospective, and future female students at SCSU harmed by sex discrimination in the allocation of athletic opportunities and benefits.

The case went to trial in December 2018. In August, the judge issued an opinion agreeing with the plaintiffs and finding that SCSU did not meet any of the three prongs of the [test to determine compliance with Title IX’s](#) anti-discrimination provisions, meaning SCSU must maintain the women’s tennis and Nordic skiing teams, improve the facilities of women’s sports teams to create equity with the men’s teams, and take other relevant steps to provide female students with equitable athletic opportunities. He stated that, while mindful of financial difficulties faced by public universities, the school can implement a cost-savings plan that does not result in discrimination against women.

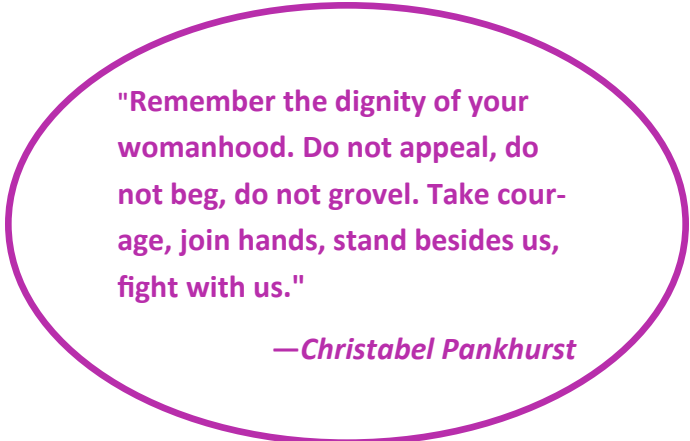
AAUW is proud to support the students in their lawsuit. We will continue to monitor this case if SCSU decides to appeal. AAUW hopes that this judgment will reaffirm that equal access in all areas of education must be protected and respected both on and off the field.

Transgender Student Rights Upheld in Virginia Case

On August 9, U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Virginia sided with transgender student Gavin Grimm, [ruling](#) that his former high school’s refusal to let him use the bathroom that aligned with his gender identity constituted discrimination under Title IX and violated his rights under the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Originally filed in 2015, Grimm’s case made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. However, the case was sent back to the lower courts to be reconsidered after the Trump administration rescinded previous guidance pertaining to the rights of transgender students under Title IX.

AAUW signed onto an [amicus brief](#) supporting Grimm at an earlier stage in the case.



"Remember the dignity of your womanhood. Do not appeal, do not beg, do not grovel. Take courage, join hands, stand besides us, fight with us."

—Christabel Pankhurst

Work Smart Online Offered at St. Louis County Library Branches



Work Smart Online will initially be offered at the four branches in the St. Louis County Library system, but all 20 branches have the flyers and 100 Work Smart bookmarks. Participants will need to register for the course, but may “come and go” as needed.

The library has:

- Advertised the program
- Reserved their computer lab for the Work Smart Online course
- Offered to have a lab tech in the room the entire time to offer technical assistance if needed.

AAUW’s responsibility:

- Have 1-3 AAUW members introduce Work Smart and give a brief overview of why this program is so important and why AAUW has a goal of closing the gender pay gap
- Remain in the room if there are questions about AAUW etc.
- Will have the workbooks printed for the participants
- Thank participants for attending and taking the course, and thank the library staff for their expertise, help, and offering this program, etc.



Work Smart

Headquarters
Saturday, October 5, 10:00 a.m.

Florissant Valley
Wednesday, October 9, 7:00 p.m.

Daniel Boone
Thursday, October 17, 7:00 p.m.

Grant's View
Monday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.

The gender pay gap has far-reaching consequences on the financial security of women from all backgrounds. Explore the AAUW's Work Smart, a self-paced, free online program designed to help you negotiate for a new job, raise, or promotion.

This is quite exciting and a wonderful opportunity to showcase AAUW to our community and hopefully offer WSO to all branch libraries in the county as well as going to St. Louis and St. Charles.

This opportunity began with **Marsha Koch**, Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch, past AAUW of Missouri president! Thank you, Marsha! Please contact **Karen Francis**, chair of the AAUW MO/KS Work Smart Task Force, at 314-223-4235, or email karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com if you’d like to participate as an AAUW WSO ambassador (you will be given talking points for the introduction) or if you have questions or need any additional information.

Congratulations to **Jan Scott** on her new kitten, which she adopted on August 26th, the 99th anniversary of women getting the right to vote. Of course she named her Susan B!



"Oh, if I could but live another century and see the fruition of all the work for women! There is so much yet to be done."

"There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers."

—Susan B. Anthony

AAUW News and Resources

[Archive: AAUW Outlook](#) - AAUW's online magazine
[AAUW Blog](#) is a commentary on events important to the mission of AAUW going back to 2008.

[Pay Equity Blog](#) discusses policy wins for equal pay across the country, including at least six new state laws designed to address the gender pay gap.

[Free, Online Work Smart Course](#) teaches women how to negotiate for higher salaries and become better leaders and communicators. Take the course and encourage others to do the same.

[Work Smart Initiative](#) describes AAUW's bold "Members Mobilize a Million" campaign to train 10 million women in salary negotiations by 2022.

[Take Action](#) provides an easy way to email your legislators using the Two-Minute Activist. The email text is customizable and takes less than a minute to complete.

Guests are Always Welcome

We encourage you to bring guests to our meetings to introduce them to AAUW. If they cannot attend a meeting, ask Carol to send them newsletters and links to AAUW websites.

Shape the Future Membership Campaign

New members who join at a public AAUW event, such as one of our monthly meetings, can take 50% off the cost of their first year's national dues. AAUW national dues are \$49, of which \$46 is tax deductible by the individual member; \$3 of that national dues payment is not tax deductible because it is used to support the AAUW Action Fund's Section 501(c)(4) activities (Lobby Corps and election-related activities).

"[Having a female president] matters. It matters because we have half the population that has given so much to building this country, to making it work, and of course I want to see a woman in the White House. Because, if I look at my friends and former colleagues who are now in the Senate, it was the women senators on both sides of the aisle who finally broke the fever over the government shutdown and debt limit debate. They have been working across party lines, and we need more of that." — [Hillary Clinton](#)

MISSOURI WOMEN'S NETWORK

Another very successful [Equality Day brunch](#) was held on August 24, 2019. It was very well attended, with over 135 attendees. **Lisa Maatz** (pictured below), past AAUW vice president of government relations, was the keynote speaker. The 2019 honorees were **Barbara Finch**, **Jo Mannies**, and the honorable **Mary Nichols**. Dr. **Cathy Callaway** narrated a legacy tribute PowerPoint slide show of notable women who passed this since the last brunch.



32nd ANNUAL WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY		
99th Anniversary of Women Winning the Vote		
"Countdown to Centennial 2020 Women's Vote Celebration"		
Saturday, August 24, 2019 10:00 am-2:00 pm Brunch and Program Clayton Plaza Hotel, Clayton, St. Louis, MO		
9:30-10:00	Registration and Exhibits	
10:00-10:20	Welcome/Introductions	Shirley Breeze
10:20-10:45	Brunch	
10:45-12:15	Program	
	2019 Honorees	Pat Shores
	Honorees Introduced by Previous Recipients	
	Barbara Finch	by Ellen Alper
	Jo Mannies	by Sonja Gholston-Byrd
	The Hon. Mary Nichols	by Hon. Margo McNeil
	Legacy Tributes	Cathy Callaway
	Perry Miler Adato, Barbara Bennett, Unita Blackwell, Greta Bratescu, The Rev. Dr. Katie Cannon, Sylvia Chase, Jerrine Cobb, Doris Day, Jane Fortune, Georgie Ann Geyer, Marcelite Harris, Shirley LeFlore, Rosemary Mariner, Penny Marshall, Toni Morrison, Mary Oliver, Molly O'Neill, Mavis Pusey, Bernice Sandler, Agnes Varda, & Nancy Wilson	
12:15-12:30	Break	
12:30-1:45	Keynote Presentation	Karen Francis
	Lisa Maatz	
	Lisa is an expert on public policy and a strong advocate for women; she is a sought-after political analyst.	
1:45-2:00	Announcements/Adjournment	Shirley Breeze

Share your news! Send articles for the newsletter
to Carol Davis McDonald

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