

*"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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**Carol Davis McDonald**  
Newsletter, Website

**Web Sites:**

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

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

**State Web Site:**  
[www.aauwmo.org](http://www.aauwmo.org)

**National Web Site:**  
[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)



We have a date and time! Mark  
your calendars for our fall  
AAUW St. Louis "gathering."  
It's this week!



**AAUW Saint Louis Fall Program - Sharing, Get Out the Vote,  
100 year of 19th Amendment Highlights & more**

**Thursday, October 8 - 6:30 - 8ish pm**

**Via Zoom - see invitation below.**

Everyone who replied to the poll could make this time! We are hoping that others will be joining us as well.

Many of us have had challenges of our own of all sorts, so our gathering will be a combination of:

- Sharing about where we are all at with life and our challenges
- Discussion of any programs you were able to watch on the centennial of the 19th Amendment.
- Get Out the Vote information - pdf summary with a lot of resources sent previously.



We will also finalize a schedule for the rest of the year with tentative book titles and topics to discuss.

Ellen will send a reminder a few days before the event as well.

*Join Zoom Meeting:*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84327522914?  
pwd=TDZqM1Nnb0FyYTN1cThJVHdlZlZhdCQQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84327522914?pwd=TDZqM1Nnb0FyYTN1cThJVHdlZlZhdCQQT09)

Meeting ID: 843 2752 2914—Passcode: 936788

Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 843 2752 2914—Passcode: 936788

## AAUW Fund

by Sue Barley

### *AAUW is Counting on Your Support*

Do you know that your AAUW dues are only 18% of the national AAUW budget?

As a member-supported organization, AAUW relies on donations from members to support our budget and necessary expenses to help AAUW and our mission.

Contributions are needed for staff, travel, rent, technology, electricity, programs such as work Smart and Start Smart, training, board meetings, supplies, etc. Donations are needed to ensure visibility and relevance. AAUW needs to respond rapidly, in our communications and advocacy to critical issues that affect women, as the national dialogue shifts.

Please go to [aauw.org](https://aauw.org) (donate button on top right) to make your donation. It is tax deductible, and it will be soft credited to the St. Louis Branch. AAUW is counting on its members' support!

## BRANCH MEMBER NEWS



### *Congratulations to Nancy!*

Greetings Ladies: My name is **Alice Johnson**. I am sending this email on behalf of my grandmother, **Nancy L. Collins**. I reside with her. My grandmother's vision and hearing are not very good nowadays. This is the reason I'm sending this email on her behalf.

Kudos to her: Nancy Collins received a Living Legacy Recognition award; it was presented during Black History Month by Saint James African Methodist Episcopal church for her steadfast faith in being a standard of excellence for African Americans and for her contributions in telling the story of our people.

Another accolade Nancy received was a Lifetime Achievement Award (2019-2020) by Marquis *Who's Who* for outstanding professional dedication and career longevity.

One of her proudest moments was being recognized by her beloved Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc on her 74 years of uninterrupted membership.

She also composed a birthday song for The St. Louis Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Inc.

Since she doesn't get out much these days, her request was for me to send this update on what and how is she doing. Along with these kudos, she sends her love.

Sincerely, Alice M. Johnson

## CALENDAR\*

### 2020

- Oct 1 Native women's equal pay day
- Oct 8 Branch meeting via Zoom
- Oct 24 AAUW MO board meeting, 10 am-12 noon via Zoom
- Nov 24 AAUW Interbranch Council meeting
- Dec ? Holiday gather, TBD

### 2021

- Jan 12 International Relations lecture via Zoom, Freedom of the Press/ Independent Journalism
- Jan 23 AAUW MO board meeting, 10 am– 12 noon via Zoom
- Feb 9 International Relations lecture, Reparations To Redress Historical Injustices
- Mar 9 International Relations lecture, Artificial Intelligence & Data/Ethics & Regulation
- Mar ? Navigating the Pay Gap, virtual 90-minute program through the St. Louis Public Library
- Apr 13 International Relations lecture, Historical Heritage & Racist Art
- Apr 3 AAUW MO board meeting
- May 1 AAUW annual meeting

\*Monthly or bi-monthly programs, dates TBD

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

**—Christabel Pankhurst**

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL

Although the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the events our branch was planning, **Jan Scott** and **Ellen Irons** continued to work on obtaining proclamations celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. For several months during the summer, it looked like things were stalled out; but in the last weeks before the August 26<sup>th</sup> celebration date, both the City of St. Louis and County of St. Louis proclamations were obtained. Many thanks to **Patricia Shores** from the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch/MO Centennial Task Force who took an active lead in pushing the proclamations towards their final signings. The League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis were our co-signatures on the proclamations.

## City of St. Louis, AAUW and the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis

On August 26, 2020, City of St. Louis Mayor, Lyda Krewson, issued a proclamation celebrating 100 years of women having the vote.



*Shown in the picture from left to right*

**Patricia Shores**, AAUW Missouri; **Jan Scott**, AAUW St. Louis; **Nancy J. Miller**, co-president, League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis (LWVSL); **Louise T. Wilkerson**, co-president, LWVSL; **Jean Dugan**, executive director, LWVSL.

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Check out the [ShopAAUW site](#) for all your AAUW-branded and patriarchy-smashing gift needs – even if the gift is to yourself! We're pleased to offer several new products, including face masks and hand sanitizer, to help you navigate 2020 with style.

## Apply for Election to AAUW Board

Between now and October 30, AAUW is accepting applications for election to its Board of Directors. Board members share our passion for advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. [Learn more and apply today.](#)

**AAUW National will not return to in-person work or events until at least 2021.** But we're as dedicated as always to advancing equity for all. You can help us serve you better by directing any matters requiring our attention to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) rather than calling or mailing.

"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





## WHEREAS

On behalf of the City of St. Louis, it is my great honor to recognize the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which provided the vote for women; and

**WHEREAS**, 100 years ago, on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was certified by U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby and became federal law; and

**WHEREAS**, women of Missouri from every race, class and ethnic background served on the front line and ultimately played a unique and critical role in Missouri's history of women's rights, including Edna Fischel Gellhorn, Phoebe Couzins, Sarah Chandler Coates, Beverly Allen, Marian Lewis English, Rebecca Naylor Hazzard, Anna Sneed Cairns, Anita Calvert LeBourgeoise, Beatrice Grady, Carrie Bowles and Florence Wyman Richardson Usher; and

**WHEREAS**, the Women's Suffrage Association of Missouri was formed in 1867 to "bring together men and women who are willing to consider the question of Equal Suffrage and by earnest co-operation to secure its establishment." The Missouri Equal Suffrage Association was formed in 1910 and changed its name to the Missouri League of Women Voters in 1919; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Louis recognizes that the American Association of University Women, founded in 1881, and the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis, founded on November 13, 1919, have long been supporters of women's rights and recognize the power of women's votes; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the City of St. Louis appreciate the struggles of the Suffragists and others who fought for the right to vote by all citizens.

Now, therefore, I, Lyda Krewson, Mayor of the City of St. Louis, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2020, as:

### "VOTES FOR WOMEN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION DAY" IN THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of St. Louis, this 26th day of August, A.D. 2020.

*Lyda Krewson*  
Mayor of the City of Saint Louis

## County of St. Louis, AAUW and the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis

On Monday, August 31, County Executive Dr. **Sam Page** received representatives of the League of Women Voters Metro St. Louis and representatives of AAUW in the garden behind the Lawrence K. Roos Government Center. There, he presented us with an inspiring proclamation on behalf of St. Louis County government.

From right to left: **Pat Shores** from AAUW Missouri; **Jan Scott**, AAUW St. Louis; St. Louis County Executive Dr. **Sam Page**; **Jean Dugan**, **Louise Wilkerson**, and **Nancy Miller** from LWV of Metro St. Louis.



## 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 24, 2020, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom. All AAUW members are welcome to attend. Contact one of the above branch officers for the log-on code.

This July **Barbara Johnson** and **Deb McWard**, (Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch) began as co-chairs of AAUW St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council (IBC). **Marsha Koch** volunteered to serve as secretary, and **Carol Davis McDonald** is still treasurer.

The first meeting that Kirkwood-Webster Groves facilitated was held August 25 by Zoom. Most of the first part of the meeting was spent commiserating about all the events that have been postponed. (Note that we refer to them as being postponed, not cancelled.) All the hard work and effort that went into planning exciting events had to be put on the back burner until we know how they can be realized in 2020. Our Spring Fling was set to go on March 23 and what terrible timing that was! The IBC participants feel we need to have some kind of Zoom celebration if for no other reason than to honor our Barb Lackritz awardee, Mary Jermak. No date was set, but it will be next spring. There will be no Barb Lackritz award in 2021.

NCCWSL is another important and popular event that IBC facilitates. The two women who were given scholarships to attend last year have indicated they will be interested in going this coming spring. AAUW indicates it is planning the conference for 2021, but no confirmation has been sent out. It is holding the registration funds we sent last year, which will be refunded if the conference doesn't occur.

One thing that hurts us is the inability to fund raise. Spring Fling and Barnes and Noble gift wrapping are our two sources. Barnes and Noble has not committed.

It appears that all IBC branches are becoming used to virtual meetings and getting good at it. There are several similar platforms besides Zoom, but it seems that is the most popular.

The minutes and fiscal reports are on the IBC website, [Stlouis-ibc.aauw.net](http://Stlouis-ibc.aauw.net)

— *Deb McWard, Co-Chair, AAUW IBC*

### IBC BOOK GROUP - Operation Equity: Reading For Results

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.

**This group is on hold until 2021.** More information will follow at a later date.

### WHAT THE OTHER (IBC) BRANCHES ARE DOING

#### Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch:

Congratulations to the B-C Branch! *They were one of three branches honored on the national website for attaining the five-star recognition for 2019-2020.*

"When we read about the Five-Star program, we realized we were already doing everything required. All we had to do was find the format AAUW desired.

"A large, active branch, Ballwin-Chesterfield is program-driven. We begin branch meetings with the mission statement, and we choose speakers who reflect AAUW priorities. We lobby for pay equity during each Missouri legislative session.

"To advance women and girls, we award four scholarships each year to women seeking to complete degrees, particularly in STEM fields, and work with school girls to encourage them in STEM careers. We advocate for the Work Smart salary-negotiation program by working with collaborating organizations, publicizing the online course to friends and family, and holding workshops at local libraries.

"In everything we do, we are working toward gender equity. Your branch may already meet many of the requirements. Look at what you do already. Then you may see where you can add work for pay equity or Title IX, for example. Ask the AAUW National staff for templates and help with the forms."

*Jan Horner and Sage Taber, co-presidents*

Ballwin-Chesterfield committees and meetings have been meeting via Zoom so far this year.

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### Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch:

After lots of planning and preparation for the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote, Covid-19 hit and dashed everyone's plans. **Jeanne Webdell** (KWG co-president) came up with the idea to make yard signs to celebrate.



**Marsha Koch** (branch secretary, at left) contacted her daughter and son-in-law in Sweden for assistance; both graduated from art school. They came up with a sign that mimics the signs of 100 years ago and uses the suffragist-movement colors of white, yellow, and purple. The signs

were printed in St. Louis by a union shop. The project was not a fund raiser but a way to share in the celebration. Jeanne wrote a press release and sent it to the **Webster-Kirkwood Times**, where it was printed with her byline. (Here is a [link to the article](#).)

Eight hundred signs were printed and delivered. In addition to AAUW branches and organizations around the state, signs were shipped to AAUW Devil's Lake, ND; AAUW Los Alamos, NM; AAUW Charleston, SC; AAUW Lubbock, TX; and inquiries came from CA and CO. **AAUW MO President Sue Shineman** emailed information and sign files to state presidents of AAUW so that they could have their signs printed locally to avoid shipping costs.

### St. Charles Branch:

They did not have a meeting in September, but they are planning an UN-AUCTION for this fall. "No need to find room in your home for more 'stuff' like the previous auctions! Sit back, relax with a cup of coffee or tea, and make out a check to support AAUW funds for the year. Know that you will be supporting the many programs of our awesome organization. Congrats 2020-21 Fellows and Grantees! AAUW is excited to announce 259 awards and \$3.5 million in funding for fellows and grantees in the 2020-21 award year. These exceptional recipients, who were notified by email on April 15, will pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls."

"Girls are capable of doing everything men are capable of doing. Sometimes they have more imagination than men."

– [Katherine Johnson](#), mathematician and one of the first African-American women to work as a NASA scientist

## 2021 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES

Established in 1929 and presented by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Tuesday Women's Association (TWA) of the Ethical Society of St. Louis. [www.lectureseries.org](http://www.lectureseries.org)



**Patricia Burroughs Bishop**, AAUW Kirkwood-Webster Groves, AAUW 2021 chairperson, sent out an email inviting people to choose speaker topics. The following were selected:

- January 12 - *Freedom of the Press/Independent Journalism*
- February 9 - *Reparations To Redress Historical Injustices*
- March 9 - *Artificial Intelligence & Data/Ethics and Regulation*
- April 13 – *Historical Heritage & Racist Art*

Details will be announced in a later newsletter. The lectures are always very interesting in case you haven't

### AAUW DISCOUNTS

**Did you know?** AAUW members are given discounts by the following organizations. Membership cards can be printed out from the national website (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/discounts-and-perks/>).

#### Insurance

- Geico – auto insurance discount
- LTC Global – long term care insurance
- Nationwide Pet Insurance – 5%+ discount

#### Travel

- Hotel Engine – private hotel-booking platform
- Collette Tours – 160 tours on seven continents
- Cruises Only – America's largest cruise company
- TNT Vacations – 900 Destinations
- Car rentals – Hertz, Dollar Car Rental, Thrifty

#### Other Discounts and Services

- El University – scholarships
- Office Depot/Office Max – save up to 80%
- Constant Contact -- Marketing advisors
- Free Prescription Savings Card – up to 55% savings
- UPS -- mailing discounts

## PUBLIC POLICY



We all want our vote to count for this November 3<sup>rd</sup> national election. Here is some key information that is being shared by our AAUW MO Public Policy Committee.

### KEY DATES

- ♦ October 7 – Last day **to register** to vote
- ♦ October 21 – Last day **to request** absentee or mail-in ballot
- ♦ November 2 – Last day **to vote absentee in person**
- ♦ November 3 – ELECTION DAY

### **WHERE & HOW TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE OR MAIL IN BALLOT?**

Everyone must request an absentee ballot through an application process.

#### **St. Louis County**

Go to the County's Board of Elections webpage and click on the ABSENTEE / MAIL IN BALLOT APPLICATION link. It will take you to a fillable form.

<https://stlouiscountymmo.gov/st-louis-county-departments/board-of-elections/>

Do NOT check the box at the bottom requesting a Mail In ballot unless you need to do a NO EXCUSE ballot.

#### **St. Louis City**

Print the application below and mail ASAP.

<https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/board-election-commissioners/documents/request-mo-absentee-ballot.cfm>

*"What becomes a crime deserving capital punishment when the tables are turned is a matter of small moment when the negro woman is the accusing party."*

—Ida B. Wells

## VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 3

AAUW takes positions on state propositions and ballot issues when our national public policy aligns with a particular position. For the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election, AAUW has signed on to "Vote NO on Amendment 3." Here's why:

The 2018 Clean Missouri Amendment 1 passed by an almost **2-to-1 margin**, after a year-long signature gathering effort by Missouri citizens and a statewide campaign. The fair map reforms in Amendment 1 earned endorsements from Republican, Independent, and Democratic reformers — and endorsements from every major anti-gerrymandering organization.

The most important element of the initiative was redistricting reform. It changed the process for how Missouri legislative districts are to be redrawn after every census. It created a less partisan process, using more objective criteria that reduces the ability of politicians to gerrymander the legislature to their advantage. The hard work on policy development, signature gathering, and talking to friends and neighbors paid off: Amendment 1 won a majority of the vote in every state senate district, from rural communities to big cities. Overall the constitutional amendment passed by 62% of Missouri voters.

But certain political special interest groups have opposed implementing the 2018 Clean Missouri Amendment 1 specifications and, instead, have forwarded an alteration to the Amendment which offers enticements in the form of small reductions to gift rules and campaign contributions while actually aggressively dismantling the gerrymandering provisions of Clean Missouri. Specifically:

- It would eliminate the **nonpartisan** state demographer and use a **bipartisan** commission **appointed by the governor** for legislative redistricting.
- It alters the criteria used to draw district maps in ways which **would re-introduce** the option for the same gerrymandering that was eliminated by Clean Missouri to occur.
- It would limit citizens' rights to challenge newly drawn district lines in court

Don't be fooled by the language used in the Amendment 3 text. This Amendment would be a complete take away for Missouri citizens. For more information, visit <https://www.cleanmissouri.org/>

## VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 3

## AAUW NATIONAL

On September 18, we [lost Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#), one of our most beloved role models, a [pioneering](#) jurist and an iconic feminist. In 1999 we honored Justice Ginsburg with an AAUW Achievement Award. Today we honor her legacy by advocating for a full and fair vetting process for the next U.S. Supreme Court justice, to ensure her seat is filled by someone who will safeguard our rights and advocate for AAUW's priorities.



### **Act — Take action on the most pressing policies**

AAUW believes that, as with all Supreme Court nominations, a full and fair vetting process is vital to determine the nominee's qualifications and temperament. Our nation is reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic, an economic crisis, reckoning with our long and painful history with racism, and how to access the vote in a critical election year. With the election well underway and all the other critical issues the Senate has yet to address, this is fundamentally impossible to achieve in the abbreviated time frame proposed by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Urge your Senators to oppose all considerations of Justice Ginsburg's replacement until after the inauguration and [fight for a just and fair Supreme Court](#).

Every day is Election Day from now until November 3 — help everyone you know [make a plan to vote](#)! Before you mail in a ballot or head to the polls, learn how to protect your vote and what to do if something goes wrong. And after you make your own plan, reach out to your networks and help others do the same:

- o Register or check your voter registration.
- o Find out how to vote in your state—whether in person or by mail, and how to do both successfully. Commit to calling five friends today to make a plan together.

### **Learn — Dig deeper into the issues that matter**

Case Western Reserve University hosted the first 2020 presidential debate, with questions posed about the Affordable Care Act, the Supreme Court vacancy, the coronavirus response, and rebuilding the economy. Unfortunately very little substance could be gleaned as continued interruptions and heated exchanges characterized the majority of the evening. What was clear from the responses provided is that President Trump will continue to push for the speedy confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett, doubt the legitimacy of mail-in ballots and the integrity of the election,

supremacy. Vice President Biden will follow the lead of scientists and experts in his coronavirus response, bring together community members and law enforcement to address excessive use of force, advance the Affordable Care Act and trust the results of the election.

The AAUW Action Fund launched [Policy Insights](#) to focus on unique perspectives and targeted analysis of the presidential candidates' positions on key issues this election. In the past two weeks, we have taken a closer look at [essential workers](#), [voter suppression](#), [student debt](#) and [school reopenings](#). Be sure to review the AAUW Action Fund Fact Sheets on each page for a deeper dive on where both presidential candidates stand on these critical issues facing women and families.

To learn more about where candidates in key races across the country stand on issues at stake this election year, check out the [AAUW Action Fund's Head to Head Voter Guides](#). These nonpartisan guides describe the candidates' positions on issues that impact equity like equal pay, voting rights, educational access and reproductive rights.

### **Engage — Share the important work we're doing**

Join us on Thursday, October 1, to mark [Native Women's Equal Pay Day on social media](#). It takes Native and Indigenous women 10 additional months to make what white men earned in the previous year alone. This #NativeWomensEqualPay Day, we demand more #EquityForNativeWomen.

AAUW thanks all who engaged their members of Congress on the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA). In an incredible bipartisan win, the House passed the PWFA with huge support: 329-73. With this victory, we are one step closer to ensuring there is a federal law that protects pregnant workers nationwide — now [it's time for the Senate to act!](#)

The U.S. House of Representatives released an update to the [HEROES Act](#) to address needs that have arisen since the chamber passed the bill in May. This update maintains key provisions from the original bill and includes additional funds to bolster education and child-care.

The U.S. Senate confirmed Jocelyn Samuels to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) with a 54-42 vote. Samuels, whose [nomination was supported by AAUW](#), is a well-qualified civil rights lawyer who most recently worked as the Executive Director of the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law. Two other commissioners were also recently confirmed, giving the EEOC a full complement of five commissioners for the first time during the Trump administration.