



Newsletter of the

Saint Louis Branch

Founded April 1893 ~ Celebrating 131 Years!

2024-2025, No. 7, June 2025

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

AAUW is open to graduates who hold the associate, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a qualified college or university.

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, 2023-2025

Diane Sher, Interim Administrator, dsher63105@gmail.com

Carol Davis McDonald, Finance Officer, newsletter, website, Facebook page
davis-mcdonald@outlook.com

Vacant - Director

Vacant - Director

Jan Scott, IBC Representative
Jan@stlwomenonthemove.com

Web Sites:

Branch Web Site:

<http://stlouis-mo.aauw.net>

IBC Web Site:

<http://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net>

State Web Site:

www.aauwmo.org

[AAUW St. Louis Branch | Facebook](#)

National Web Site:

www.aauw.org

St. Louis Branch Spring Lunch and Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, June 1, 2025 — 12:45 pm

Rich and Charlie's Italian Restaurant
9942 Watson Road, Crestwood, MO 63126

RSVP at <https://pp.events/bZN7q9wW>

Schedule

→ Meet & Greet w/ Icebreaker	1:00 PM
→ Lunch	1:10 PM
→ Program	1:40 PM
→ Annual Meeting	2:15 PM

Details

Members and Guests are welcome!

Please join us as we renew friendships and celebrate our 2024-2025 year. Reservation is \$30. Lunch is R&C's Italian Buffet and includes dessert
Attire: Smart Casual

Payments:

Make checks payable to **AAUW St. Louis**

Mail by **May 24th** to

Carol Davis McDonald

827 Bergquist Drive

Manchester MO 63011-4215



Please print legibly; depositing your envelope inside the post office is recommended. **Please email** Carol (davis-mcdonald@outlook.com) so she knows you are sending your check.



AAUW St. Louis Branch Calendar - 2024-2025

PROGRAMS AND THINGS TO DO

May 2025

- **Sat, May 3**—state conference, Zoom, 9 am
- **Mon, May 26** - Movie Club, TBD
- **Tues, May 13**—Strategic Plan launch event, 6 pm CDT, register before (page 3)
- **Tues, May 20**—AAUW public policy principles webinar

- **Wed, May 21**—Building coalitions webinar (page 3)
- **Wed, May 28**—I & E town hall (page 3)

June 2025

- **Sun, June 1**—Branch annual business meeting, Rich and Charlie's, Crestwood, 12:30 pm
- **Mon, June 23** - Movie Club, TBD

What's Happening Around Town, Educationally and Culturally Speaking? by Sally McGowan

Attend these events alone or go as a group!

- What's You Story? "**Guiding & Writing Autobiographies**" (free & in person). Every Friday at 12 Noon, May 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 and June 6. Sign up online at mirowitzcenter.org or call 314-733-9813.
- AARP & Mirowitz Center is sponsoring an **Active Aging Resource & Resource Fair** on Sunday, May 4, 2025, from 12noon-4pm. Dozens of companies and organizations to help you discover resources for everything from home care services to senior travel opportunities.
- Twilight Thursday Concert Series Starting May 1st, 8, 15, 22, 29, 6pm-8pm, Missouri History Museum. Free
- June 7 & 8 10-5, Lafayette Spring Home & Garden Tour. See website for ticket info.
- Sat., June 14th @ 10am at Clark Family Branch Library. Hybrid Program: **Special Places in St. Louis**. Free. Sponsored by St. Louis Genealogical Society. Learn about these one-of-a-kind monuments, churches, streets & locations and their unique character and historical importance in the history of the city. Registration required for virtual but not in person attendance.
- Sat., July 12, 2pm-3pm Buder Library, "**Discover St. Louis: Mapping St. Louis**", a discussion of the historical and present maps of St. Louis to learn about our city's rich history & where we are headed in the future.
- Thurs, July 24, 6pm-7pm at Buder Library. **Discover St. Louis: The Holocaust in the Heartland**. Helen Turner, director of education for the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum. Delve into the remarkable journey behind the reopening of the museum's doors.

Movie Club

Each of us watches a selected movie on Netflix. The movie is then discussed by the group on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Request to join the email list? Submit to dsher63105@gmail.com. Prospective-member guests are welcome!

May 26—*The Room Next Door*, with Julianne Moore and Tilda Swinton. Moderator, Roz Marx.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81582657369?pwd=aqAklCdAvoiebBFwc1t97u8UNDYjua.1>

Meeting ID: 815 8265 7369

Passcode: 168308

Next few months' considerations, which will be voted on then:

1. *Ehregard, the Art of Seduction* (Danish) and its accompanying documentary, *Lifting the Veil, Behind the Scenes of Ehregard*.
2. *Runaway Jury* with a stellar cast led by Gene Hackman, John Cusack, and Rachel Weisz
3. Two short films for the same meeting:
 - a. *Period. End of Sentence* (26 min.) (India) (Oscar-Nominee)
 - b. *The Only Girl in the Orchestra* (35 min.) (Oscar-Winner)



More Items of Interest:

- Branch program committee members met with the Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch program committee members to collaborate on combined programming possibilities for next year. It was a successful venture. Be on the lookout for combined branch programs beginning in September. K-WG generally meets on the third Thursday of the month, and St. Louis usually meets on a Sunday afternoon. Programs will alternate those meeting times and will possibly include Zoom programs during the winter months to avoid our having to drive at night or in bad weather.
- [100 Days of the Trump Administration: A Relentless Assault on Higher Education](#). AAUW will not stand silent while these rights are stripped away behind closed doors or buried in bureaucratic budgets. We are proud to be an independent, fearless voice for equity, and we are organizing with renewed urgency against this dangerous agenda. The future of higher education is at stake. The future of opportunity is at stake.
- AAUW is hosting a series of impactful webinars on strategy, advocacy, and equity. Join in to explore AAUW's new strategic plan, policy priorities, and ways you can help advance gender equity.
- [Strategic Plan Launch Event](#) | **Tuesday, May 13, 2025 | 6:00 p.m. CT**. We'll cover: Strategic objectives and key initiatives; how we're meeting this moment; what you can do to advance equity for women. [Register here!](#)
- [Our Voice, Our Future: AAUW's Public Policy Principles and How to Take Action](#) | **Tuesday, May 20, 2025 | 6:00 p.m. CT**. With equity under attack, our new Public Policy Principles light the way forward. This session will highlight: Our 2025–27 federal policy priorities; updates on threats to inclusive education; how to mobilize and advocate effectively. [Register here!](#)
- [Grassroots Feminism in Higher Ed: Building Coalitions for Women's Rights](#) | **Wednesday, May 21, 2025 | 1:00 p.m. CT**. This timely panel explores the intersection of education, activism, and feminist leadership. Topics include: Navigating challenges to women's rights under a new administration; higher education as a tool for systemic change; building coalitions through research and solidarity. [Register here](#)
- [Inclusion & Equity Committee Town Hall](#) | **Wednesday, May 28, 2025 | 6:00 p.m. CT**. Join us for a candid conversation on advancing inclusion and equity at AAUW. You'll take part in: Honest dialogue around DEI challenges; inclusive branch practice insights; a shared vision for equity and belonging.
- If you are interested in purchasing a **name badge** to wear at meetings, check out [SHOP AAUW](#)

Customized Name Badge, With AAUW Logo

You asked for them and you got them!

Now, you can finally purchase the name badges that the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Staff wear when they are out representing AAUW. Durable (and wipeable!) plastic, this 3" x 1.5" name badge comes standard with a Pin Clasp, but can be ordered with a Magnetic Clasp for an extra \$3.00. Get yours today!

Note: Customized Name Badges ship in approximately 7-10 business days via US Mail after ordering. This item will ship separately from any other Shop-AAUW item(s) ordered.

Shipping is FREE for this item!

Option: ▼





Highlights from the AAUW of Missouri Annual Conference, May 3, 2025

AAUW Fund Honors and Awards

- ◇ Thanks to the bequest of our late member, Mary Bruemmer, the St. Louis Branch was the top branch in total giving for Missouri branches in 2024 (\$5,917.63).
- ◇ This put our branch per-capita giving at \$281.75; statewide per capita giving was \$86.34.
- ◇ However, the St. Louis Branch was not among those branches with 50 percent of members giving to AAUW Fund. The St. Charles Branch ranked first at 83 percent of their members contributing to AAUW Fund in 2024.
- ◇ Three St. Louis Branch members were listed as Century Club Plus members (those who contributed \$250 or more): Susan Barley, Ellen Irons, and Carol Davis McDonald.
- ◇ Two members were listed as Century Club members (those contributing \$100-\$149): Kathleen Farrell and Barbara Johnson.

Star Award - This is a compilation of key issues on the AAUW MO Action Plan, which is based on the National AAUW Strategic Plan. It provides a strong mission-based document that can be used as our Branch Action Plan. The application contains ten focus areas for a total of ten stars. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of branch members, the St. Louis Branch earned all ten stars.

Missouri Woman of Distinction - The award is given annually at the annual state conference. The nominee must be a member of AAUW Missouri and an outstanding AAUW member who has promoted the mission and values of AAUW in her branch and community. Each branch may nominate one member from any Missouri branch. She need not be a member of your branch. Nominees (other than the award winner) may be resubmitted in subsequent years. The award is presented at the AAUW MO Conference. **The 2025 Woman of Distinction Award was given posthumously to the late Ellen Irons.**

Amber Benge, Ed.D. co-executive director of Missouri Equity Education Partnership, spoke on “The Education Climate in Missouri.” Her **concerns** were vouchers, resource gaps between districts, curriculum censorship pressure, charter schools in St. Louis and Kansas City, and cuts to districts including allowing district choice that affects rural schools, students of color, and the disabled who need state resources to thrive.

Her **recommendation** of what we can do as individuals includes educating ourselves; reading verified books & reports (getting good information); following local, state, and national policies and understanding how laws impact our communities; preserving our history and knowledge since information is being removed from the internet (buy and keep books); journaling our experiences (leave a record for history); working to get all people served; sharing and challenging information; talking and using social media responsibly; challenging misinformation respectfully; limiting our time on social media and news programs (instead, journal, educate, spend time with people you love).

As **organizations**, we can help localized efforts; partner with advocacy groups; build coalitions to help the vulnerable; offer skills, such as tech skills, proactively; and build teams. She recommended downloading the app (or online via <https://missouriindependent.com/>) *Missouri Independent News* for information on the state legislature. Want to receive their email newsletters? <https://missouriindependent.com/subscribe/>

AAUW METRO ST LOUIS IBC

St. Louis is **one of the five branches** that form the AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council, more commonly known as IBC. They meet 4 times a year, some virtually and some in person. Each branch is allowed 3 voting delegates, and historically the officers of each branch have served as those delegates.

The purpose of IBC is to foster cooperation among member branches and to financially support programs and projects and to open channels of communication among branches for the sharing of ideas and interests.

The next quarterly meeting will be on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 7 pm. The website is <https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net/>. All AAUW members are welcome to attend.

Metro St. Louis Branch Programs

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch—The annual spring luncheon was held on May 8 at Marriott West Hotel with the theme “Dare to Color Outside the Lines.”

Ferguson-Florissant Branch—Contact [Pam Meyers](#) for meeting information, 314-303-6661. The branch is planning their annual spring luncheon for May 17, catered by Panera. Guest speaker, Dr. Deb Gaut, a certified leadership and success coach.

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch—The end of 2024-2025 will be celebrated with a box lunch on May 31 at 11 am at Kirkwood United Methodist Church.

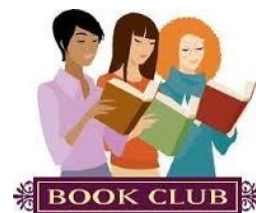
Saint Charles Branch—Meets the first Thursday at 1 p.m. at First St. Charles UMC, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles 63301.



The Interbranch Council has been sending student leaders to the **NCCWSL** (National Conference of College Women Student Leaders) for more than a decade. The program is now being handled by NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education). The link to NCCWSL 2025 is <https://www.naspa.org/events/nccwsl>. The conference is scheduled for 5/28-5/30/25, in College Park, MD.

The student attending this year is **Sophie Price**. Through donations from each of our branches and an allocation from the IBC treasury, we are able to pay for Sophie's conference fee, her airline ticket, and some spending money to cover ground transportation and off-campus meals. Sophie is a student at Webster →

IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP



This group meets virtually to discuss books written from diverse perspectives.

Where: Join Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85338959790?pwd=NFNKS01FMXh6bXpiaXh0ci80VC9rUT09>

When: 1:30 pm the 4th Thursday of the month in September, October, January, February, March, April, May

Contact: PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com

Zoom access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?pwd=Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pq.1>

Meeting ID: 873 9362 5222

Passcode: 922338

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

Upcoming selections:

May 29 ***Mad Honey***, by Jodi Picoult, 464 pages, published 10-4-2022. Patty Murray, facilitator. A riveting novel of suspense, an unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become ourselves. In development for a series/film.

Sep 25 ***The Sentence***, by Louise Erdrich, 400 pages, 1-9-2021. Lynne Roney, facilitator. Asks what we owe to the living, the dead, to the reader and to the book. Mystery haunting of a small, independent book store.

Oct 23 ***Oath and Honor: A Memoir and a Warning***, by Liz Cheney, 384 pages, published 12-5-2023. Kay Meyer, facilitator. A gripping, first-hand account of the January 6th, 2021, insurrection from inside the halls of Congress.

University. Her majors are psychology and criminology, and her minor is in LGBTQ+ studies. Her faculty recommendation said that “she is an exemplary individual who consistently demonstrates exceptional leadership skills and a deep commitment to social justice, equity, and inclusion” and that she has “strong interpersonal skills, combined with an eagerness to learn and grow.” We will have a chance to meet her next year to hear about her experience at the conference.

AAUW Updates

April 21, 2025

Susan Barley, AAUW Advancement Committee

314-229-4240

AAUW NATIONAL

1. AAUW National Election is now live through May 13th at 5pm ET. Those who do not have valid email addresses have begun receiving ballots and for all others – an email should have been sent a link to vote from Simply Voting. For more information: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/national-election/>
2. The Annual Branch Survey is live through the end of June. We need your support to ensure we are able to reach 100% participation this year!
 - a. The link to the survey and more information about Five Star Criteria can be found here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>
 - b. Branch presidents as well as State presidents were emailed information about the survey.
3. The recording for the Advancement Committee's recent webinar is live online: <https://www.youtube.com/@AAUW/videos>. Resources are also online and can be found on the AAUW website: Fundraising Resources for Branches": <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/>

Highlighting Upcoming Events, to register – go here:

<https://my.aauw.org/eventcalendardirectory>

- a. 5/6 - "Strategic Plan Leadership Briefing" – Member leader briefing and toolkit with resource provided to member leaders
- b. 5/13 - "Strategic Plan Launch"

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks for all you do to support AAUW and our mission of equity for women and girls. It is an important mission every single day!

There are many ways you can invest in a fairer future by donating to AAUW. AAUW relies on members and supporters to help drive systematic policy change, shift work cultures, and empower women.

AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (9110)

Every gift to AAUW makes a difference — but your dollars go furthest when you donate to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund or our other giving opportunities. The Greatest Needs Fund is a vital source of unrestricted support that allows AAUW to respond quickly and effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities. When you support the Greatest Needs Fund, you enable AAUW to sustain core operations, advocacy efforts, and program expansion.

You support initiatives like economic empowerment programs, voter engagement campaigns, and policy advocacy, ensuring AAUW can amplify its impact, adapt to evolving needs, and continue leading the fight for gender equity. Your contributions to this fund are crucial for AAUW's agility and long-term sustainability, empowering the organization to drive meaningful change. These funds are carefully managed to maximize impact, ensuring every

