



Newsletter of the

Saint Louis Branch

Founded April 1893 ~ Celebrating 132 Years!

2025-2026, No. 2, September 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

President, Public Policy
dshe63105@gmail.com

Carol Davis McDonald

Finance Officer, Newsletter,
Website, Facebook page
davis-mcdonald@outlook.com

Christine Nobble

VP Programs, STEM, AAUW
Funds

Janet Scott

VP Membership, Diversity

Margaret Weck

College-University Relations

Web Sites:

Branch Web Site:

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

IBC Web Site:

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

State Web Site:

www.aauwmo.org

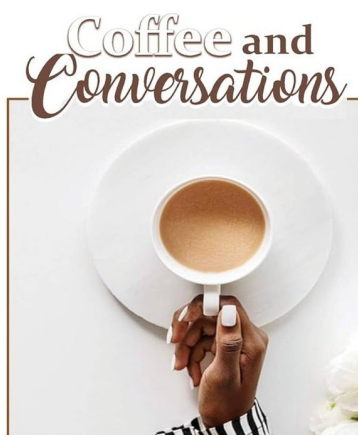
[AAUW St. Louis Branch | Face-](#)

[book](#)

National Web Site:

www.aauw.org

Plan to come to our 2025-26 Kickoff Gathering!



Caffeinated Calculus: Adding Connections, Multiplying Impact

Join us for Coffee and Convo—an energizing get-together to multiply connections between St. Louis and Kirkwood-Webster Groves members, add members-at-large and University allies into

the mix, and subtract barriers as we focus on the future of AAUW and our personal practices. Bring your ideas while we add up possibilities, solve for x (hint: x = inspired action), and turn our collective equation into real-world impact. Let's calculate change together—one conversation at a time.

Please RSVP to <https://pp.events/bVQPkrL3>

*Sunday, September 14, 2025
Brentwood Community Center
2:00—4:00 p.m.*

We can't wait to brew ideas and multiply our impact—see you there!

Save
the
Date!

Our October 12 Presentation

Our combined monthly meeting with the St. Louis Branch will be held on Sunday, October 12, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the St. Louis County Library-Mid-County Branch, 7821 Maryland Ave, Clayton, MO. There is underground parking accessed on the east side of the library off Maryland.

Nancy Morrow-Howell, MSW, PhD, will present an interesting topic: ***Reframing Aging: A New Narrative for Longer Lives***. She is the Bettie Bofinger Brown Distinguished Professor at Washington University in St. Louis. She also directs the Harvey A. Friedman Center for Aging that promotes research, education, and community engagement on aging-related issues across all academic disciplines at the University. Her scholarship focuses on productive engagement in later life, specifically program and policies to optimally engage older adults in paid and unpaid work, including working, volunteering, and caregiving.

Dr. Morrow-Howell has her MSW from the University of Kansas and her doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley. She is past president and fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. She is a master trainer and a member of the national advisory committee for its Reframing Aging initiative, and is a member of the Age-Inclusive University Workgroup. She received the Distinguished Career Achievement Award from the Society for Social Work and Research as well as the Distinguished Faculty Award at Washington University. She was awarded the Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Contributions to Health Aging from the Gerontological Society of America in 2022. Thanks to Dr. Linda Lindsey for making the arrangements.



Welcome to Janet Banks-Frumson, who recently joined our branch. Janet came to Spring Fling a few times with Sally McGowan, so we met her a while back. She is now a part of our branch, and we hope to see her more in the coming months. Janet earned her B.S.B.A. in Management at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1985. She is a certified appraiser in Missouri and worked for St. Louis County for 25 years.

Janet volunteered for the City Animal Shelter and the County Animal Shelter for many years and fostered dogs and cats. She also volunteers at her church, St. Lucas UCC, and is married to Bo Frumson, with whom she does native gardening. They are members of the St. Louis Chapter of Wild Ones. Janet and Bo own rental properties that they manage themselves. Her contact information will be added to our roster/directory that will be sent out as an e-mail attachment in the coming weeks.



For many of us, the membership renewal deadline is June 30th of each year. Newer members (since 7-1-2022) are on an "anniversary" schedule - your renewal is a year from the month you first joined AAUW. Look for a reminder e-mail from AAUW when it's time to renew. (We encourage self-renewal online.) The email will come from infosf@aauw.org. Renewing now or early does *not* change your current expiration month. It will remain the same. National embedded a [video clip to help members with self-renewal](#). For those who prefer to send a check, please complete the renewal form (on the branch website) and mail it with your check to our finance officer, Carol Davis McDonald. Her address is on the form. Dues for 2025-2026 are \$96 (which includes \$74 to national AAUW, \$12 for St. Louis Branch, and \$10 for Missouri AAUW).

From Christine Nobbe: 2025-2026 AAUW St Louis Programs

Collaborating with AAUW Kirkwood-Webster Groves

September, October, and November planning is well under way, with the rest of the year mapped out. Here is a link to this document on Google Docs:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1m-on4jo5t2g3PcBxyv28JHl1zDIZb5rcMGDuVDdxj8E/edit?usp=sharing>

Projects:

- Spring Fling
- Women's Art Exhibit at Montessori Adolescent Project
- Scholarship for Girls
- Membership Growth
- Movie Club - Fourth Monday
- Participate in State Committees and Annual Leadership Meeting

★ for Branch Programs (stars refer to Missouri Ten-Star Program)

September 14, 2025 (Sunday)

St. Louis (STL) and Kirkwood-Webster Groves (KWG)

★ for Membership

Coffee and Convos - Sunday, September 14, 2:00 - 4:00, Brentwood Community Center

1:30 - Arrive for set-up

Invite members-at-large, university faculty, and more

October 12, 2025 (Sunday)

STL and KWG, hosted by STL

★ for Education and Membership Enrichment

In-Person Presenter

Dr. Nancy Morrow-Howell, a focus on Ageism Sunday, October 12, 2025, 1:00 - 3:00

1:00 - Arrive

2:00 - Presentation

Mid-County Library in Clayton

November

STL and KWG, hosted by KWG

★ for Branch Programs

★ for CU Partners and Equity

★ **In-Person Presenter**

Thursday, November 20, 2025, 7:00 PM

Speaker to Be Determined

KWG - find location

December

No general meeting. KWG may plan something and invite everyone.

January

Lunar New Year at a restaurant

- Lunar New Year in 2026 is Tuesday, Feb. 17 but we could meet the final Sunday in January (January 25) for a New Year get together
- Consider starting later this year - noon or 12:30
- STL will organize and invite KWG

★ for Membership

★ for Communication - share a photo and caption for *Missouri in Motion*

★ for DEI

KWG and STL, hosted by KWG

★ for Branch Programs, additional stars depending on speaker

Virtual Presenter on Zoom

KWG finds speaker. January 15, 2026, third Thursday. Invite all Metro St. Louis members through IBC.

February

for Branch Programs, additional stars depending

★ on speaker

KWG and STL, hosted by STL

Virtual presenter on Zoom. STL finds speaker

February 19, 2026, third Thursday

Invite all Metro St. Louis members through IBC

March

Spring Fling - IBC chooses date

Women's Art Exhibit - grow our collaboration with Ruth Reese and Montessori Adolescent Program

April

for Communication - share a photo and caption for *Missouri in Motion*

★ for DEI and STEM

★ for Education and Membership Enrichment

★ STEM event with KWG and STL - KWG organizes this each year. In-person event to honor KWG STEM Scholarship awardees and STL scholarship awardees. Proposed date is April 16, 2026.

Woman in STEM Presenter - career focus - in-person

(continued on page 4)

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 dshe63105@gmail.com. Prospective-member guests are welcome!



Mon. Aug 25: Moderator, Jo Taylor	<i>The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry</i>
Mon. Sept 22: Moderator, Diane Sher	<i>Procession</i>
Mon. Oct. 27: Moderator, Roz Marx	<i>Between the Temples</i>
Mon. Nov. 24: Moderator, TBD	<i>Maria</i>

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81582657369?pwd=aqAkICdAvoiebBFwc1t97u8UNDYjua.1>

Meeting ID: 815 8265 7369

Passcode: 168308

(continued from page 3)

May

★ for Leadership
Attend AAUW MO State Meeting virtually or in-person. If virtual, co-host a watch party.

KWG: Annual Meeting

★ for Branch Management

June

STL: Annual Meeting at a local restaurant. Propose
June 7, 2026 - First Sunday of June

★ for Branch Management

★ June or July

for Branch Management



The Missouri Independent is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization covering state government, politics and policy. It is staffed by veteran Missouri reporters and is dedicated to its mission of relentless investigative journalism that sheds light on how decisions in Jefferson City are made and their impact on individuals across the Show-Me State. Want to receive their email newsletters? <https://missouriindependent.com/subscribe/>

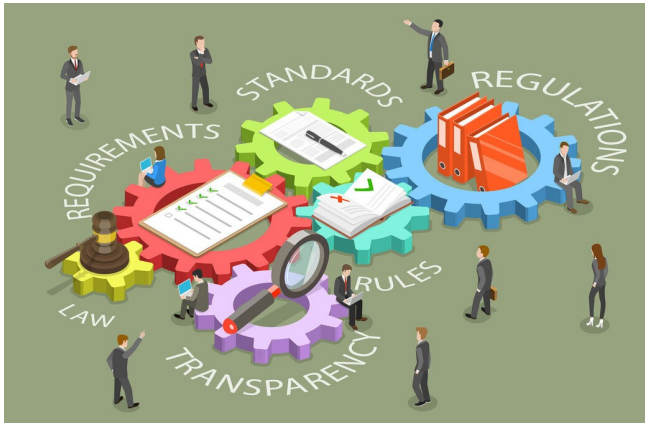
AAUW Member Art Notecards Now Available!

Add a splash of inspiration to your next note with AAUW's new **Member Art Notecards**, now available on our [shopfront](#)! Featuring original artwork by AAUW members, these vibrant 5" x 7" cards are perfect for thank-yous, greetings, or just brightening someone's day. Each set includes 10 blank cards and envelopes—elegant, meaningful, and uniquely AAUW. Grab yours today and share the power of creativity and connection!

DID YOU KNOW . . .

that AAUW's member benefits can enhance your professional and personal life and will save you money along the way? Most important, every time you use one of your benefits, you are also supporting AAUW's vital work, which is what makes AAUW one of the nation's most powerful voices on women's issues.

With each purchase, AAUW receives a royalty that supports equal-pay advocacy, community programs, leadership development tools, the student leadership conference and so much more! [Click here](#) to see the list of perks and discounts.



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

From Jeanne Webdell, K-WG Public Policy Chair (borrowed from [this](#))

2025 Education Laws

This summary highlights the new laws signed by Missouri Gov. Mike Kehoe in July. Here are some key changes you can expect in Missouri education law.

Elementary and secondary education

Cellphones. [Senate Bill 68](#) says public schools must prohibit students from using cellphones or other “electronic personal communication devices” at school all day – not just during classes. Exceptions may be made for special education, health needs, emergencies and educational purposes.

Reading. Senate Bill 68 says reading instruction must be primarily based in phonics rather than tactics such as the “three-cueing system” — which encourages students to guess words based on context — or visual memory.

Discipline and safety. Senate Bill 68 prohibits zero-tolerance discipline policies that require an automatic consequence without room to account for circumstances. Other safety issues such include improving school door locks, developing plans for emergencies and creating a reporting system for safety incidents.

Religion in schools. [Senate Bill 49](#) allows school districts and charter schools to hire religious chaplains or accept them as volunteers. Chaplains must be a member of a religious group recognized by the Armed Forces Chaplains Board and pass a background check. Chaplains can’t serve in teaching roles unless they are certified teachers. There are no requirements that the chaplains be trained or formally recognized by their religious group. The law leaves open-ended what they will do.

Homeschooled students. [Senate Bill 63](#) allows home-schooled and virtual school students to participate in public school programs such as sports, fine arts and co-curricular activities. Students will participate in normal tryouts and can’t be required to attend classes unless they are directly related to the activity. Schools can require the students to conform to normal attendance, discipline and academic performance policies that other students follow.

CROWN Act. [Senate Bill 160](#), includes the Missouri CROWN Act, aimed at protecting students from discrimination based on hair textures and protective styles that are associated with a specific race or national origin.

Education spending. Kehoe signed the budget bills for [K-12](#) and [higher education](#) at the end of June, though he vetoed certain line items. Notable details include an additional \$500 million going toward the foundation formula, which determines how much the state should contribute to public schools. That’s \$300 million more than Kehoe originally recommended.

For the first time, Missouri will send state general revenue — \$50 million — directly to the MOScholars program, which provides scholarships for students to attend religious and other private schools. That part of the budget has [already provoked a law-suit](#) from a Missouri teachers union.

Higher education

Tuition, curriculum and financial aid. Both House Bill 419 and [Senate Bill 71](#) provide free public college tuition to certain first responders and their dependents in certain degree fields. Dependents using the program must additionally promise to stay in the state for five years. Students eligible for the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program, based on need, will receive higher awards. Those eligible for Access Missouri who study science, technology, engineering or math can receive an additional STEM grant of \$1,500 per year for up to four years.



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, Aug 26, 2025, 12 noon—2:30 pm, Grand Glaize County Library, mtg rm 1, 1010 Meramec Station Rd, Manchester.

The website is <https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net/>. All AAUW members are welcome to attend.

Metro St. Louis Branch Programs

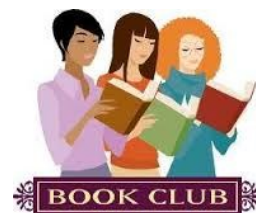
Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch— On Sept. 11, a welcome-back kick-off for 2025-26 is planned at the Ballwin Golf Course Events Center, 333 Holloway Rd. After the meetings in Sept, Oct, Nov, Feb, March, and April, members are invited to explore the mind-body experience of tai chi with member Janet Sloey for a suggested of \$5+ for their Dollars-for-Scholars (DFS) program. DFS will also sponsor a visit to the Ulysses S Grant National Historic Site on Oct. 10 and a visit to the Moonrise Hotel in the Loop on Oct. 3 that will include breakfast in the hotel's Eclipse Restaurant, a talk by the events manager, a trolley ride along one of the 10 great streets in America, and a stopover at the MO History Museum.

Ferguson-Florissant Branch—Contact [Joyce Bluett](#) for meeting information, 314-800-8979.

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch—Kirkwood-Webster Groves and St. Louis branches will combine their meetings for the 2025-2026 AAUW year (see page 1).

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

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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85338959790?pwd=NFNKS01FMXh6bXpiaXh0ci80VC9rUT09)
[pwd=NFNKS01FMXh6bXpiaXh0ci80VC9rUT09](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)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?pwd=Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pq.1)
[pwd=Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pq.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?pwd=Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pq.1)

Meeting ID: 873 9362 5222

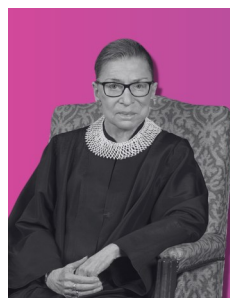
Passcode: 922338

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

Upcoming selections:

Sep 25 *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.

Oct 23 *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.



WOMEN BELONG
IN ALL PLACES
WHERE DECISIONS
ARE BEING MADE.

— RUTH BADER GINSBURG
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES



If you are interested in international relations and learning about worldwide issues—and would like to be a part of planning the lecture topics for the 2026 International Relations Lecture Series, please contact Kay Meyer (kicmeyer51@gmail.com). AAUW and the Tuesday Women's Association have sponsored these lectures for over 90 years, and they are always interesting. They are held on the second Tuesday of January, February, March, and April of each year at the Ethical Society building on Clayton Road in Ladue.

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

Update, by Pat Shores, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch

This was the first year that NCCWSL was organized and administered by NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) instead of AAUW. Over two hundred student leaders gathered at the University of Maryland from May 28 through May 30 to build leadership skills, foster authentic connections, and ignite a drive to lead change on their campus and beyond.



Our **AAUW Metropolitan St. Louis Interbranch Council** knew that Sophie Price was the ideal candidate for us to send to NCCWSL after we learned what she is doing now to help marginalized communities, read about her plan to earn a master's in social work so she can work as a defense mitigation specialist, and understood that her intent to earn a doctorate in criminology will enable her to teach and conduct research that will help her continue to advocate for neglected communities.

Thank You Note from Sophie Price

I was lucky enough to be sponsored by the AAUW to attend the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) conference hosted by the University of Maryland. I want to take a moment to thank my sponsor, Pat Shores, for making sure I was prepared for this conference and walking me through the application process. I also want to say a huge thank you to my Webster faculty who recommended me for this scholarship and conference. Professor Clint Johnson wrote my letter of recommendation, and I believe that I would not have been chosen if it were not for his kind and honest words about his experience working with me in the GLITTER (Gender and Sexuality Lab Investigating Theories, Trends, and Empirical Research) Lab. Professor Johnson and I would not have been aware of this amazing opportunity if it were not for Dr. Elizabeth Hoover at Webster University and her connection with the AAUW association.

Attending this conference was an incredible opportunity that allowed me to meet and interact with so many different women from all over the country. I was able to learn about how other female leaders are making a difference in the world, and I came up with new ideas that would be interesting to implement in the future. One of the best things about this conference was the friends that I made with the women who attended along with me. Everyone at the conference was welcoming and had a lot of impressive leadership experience during their college experience. I would not have been able to have these valuable and impacting experiences if it were not for the American Association of University Women and their outstanding dedication to empowering the future generations of scholarly women. Without their organization, I would not have known about this incredible event. I want to say a huge thank you to the American Association of University Women for the scholarship that they awarded me, because I would not have been able to attend this conference without their support.



Sophie Price, left, in orange sweater, and on right with another attendee: Our IBC NCCWSL scholarship award-ee for 2025.



With Women's Equality Day around the corner and the U.S. ranking as only the 42nd best country for gender equality, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on the **Best & Worst States for Women's Equality in 2025**, as well as expert commentary.

In order to determine where women receive the most equal treatment in American society, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 17 key metrics. The data set ranges from the gap between female and male executives to the disparity in unemployment rates for women and men. Missouri is number 32.

Best States for Women's Equality

1. Hawaii
2. Nevada
3. Maryland
4. Maine
5. Oregon
6. New Mexico
7. California
8. Iowa
9. Alaska
10. Vermont

Worst States for Women's Equality

41. Ohio
42. Virginia
43. New Jersey
44. Wyoming
45. Oklahoma
46. Louisiana
47. Arkansas
48. Idaho
49. Texas
50. Utah

Best vs. Worst

- In every state, women earn less than men. California has the lowest gap, with women earning 10.10 percent less, whereas Louisiana has the highest, 26.30 percent.
- In nearly every state, women represent the highest share of minimum-wage workers. Alaska, Hawaii and North Dakota have an equal ratio of women to men. Delaware and Georgia have the highest minimum-wage workers gap, at 70.00 percent.
- West Virginia has the highest unemployment-rate gap favoring women, with 2.20 percent more unemployed men. Kentucky has the highest gap favoring men, with 1.30 percent more unemployed women. The unemployment rate is equal for men and women in Iowa, Maine and Minnesota.

In nearly every state legislature, male lawmakers outnumber their female counterparts. Nevada has the highest gap favoring women, with 62.50 percent more women. West Virginia has the highest gap favoring men, with 86.44 percent more men. To view the full report and your state's rank, please visit:

<https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-for-women-equality/5835>

CALENDAR

Aug 25 Movie Club discussion, 7 pm, Zoom
 Aug 26 IBC meeting, 12 N, Grand Glaize County Library, mtg room 1, 1010 Meramec Station Rd
 Aug 26 International Women's Equality Day
 Sep 2 St. Louis Branch board meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
 Sep 14 Combined branch meeting, 2 pm, Brentwood Community Center

Sep 22 Movie Club discussion, 7 pm, Zoom
 Sep 25 Adelante Book Group, 1:30 pm, Zoom
 Oct 7 St. Louis Branch board meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
 Oct 12 Combined branch meeting, 1:00 pm, Mid-County Branch Library, 7821 Maryland Ave., Clayton
 Oct 23 Adelante Book Group, 1:30 pm, Zoom
 Nov 4 St. Louis Branch board meeting
 Nov 25 National Ending Violence Against Women Day