



Newsletter of the

Saint Louis Branch

Founded April 1893 ~ Celebrating 132 Years!

2025-2026, No. 3, October 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
dsher63105@gmail.com

Carol Davis McDonald

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

Christine Nobbe

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 | Facebook](#)

National Web Site:

www.aauw.org

Reframing Aging: New Narrative 4 Longer Lives

Sunday, October 12, 2025 - 1:30 pm

Mid-County Library, [7821 Maryland Ave](#), Clayton

Please RSVP to [Paperless Post](#)



[Dr. Nancy Morrow-Howell](#), distinguished professor of social policy, is an international leader in gerontology, known for her groundbreaking work on the productive engagement of older adults. Her research has shaped programs and policies that support older adults in meaningful roles—whether through employment, volunteering, or education. As director of the Harvey

A. Friedman Center for Aging at Washington University, she champions interdisciplinary research and education that reimagines aging as a time of opportunity and contribution.

1:30 Arrival and Networking

2:00 Speaker + Discussion

3:20 AAUW Announcements

4:00 Optional Early Dinner at [Bao: Bun & Bar](#)

Parking & Other Details: There is no charge for this event, which is sponsored by the St. Louis and Kirkwood-Webster Groves branches of AAUW. Free parking is available underground with entrance on Maryland Ave., on the street, and in the parking lot across from the library. Click on the blue links to RSVP, for a map to the library, to see the speaker's bio, for the restaurant menu, and to watch the TED talk.

Pre-event Viewing: To enrich the conversation, we encourage attendees to watch [this TED Talk](#) beforehand: *Let's End Ageism* by Ashton Applewhite. Excellent video.

notes



Diane Sher sent out a branch survey through a Survey Monkey email in August, but only 11 members responded. Check your email message of August 11th. Many thanks to those who responded.



The September meeting with the Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch (and visitors from other branches) was very good. Christine did a fantastic job of planning and leading the program. Brainstorming sessions in AAUW are always worthwhile.



The AAUW Five-Star Program is designed to help branches align with AAUW's strategic priorities and advance our mission of achieving gender equity for women and girls. By participating in this program, your branch contributes to a strong network of advocates, elevating both your local impact and our collective efforts nationwide. The 2025 results:

- * 5 Stars—Kirkwood-Webster Groves
- * 4 Stars—Ballwin-Chesterfield, Ferguson-Florissant, **St. Louis**
- * 3 Stars—St. Charles

Learn more at this link: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/5-star-program/>



The national AAUW budget is 96% restricted, which means that AAUW has no flexibility on how that money is spent. The other 4% of the budget can then be used for everything else. Everything else includes big-ticket items like research, webinars, publications, and national support staff, to name a few.



We Remember Eleanor Roosevelt on Her Birthday ~ October 11, 1884

Several of her quotes include:

- ◆ Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.
- ◆ You wouldn't worry so much about what others think of you if you realized how seldom they do.
- ◆ Do what you feel in your heart to be right — for you'll be criticized anyway.
- ◆ Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That is why it is called 'the present.'
- ◆ No matter how plain a woman may be, if truth and honesty are written across her face, she will be beautiful
- ◆ He who learns but does not think is lost. He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger.
- ◆ No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.



According to the *New York Times*, "boys and young men are helping to fuel the surge in interest in women's basketball!" This season, "the W.N.B.A.'s fan base was 57 percent male and 43 percent female, according to statistics provided by the league. Men have actually made up more than half of viewership for years, but they were mostly middle-aged before. Now they're skewing younger. The number of boys under 18 who watch W.N.B.A. games has grown by 130 percent over the past four years.

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!



Mon. Oct. 27: Moderator, Roz Marx

Between the Temples

Mon. Nov. 24: Moderator, TBD

Maria

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

Meeting ID: 815 8265 7369

Passcode: 168308

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

From Jeanne Webdell, K-WG Public Policy Chair



Take Action Against the SAVE Act

Making a Difference in a Politically Volatile World

In today's politically volatile climate, individual actions matter more than ever. While it may not be possible for everyone to attend marches or demonstrations, there are still impactful ways to use your voice and skills to promote change. Writing letters, making calls, and engaging in advocacy can be powerful tools for influencing policy and protecting rights.

How to Get Involved at the National Level

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) provides resources to help you participate in advocacy efforts from the comfort of your home. To stay informed and take timely action, sign up for AAUW's *Action Alert* by visiting their national website at [AAUW.org](https://www.aauw.org). Through *Action Alerts*, you will receive regular updates on critical issues and guidance on how to engage, including instructions for contacting legislators, writing letters to editors, and responding to urgent calls for action.

Current Advocacy Focus: Opposing the SAVE Act

AAUW is currently mobilizing opposition to the Safeguarding American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act (H.R. 22). This bill passed the U.S. House on April 10 and is now under consideration in the Senate. Advocates are encouraged to contact their senators to urge them to reject this bill, which is widely viewed as a dangerous form of voter suppression.

Background and Implications of the SAVE Act

- The SAVE Act would require every voter to present a paper citizenship document, such as a birth certificate or passport, each time they register or re-register to vote.
- It would undermine current voter registration methods—including online, mail-in, and automatic registration—by mandating in-person submission of documents.

Potential Impact

- An estimated 21 million U.S. citizens could be prevented from voting due to lack of access to the required paperwork.
- The legislation would disproportionately harm people of color, voters with disabilities, older Americans, and women—especially those whose names have changed due to marriage or divorce. The requirements would create additional costs, confusion, and barriers to voting.

It is important to note that every voter currently affirms their citizenship during registration. The SAVE Act introduces unnecessary obstacles and risks widespread disenfranchisement.

Advocates are urged to tell their senators to oppose the SAVE Act and support fair, accessible elections for all.

Contact Information for Missouri Senators

- Senator Hawley: (202) 224-6154
- Senator Schmitt: (202) 224-5721

Sample Letter to Senators Hawley and Schmitt

Below is a draft letter from the AAUW website which can be used when calling or emailing your senators. You may also use AAUW's 2-Minute Activist tool to send this letter directly via email.

As a concerned constituent, I stand with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to strongly urge you to vote against the Safeguarding American Voter Eligibility Bill (SAVE) H.R. 22.

The proposed SAVE Act mandates that individuals present documentation of U.S. citizenship to register to vote or amend their voter information. Such legislation is redundant, as existing federal law already bans noncitizens from voting in federal elections for positions such as the U.S. House, U.S. Senate, and presidency.

In effect, the SAVE Act would complicate the voting process for all citizens, adding undue obstacles, particularly affecting groups like people of color, individuals with disabilities, and seniors who frequently encounter voting challenges.

The act presents a notable difficulty for 69 million married women who have altered their names, as the name on a birth certificate may not align with their current name. Each state would decide what extra documentation is necessary, imposing additional expenses, administrative tasks, and a kind of hidden penalty not imposed on other voters.

Continued on next page

We urge you to stand with us in promoting free and equitable elections, ensuring they remain within reach for every voter, and to reject the SAVE Act. Thank you for your attention, and I anticipate your reply.

Join other AAUW members in opposing the SAVE Act and help protect fair and accessible elections for all Americans.

Missouri Legislative Updates: September 2025

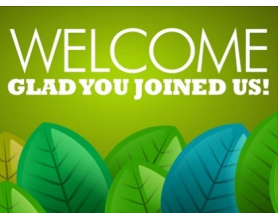
September 2025 Special Legislative Session Overview

During the September 2025 Special Legislative Session, two significant bills were passed. The first addressed congressional redistricting, while the second focused on citizen-initiated petitions. Previously, the legislature passed an amendment related to reproductive rights, but the wording of this amendment has been challenged in court. The latest updates on these legislative actions are detailed below.

HR1 – Congressional Redistricting

Three lawsuits have been filed in response to the newly enacted redistricting legislation:

- NAACP: Challenging the legality of holding a special session for redistricting.
- Luther vs. Hoskins: Asserts that the Missouri State Constitution prohibits redistricting in the middle of a cycle.
- Wise vs. State of Missouri: The ACLU contends that the new map fails to create compact districts.
- The National Redistricting Foundation lawsuit is the fourth suit filed since Kehoe announced plans for the special session. This lawsuit contends the legislation fails to meet constitutional standards for redistricting which include districts that are compact, contiguous, as equal as possible in population and do not split communities of interest.



Roz Marx recently joined the St. Louis Branch as a dual member; her primary branch is Ballwin-Chesterfield. Roz's undergrad major was in Sociology with minors in Psychology and English at Southern Illinois University. Her Masters was in Social Work from Brown School of Social Work at Washington University. Her career was as a social worker with people with chronic illnesses. She developed and taught Assessment and Treatment of the Elderly for 10 yrs at Brown School, plus at Webster University and UMSL. She is joyfully retired. With limited time for reading, she reads mostly nonfiction (*Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present*, by Ruth Ben-Ghiat; and *The Science of Racism: Everything You Need to Know But Probably Don't - Yet,* by Keon West, PhD). Since joining, Roz has been active in our movie club. Roz lives in west county near Queeny Park.

In addition to legal challenges, a referendum petition is underway to allow voters to decide on the new map. The campaign, led by People NOT Politicians and supported by AAUW MO, must collect 116,000 signatures by December 11, 2025, to qualify for placement on an early 2026 ballot.

HJR3 – Amendment 4: Initiative Petitions

Two groups have launched campaigns addressing different aspects of this bill. The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition is working to unify these efforts. One organization, Respect MO Voters, is currently circulating a petition aimed at restricting the legislature's ability to alter or overturn citizen initiative petitions. It is important to note that AAUW MO is not supporting this particular campaign.

Amendment 3 – Reproductive Rights

The Mo. Legislature has approved a new amendment, retaining the same title and amendment number as the previous version, to appear on the 2026 ballot. This could potentially cause confusion among voters, despite a recent judicial ruling requiring the ballot language to clarify that a "yes" vote would nullify the earlier Amendment 3. The language of this new amendment is presently under court review. Notably, the amendment introduces additional restrictions on transgender care. The governor has not yet scheduled a date for the ballot measure.

Stay Informed with the *Missouri Independent* Newspaper

With the many legislative developments emerging from Jefferson City, individuals are encouraged to sign up for daily updates from the *Missouri Independent* newspaper. To receive free daily news updates, use the SUBSCRIBE button located at the top left of the website or send an email to info@missouriindependent.com. Alternatively, you can visit Missouriindependent.com/subscribe/ in your browser.

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, Nov 25, 2025, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

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

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, and June.

Contact: PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com

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

[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:

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. A small independent bookstore in Minneapolis is haunted from November 2019 to November 2020 by the store's most annoying customer. Flora dies on All Souls' Day, but she simply won't leave the store. Tookie, who has landed a job selling books after years of incarceration that she survived by reading "with murderous attention," must solve the mystery of this haunting while at the same time trying to understand all that occurs in Minneapolis during a year of

grief, astonishment, isolation, and furious reckoning. 400 pages, published November 9, 2021.

Jan 22 *All the Colors of Dark*, by Chris Whitaker, 608 pages, June 2024, Kay Meyer, facilitator. 1975 is a time of change in America. The Vietnam War is ending. Muhammad Ali is fighting Joe Frazier. And in the small town of Monta Clare, Missouri, girls are disappearing. When the daughter of a wealthy family is targeted, the most unlikely hero emerges—Patch, a local boy, who saves the girl, and, in doing so, leaves heartache in his wake. Patch and those who love him soon discover that the line between triumph and tragedy has never been finer. And that their search for answers will lead them to truths that could mean losing one another.

Feb 26 *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth*, by Sarah Smarsh, 304 pages, 9-18-2018. Lynne Roney, facilitator. Sarah Smarsh was born a fifth generation Kansas wheat farmer on her paternal side, and the product of generations of teen mothers on her maternal side. Through her experiences growing up on a farm thirty miles west of Wichita, we are given a unique and essential look into the lives of poor and working-class Americans living in the heartland. During Sarah's turbulent childhood in Kansas in the 1980s and 1990s, she enjoyed the freedom of a country childhood but observed the painful challenges of the poverty around her; untreated medical conditions for lack of insurance or consistent care, unsafe job conditions, abusive relationships, and limited resources and information that would provide for the upward mobility that is the American Dream. By telling the story of her life and the lives of the people she loves with clarity and precision but without judgement, Smarsh challenges us to look more closely at the class divide in our country. Beautifully written, in a distinctive voice, *Heartland* combines personal narrative with powerful analysis and cultural commentary, challenging the myths about people thought to be less because they earn less.

Mar 26 *Sula*, by Toni Morrison, 192 pages, 1973. Carol Davis McDonald, facilitator. Sula and Nel are two young black girls: clever and poor. They grow up together sharing their secrets, dreams and happiness. Then Sula breaks free from their small-town community in the uplands of Ohio to roam the cities of America. When she returns ten years later much has changed. Including Nel, who now has a husband and three children. The friendship between the two women becomes strained and the whole town grows wary as Sula continues in her wayward, vagabond and uncompromising ways.

Metro St. Louis Branch Programs

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch— On October 9 (second Thursdays) the branch program will begin at 10:30 a.m. The speaker will be Chris Krehmeyer from Beyond Housing: Strengthening Families and Transforming Communities to Create a Stronger, More Equitable, and Prosperous St. Louis—Once and For All.

At their Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb, March, and April meetings, members may donate up to five books, games, and puzzles to benefit the Dollars for Scholars fund. Un-sold items at each meeting go to a used bookstore.

Upcoming Dollars for Scholars events include Go Loopy for St. Louis History, breakfast at the Moonrise Hotel, a Moonrise presentation, and a trolley ride to Forest Park; a visit to the Ulysses S Grant Historic Site in Affton; and tai chi sessions taught by co-president Janet Sloey following branch meetings.

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. Their Oct 2 meeting will be “Sexual Exploitation and Prevention.” Ending human trafficking begins with education. Melanie Williams from Pursuit 3416 will address crimes happening in plain sight even in our own homes. She will empower us to recognize when children are being groomed and provide ways to avoid this from happening. There are more than 50 million human trafficking victims worldwide. Melanie will provide data and statistics on what is happening here in St. Charles and St. Louis areas. Pursuit 3416 is a nonprofit organization that exists to educate, equip, and empower on what sexual exploitation looks like in our local communities.

At its September meeting, the branch honored Betty Takahashi, who received her AAUW 50-Year Lifetime Membership Award; and Teri Brecht as out-going president and for her many years of service to the branch.

At its Nov 6 meeting, the branch will have an AAUW Fund UN-auction of donated nice quality items, pre-priced baked goods, gift cards, and lottery tickets; all donations will go to AAUW’s Greatest Needs Fund. Members will share a photo, memory, memento, or brief story about a friend or relative who is a veteran.

International Relations Lecture Series



If you are interested in international relations and learning about worldwide issues, you will enjoy these lectures held on the second Tuesday of January, February, March and April each year at the Ethical Society building on Clayton Rd in Ladue. AAUW and the Tuesday Women’s Association have sponsored these lectures for over 90 years, and they are always interesting.

The Tuesday Women’s Association (TWA) from the Ethical Society will lead the group again since no AAUW people were available to take the leadership. Branches are asked to send in their checks for financial support to the IBC finance officer. The Ethical Society supplies the facilities and equipment at no cost for the lectures. Speakers are paid \$250 from the funds raised by our donations and by passing the basket at the lectures.

Sex Discrimination Today Takes a Variety of Forms

Unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 can affect both women and men.

AAUW’s Legal Advocacy Fund addresses these barriers by informing people of their rights and using the legal system to seek justice and change. LAF was created in 1981 by AAUW members and has provided millions of dollars to balance the scales of justice for people working toward gender equity through the legal system.

We support brave plaintiffs seeking legal redress for equal pay, Title IX, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and tenure denial violations. We allocate \$100,000 annually to help fund landmark cases, such as *Wal-Mart v. Dukes* and *Cioca v. Rumsfeld*, as well as cases with the potential to set future precedents like *Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education*.

For questions or technical support, please email awards@aauw.org.

As the days go by, there is even greater need for work toward our mission. Members are encouraged to find their own ways to put it forward and then act.

Results from last year's Annual Branch Survey (a/k/a Five-Star Program)

First, thank you to the branches that submitted the survey. The huge increase was heartening, and we all learned a lot. We have more to do on this, though, so in the spring you will be reminded to submit for FY26 in June. We retain our goal of reaching 100% submission rate for this year.

Celebrating 5 Star Branches – We now have 56 Five-Star Branches! Listing of these branches, along with those that earned stars in each category, can be found on our Five Star page: [Five-Star Program – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#).

Tremayne Parquet, AAUW deputy director of advancement, recently presented at an AAUW Colorado meeting regarding the Five Star Program – you can review the recording here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibY_7nwpOXM

Save the Date: On the evening of **Wednesday, November 19**, the Advancement Committee will be offering a webinar on mission alignment and the Five-Star Program. Hear from your peers! For each of the star areas,

a branch that was successful in that area will highlight a strategy or two that helped them. Additionally, we want to share other good ideas for mission-based programming, membership recruitment, and fundraising with others, **and these ideas come from you**. Please let us know if you have a good idea for any of these areas.

There are now two types of community action grants, one for [community organizations](#) and [another for AAUW branches and states](#). There were webinars about these. The recording of the former can be found here; the one for the latter of these is [here](#).

[Info Session Schedule – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

September 9th Press Release: [Pay Gap Data Shows Women Falling Behind; AAUW Steps Up with Solutions – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

Year-end Giving – We are planning for our AAUW National board, committee, and staff matching gift campaign. You will be hearing more about the campaign in the next couple of months.

Link to Leader Resources and Tools (including the latest Membership Matters issue): <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/>

Events Calendar: [EventCalendarDirectory - AAUW](#)

AAUW St. Louis Branch Calendar - 2025–2026

PROGRAMS AND THINGS TO DO

October 2025

- Sun, Oct 12—in conjunction with AAUW K-WG, 1 pm, Mid-County Library, Dr. Nancy Morrow-Howell on ageism
- Thur, Oct 23—Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom
- Mon, Oct 27—Movie Club, 7 pm, Zoom

November 2025

- Tue, Nov 4—branch board meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
- Thur, Nov 20—program in conjunction with AAUW K-WG, 6:30 pm
- Mon, Nov 24—Movie Club, 7 pm, Zoom
- Tue, Nov 25—IBC quarterly meeting, 7 pm, Zoom

December 2025

- Tue, Dec 2—branch board meeting, 7 pm, Zoom

January 2026

- Tue, Jan 6—branch board meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
- Thur, Jan 22—Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom

February 2026

- Tue, Feb 3—branch board meeting, 7 pm, Zoom

March 2026

- Tue, Mar 3—branch board meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
- Sat, Mar 28—SPRING FLING

April 2026

- Tue, Apr 7—branch board meeting, 7 pm, Zoom

May 2026

- Tue, May 5—branch board meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
- Tue, June 9—branch board meeting, 7 pm, Zoom