



Newsletter of the

## Saint Louis Branch

Founded April 1893 ~ Celebrating 132 Years!

2025-2026, No. 7, February 2026

*"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 Inter-branch Council (IBC).

### Branch Officers, 2025-2026

#### **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](http://www.aauwmo.org)

[AAUW St. Louis Branch | Facebook](http://www.aauwmo.org)

#### **National Web Site**

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

## St. Louis and Kirkwood-Webster Groves Combined February Online (Zoom) Meeting

February 19, 2026 - 6:30 p.m.



**Bridget Laramie Kelly**, PhD candidate in History and an **AAUW American Fellow at Washington University**, will be our speaker on Thursday, February 19th. Bridget is a social and urban historian of the United States whose work examines Black freedom struggles, gender, and governance. She is the author of *I Get So Mad Cause We Ain't Got No Freedom: Black Women, Rage, and the Harlem Uprising of 1943* and *The Materiality of Belonging: Black Property Claims*

*after the Civil War*. Her writing includes a piece for *The Metropole* titled *Annexation Politics & Manufacturing Blight in a Black St. Louis Suburb*, a historical essay about Meacham Park. In that essay she explores how annexation and the designation of "blight" were used to justify absorbing Meacham Park into Kirkwood.

Here's the link to that essay: <https://themetropole.blog/2023/09/12/annexation-politics-manufacturing-blight-in-a-black-st-louis-suburb/>

"The Materiality of Belonging: Black Property Claims after the Civil War" in the *Journal of African American History* (<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/eprint/9QTCEIYCZXYDDHJIH87/full?redirectUri=/doi/epdf/10.1086/734657>)

"I Get So Mad Cause We Ain't Got No Freedom": Black Women, Rage, and the Harlem Uprising of 1943" in the *Journal of Urban History* (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00961442241284266>)

Please mark your calendar for our session.

**"Doors open" at 6:30 pm for networking.**

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3041753234>

## March 28th Spring Fling Program Update

In addition to celebrating our Barbara Lackritz AAUW Service Awards and Honoring Our Sheroes, we will have a talk by **Hillary Peppers**, information services librarian at the Clark Family County Library, 1640 S. Lindbergh, St. Louis 63131. Her talk will be **Ground Breaking Women of Missouri**, For more than 200 years, women have changed the face of the nation, not just the state. Learn about the most famous (and infamous) women Missouri has ever seen.

**(continued on page 10)**

## “Congratulations, you have been selected to receive a 2026-27 AAUW Community Action Branch Grant!”



With that, **Christine Nobbe** knew that St. Louis AAUW members must begin working to bring to fruition their “Women Making Their Mark” project presented in collaboration with the **St. Louis Montessori Adolescent Program (MAP)**.

The **March 30 – April 27, 2026** program will take place at the MAP school. As reported in the January 2026 newsletter, it will include two women scientists whose work features microscopy images, one woman scientist who creates biological models, and a woman artist whose work is based on STEM. The women will present at the MAP All-School Council Meeting, conduct workshops for students, and speak at the opening of the public exhibition of their work in MAP’s Gallery on Friday, April 3, 2026.



The presenters will reach all MAP faculty members and students, AAUW members of the St. Louis area branches, Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri, businesses, museums, and makers’ art facilities in the Grand Art District where MAP is located, and art faculty and students at St. Louis colleges and universities.

To assure a large and varied audience, the **AAUW St. Louis Branch invites all AAUW members to the “Women Making Their Mark” MAP Gallery art exhibit opening on Friday, April 3, 2026**. **Equally important to having a large audience is your much needed assistance with a variety of tasks**, ranging from notifying



your friends to mailing postcard announcements, from distributing flyers to assisting with food, and from picking up workshop supplies to contacting college and university art department chairs and faculty members.

Christine Nobbe is sending AAUW members an invitation to join her and Jo Taylor in preparing for the project on Sunday, February 8, 2 pm, 1515 Lafayette, Unit 204. **Please respond to that invitation for project success.**

### CALENDAR

#### *February Black History Month*

Feb 7 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders students state pathway program, 11-12pm, Zoom (pg 8)

Feb 8 Community Action Branch Grant planning, 2 pm, 1515 Lafayette, Unit 204, 63104 (pb 3)

Feb 9 INDEPENDENT LENS, Nine PBS, *The Librarians*. Don’t miss this broadcast at 10 pm

Feb 10 International Relations lecture, 10:45 am, “Supply Chains.” (pg 7)

Feb 21 “From Storefronts to Stories: Celebrating Mill Creek Valley,” 225 S. Skinker, 9:30 am (pg 9)

Feb 24 Quarterly IBC meeting, 7 pm, Zoom (pg 6)

Feb 23 Movie Club, 7 pm, Zoom, *Good Night and Good Luck* (pg 3)

Feb 26 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* (p 6)

Feb 28 Annual MO legislative retreat, 9-12 pm, Zoom, (p 3)

#### *March Women’s History Month*

Mar 8 International Women’s Day

Mar 10 International Relations lecture, 10:45 am, Ethical

Society, “Our Planets Plastic Crisis”

Mar 10 Oral arguments at MO Supreme Court regarding constitutionality of MO Redistricting (People Not Politicians partners of AAUW-MO)

Mar 23 Movie Club, 7 pm, Zoom, *Lilly* (pg 3)

Mar 26 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, *Sula*

Mar 28 **Spring Fling!, Raquet Club Ladue (pgs 1, 4, 5, 10)**

Apr 3 **“Women Making Their Mark” MAP Gallery art exhibit opening (pg 2)**

Apr 14 International Relations lecture, 10:45 am, “Crop Yields and Future Food Security.”

Apr 23 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, *My Friends* (pg 6)

Apr 27 Movie Club, 7 pm, Zoom, *Train Dreams* (p 3)

May 2 Annual state conference, in person, Columbia, MO

May 25 Movie Club, 7 pm, Zoom, *The Penguin Lessons*

May 28 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, *Anna: The Biography*

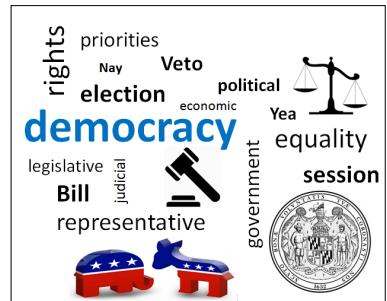
June 25 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, By Any Other Name

Sep 24 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, *Accidentally, On Purpose*

## Annual Missouri Legislative Retreat February 28, 2026, 9:00 am—12:00 noon

Learn about legislation that affects the lives of Missouri residents. Leaders from numerous organizations will share their strong advocacy positions and how they are working to influence Missouri legislative action. The annual briefing is informative in general, but also specific, in that it helps branches determine what specific focus areas they choose to work on. The Legislative Briefing is offered as a forum for Missouri organizations with common missions to share their activities at this free public event. Leaders will give a brief overview of their organization and explain their main legislative priorities, the bill authors, numbers, and titles they suggest we monitor.

— Your Advocacy Ally, Karen Francis, Legislative Briefing Chair



### Celebrate the Talent & Voices of Women Artists

Only a third of artists represented by commercial galleries are women, and women working in arts professions are paid on average 74 cents to every dollar paid to men. This is what motivates AAUW to host an annual art contest—to give women artists the attention they deserve. This tradition celebrates the artistic excellence of our members while supporting AAUW's mission in a beautiful and meaningful way.

The 2026 AAUW Annual Art Contest closed on January 30, 2026, and voting begins on February 2, 2026. Submissions could be featured in our exclusive notecards sent to members nationwide. To vote, [log in](#) to the Art Contest using your AAUW member ID or email address. Members of the St. Charles and Ballwin-Chesterfield branches have submitted art work.



**Black History Month** is an annually observed [commemorative month](#) originating in the [United States](#), where it is also known as **African-American History Month**. It began as a way of remembering important people and events in [African-American history](#), before it spread to other countries where it could celebrate [black people](#) worldwide. It initially lasted a week before becoming a month-long observation since 1970.<sup>[6]</sup> It is celebrated in February in the United States<sup>[7]</sup> and [Canada](#),<sup>[8]</sup> where it has received official recognition from governments, and more recently has also been celebrated in [Ireland](#) and the [United Kingdom](#) where it is observed in October.

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black\\_History\\_Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_History_Month))

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](mailto:dsher63105@gmail.com). Prospective-member guests are welcome!

2/23/26	<i>Good Night, and Good Luck</i>	Diane Sher
3/23/26	<i>Lilly</i>	Nancy Hutchins
4/27/26	<i>Train Dreams</i>	Becky Clausen
5/25/26	<i>The Penguin Lessons</i>	Roz Marx
6/22/26	<i>Cover-Up</i>	Jan Scott



Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81582657369?pwd=aqAkICdAvoieBFwc1t97u8UNDYjua.1>

Meeting ID: 815 8265 7369 Passcode: 168308

Sign up and watch for the reminder and Zoom link about one week in advance of each discussion night.

# AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC Spring Fling Program and Luncheon Buffet Registration

*Celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence*



**Saturday, March 28, 2026 – 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Raquet Club Ladue - 1600 Log Cabin Lane, Ladue, MO 63124**

(off S. 40 Dr, accessible from Clayton Rd east of Lindbergh) - Living Room and Dining Room

## Event Highlights

A new and interesting venue | engaging program with guest speaker | networking opportunities | sumptuous luncheon buffet | raffles and Shero honors | music by Charlotte Parsons | plenty of disabled parking and food service | Lackritz Service awards (support your branch member)

## Buffet Menu Features:

Bistro Salad with ranch and balsamic dressings, Chicken Picatta with lemon caper butter sauce, Salmon Casino with herbal crust and chef's choice sauce, seasonal pasta (vegetarian option), herb-roasted fingerling potatoes, steamed broccoli, pick-up desserts (brought to tables), coffee, tea, lemonade

## Registration:

RSVP by March 14, 2026. For questions, contact: Charlie Daniels (St Charles Branch), [cddaniels1108@gmail.com](mailto:cddaniels1108@gmail.com) or 816-807-8252

Reserve your spot today and enjoy a day of learning, networking, and eating great food!

We look forward to seeing you there!



Please clip the section below, complete, and send with your check.

Print Name (please print legibly): \_\_\_\_\_

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

I need disabled parking \_\_\_\_\_ food assistance\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I plan to attend the luncheon

Registration Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am paying for \_\_\_\_ # of guests X \$45 (list names/branch on back)

Total for luncheon \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Mail form and check (payable to AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC) by **March 14th** to Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Drive, Manchester MO 63011-4215 (depositing your envelope inside the post office is recommended).

\_\_\_\_ Mail/email form, but pay by Venmo (using [davis-mcdonald@outlook.com](mailto:davis-mcdonald@outlook.com) or 314-623-1847). It is important that you enter a remark when paying (e.g. account #3810 and/or reason for payment)

# Honor Your Shero at the Spring Fling Luncheon!

## TRIBUTE DONATIONS TO HONOR OUR SHEROES

**IBC's major fundraiser this year is again tribute donations to honor our Sheroes.**

**Why does the IBC need to raise funds?** For IBC operating expenses, support NCCWSL, and to support the International Relations Lecture Series in collaboration with the Tuesday Women's Association of the Ethical Society. We have decided not to hold any more auctions because none of us wants more stuff. We believe the 50-50 and Lottery Ticket tree raffles are still worthwhile, but they won't raise all the funds we need. **Our new tradition:** honoring important women in our lives, living or in memory, through tribute donations.



**How will this work?** Donate to honor a Shero in your life. Your Shero will receive a card informing them that they have been named and **your Shero's name will be part of a display at the Spring Luncheon. A final summary of all names will be published at the end of the campaign.**

**How much should you donate?** We encourage you to be as generous as you can. Since this is a fundraiser, the minimum amount to recognize a Shero is \$10. Any level above that is appreciated. Please complete the form below to donate. Any donations received before March 18, 2026, will be recognized at the Spring Luncheon. The campaign will be open until April 9, 2026, with contributions accepted both **prior to AND at the Spring Luncheon.**

Questions? Contact the IBC 2026 Spring Luncheon Committee Fundraising Chair – Sage Taber, AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, [sagemo@aol.com](mailto:sagemo@aol.com) or 314-440-0716.

### TRIBUTE DONATION FOR MY SHERO

My name \_\_\_\_\_ My branch \_\_\_\_\_

My email \_\_\_\_\_ My phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Shero(es) to be named \_\_\_\_\_

Information about how to honor your Shero: (Please check the appropriate spaces below.)

My donation is (pick one):  In memory of (deceased Shero)  In honor of (living Shero)

As part of the recognition, I would like my branch name to be listed:  Yes  No

I would like to have my name listed as a donor:  Yes  No

If Yes,  I want my name on the event display,  I want to be in the final published lists

Shero(es) donation amount \_\_\_\_\_

**To honor additional sheroes, add the names and amounts on the reverse side and send together.**

Mail form and check (payable to AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC) by March 18th to Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Drive, Manchester MO 63011-4215 (depositing your envelope inside the post office is recommended).

Mail/email form, but pay by Venmo (using davis-mcdonald@outlook.com or 314-623-1847). It is important that you enter a remark when paying (e.g. account #3810 and/or reason for payment)

**NOTE: Donations are NOT tax deductible.**

## 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, Feb 24, 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:

For a clickable link to the meeting, please email: [PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com)

When: 1:30 pm the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in September, October, January, February, March, April, May, and June.

Contact: [PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com)

### Upcoming selections:

**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. Patty Murray, 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. Nancy Hutchins, 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.

**Apr 23 *My Friends***, by Fredrik Backman, 448 pages, May 6, 2025. Jayne Kasten, facilitator.

Most people don't even notice them—three tiny figures sitting at the end of a long pier in the corner of one of the most famous paintings in the world. Most people think it's just a depiction of the sea. But Louisa, an aspiring artist herself, knows otherwise, and she is determined to find out the story of these three enigmatic figures. Louisa is proof that happy endings don't always take the form we expect in this stunning testament to the transformative, timeless power of friendship and art.

**May 28 *Anna: The Biography***, by Amy Odell, 464 pages, May 3, 2022, Teri Brecht, facilitator.

Named one of *Time*'s 100 Must-Read Books of 2022, this in-depth and revealing biography is based on extensive interviews with Anna Wintour's closest friends and collaborators. Weaving Anna's personal story into a larger narrative about the hierarchical dynamics of the fashion industry and the complex world of Condé Nast, Anna charts the relentless ambition of the woman who would become an icon.

**June 25 *By Any Other Name***, by Jodi Picoult, 544 pages, August 20, 2024, Kay Myer or another group member, facilitator.

**Sept 24 *Accidentally, on Purpose***, by Kristin Kish, 352 pages, April 22, 2025, Jayne Kasten or another group member, facilitator.

## Metro St. Louis Branch Programs

**Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch**—On Thursday morning, February 12, 9:30 am, the monthly meeting will be held at Ballwin Golf Course Event Center, 333 Holloway Rd. The program will be presented by Sara Ruiz on photo ID access in Missouri and the Ashrei Foundation's efforts to assist clients in obtaining this vital document. Since 2022, Sara has served as the executive director of The Ashrei Foundation, which imagines a just Missouri, where the way we look, where we are from, or who we define ourselves to be does not limit our access to quality and affordable healthcare, education, housing, technology, and economic stability. We strive to heal and repair Missouri through justice and equity.

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

**Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch**—Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch 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. The February 5th meeting will feature Lyn Mark, an immigration law specialist. She currently volunteers at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri in the immigration law department with a caseload of over 60.

## International Relations Lecture Series

If you are interested in international relations and learning about worldwide issues, you will enjoy these lectures held at **10:45 a.m. 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. 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.

### ZOOM for WINTRY WEATHER ONLY

Meeting ID: 819 6279 7894 Passcode: 412511  
For direct link, email [pattmurayAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:pattmurayAAUW@gmail.com).

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**February 10, 2026**

**Haitao Li, Ph.D., Professor and Chair  
Department of Supply Chain and Analytics  
Director, Laboratory of Advanced Supply Chain  
Analytics (LASCA) at UMSL**

### ***How Tariffs Reshape Global Supply Chains and How to Navigate***

**Haitao Li, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of the Department of Supply Chain and Analytics and director of Laboratory of Advanced Supply Chain Analytics (LASCA), University of Missouri – St. Louis

Rising tariffs have been reshaping global supply chains. In this talk, I will first summarize such evidence across key industries, including manufacturing, food & agriculture, healthcare and medical products, and consumer goods. I will then share my perspectives on strategies for businesses to navigate through, with economic sustainability and competitiveness.

#### **Education:**

- \* PhD, Production and Operations Management, The University of Mississippi, 2005
- \* M.A. Economics, The University of Mississippi, 2002
- \* B.E. International Trade and Aeronautical Engineering, Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 2000

**Research:** Dr. Li's research projects have been funded by the National Science Foundation, U.S. Army Research Office, U.S. Department of Transportation, Association Supply Chain Management (ASCM), International Agricultural Trade and Research Consortium (IATRC), Missouri Agriculture and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA), and HP Labs, Ameren, Express Scripts Inc., and Cass Information Systems in the private sector.

**Consulting Experience:** Hewlett-Packard Laboratory (HP Lab); Naval Personnel Research, Study and Technology (NPRST)

# AAUW MO—Online Zoom Panel Discussion

## LEARN ABOUT NCCWSL:

Featuring 2025 NCCWSL attendees  
**Makayla Artis and Amelia Britting**

**Saturday, February 7, 11:00 am - Noon**

Have you heard of NCCWSL? It is the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, and it is held each year in College Park Maryland, just outside Washington, DC. AAUW has offered this training conference for years and now it is partnering with NASPA (a long-standing leader in training student professionals) to deliver the program.



This exciting conference is designed to help college women grow their leadership skills and connect with students from all across the country who are doing the same! The program features keynote speakers like Gloria Blackwell and breakout sessions and workshops.

In 2025, AAUW branches in St. Louis and Kansas City sponsored three students to attend NCCWSL, providing them with conference registration and travel funds. This year, we hope to send more students, but we need the help of our members across the state to do so.

At this online meeting, you'll get to hear Makayla and Amelia from Park University talk about their NCCWSL experience, and we'll tell you how you and your branch members can donate to our state fund to send more students this year!

To join the Zoom meeting live, use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82237514853?pwd=BbXG1xAEAbWy1hi78tsnbVzfaqwiRb.1>

The meeting will be recorded for later viewing as well.

## More About NCCWSL

from Margaret Weck, our C/U chair

*AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council provides one or two (depending on funding) scholarships for students to attend the conference every year. There are guidelines in place that include how students are selected and what costs are covered. If you are interested in reading the guidelines, please let Margaret or Carol know, and a copy will be emailed to you.*

Registration for the 2026 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is now open. NCCWSL offers an exciting program that includes a transformative experience in leadership development, networking, and inspiration. The conference is held in conjunction with the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals (NASPA), who handle the registrations.

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is seeking dynamic speakers, facilitators, educators, and students to submit proposals

for the NCCWSL conference! This gathering of college womxn leaders provides a unique opportunity to foster connections, share knowledge, and inspire action.

NCCWSL recognizes the power of bringing together individuals who identify as women to explore the ways gender influences leadership, advocacy, career pathways, and personal growth. Through engaging workshops, interactive discussions, and skill-building sessions, presenters are invited to contribute to an experience that empowers, educates, and equips the next generation of leaders.

Proposals are encouraged that align with our core learning outcomes and provide meaningful, action-oriented takeaways for attendees. Help create an inspiring and transformative experience at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders and submit a proposal today!

The 2026 proposal submission portal will open in January 2026. If you have questions about presenting at a future NCCWSL, please contact [events@naspa.org](mailto:events@naspa.org). Please visit [NASPA website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

(continued on next page)

(NCCWSL continued)

The conference will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park, from May 27-30, 2026. [Register today!](#) The registration fee is based on single or double occupancy and includes meals. The "commuter" rate is the conference fee which includes the meals but no overnight accommodation.

The last day to register with on-campus housing as an option is May 18, 2026. Commuter registrations are welcome up to May 28, 2026.

Each student must have a free NASPA profile to ensure accurate name badge information and to capture any accessibility or dietary needs. If a student does not have a free NASPA profile, they can [create one here](#). (Please note: while not required to register for this event, we would encourage you to explore the benefits of becoming a NASPA member here.)

Registration Rates	Now - May 28, 2026	Onsite (May 28-30, 2026)
Double Occupancy	\$585	\$635
Single Occupancy	\$625	\$675
Commuter	\$395	\$395

## Public Policy Report by Diane Sher

People Not Politicians (PNP) with which AAUW-MO has partnered is watching numerous lawsuits move through the Missouri courts. Most importantly, expedited oral arguments for *Luther vs Hoskins* challenging the constitutionality of mid-decade redistricting passed by the Missouri legislature and signed by Governor Kehoe in September of 2025 will be heard at the Missouri Supreme Court on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, in Jefferson City. Details for demonstrations that day are being finalized. Go to <https://www.mobilize.us/pnpmo/> for more information and other opportunities to volunteer.

In the meantime, you can take action from anywhere by "Following" PNP at

- <https://substack.com/@peoplenotpoliticiansmo>
- <https://www.instagram.com/peoplenotpoliticiansmo> and
- <https://www.tiktok.com/@peoplenotpoliticiansmo>



to increase visibility and engagement for their continuing voter education campaign in the run up to the November election when the issue will be on the ballot.



### National Five-Star Program Information:

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. To learn more about the AAUW Five Star Program go to this webpage: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/5-star-program/>.

### Missouri Ten-Star Program Information:

AAUW MO 2025-2026 Star Award Program is a combination of the National 5-Star Award Plan and the Missouri Star Award/Branch Action Plan. Go to <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/incentive-grants/> to learn more. Completed Ten Star forms are due on April 1, 2026.

### From Storefronts to Stories: Celebrating Mill Creek Valley | Saturday, February 21 | 9:30am

Missouri Historical Society Library and Research Center, 225 South Skinker, St. Louis Mo 63105

Located in the heart of St. Louis, Mill Creek Valley was known as a vibrant, working-class, African American community. From bustling storefronts to close-knit homes, the neighborhood was defined by resilience, culture, and enterprise. Join Curator of Urban Landscape and Community Identity **Gwen Moore** (sister of past branch member, Malaika Horne) as she uncovers the rich history of Mill Creek, spotlighting the local businesses that shaped its identity and served as cornerstones of community life.

## News from National

**NCCWSL:** The event will be held May 27-30, 2026, at the University of Maryland College Park. Updates are posted here: <https://www.naspa.org/events/nccwsl>. Registration deadline is May 18.

**Membership Recruitment Best Practices Webinar:** This helpful video will be available on the National website and YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XydvfPODZS8>.

**The AAUW National Member Gathering (virtual):** February 18, 3:30 p.m. CST. The link to register is here: <https://my.aauw.org/event-information?id=a0lQr000001k2xVIAQ>

**All other upcoming events, including Start Smart and Work Smart,** can be found here: <https://my.aauw.org/eventcalendardirectory>

**Art Contest:** Now live—submission deadline was January 30: [Unleash Your Creativity and Make an Impact](https://unleashyourcreativity.aauw.org/)

**Community Action Branch Grants:** AAUW branches and states are uniquely positioned to catalyze change in local communities. Their connections, knowledge, and passion make them powerful advocates for girls in STEM. That's why AAUW National is offering dedicated funding of up to \$10,000 to support branches and states in implementing innovative STEM programming for girls in grades K-12. The **next deadline is March 31.** For more information: [AAUW Branch and State Affiliate Community Action Grants: Empowering Our Branches and States to Lead in STEM](https://aauw.org/branches-and-states/branches-and-states/branches-and-states-grants/)

**Membership Matters:** Note: this edition features Bridget Kelly, a Fellow at Washington University! [https://polo.feathr.co/v1/view\\_email?cpn\\_id=6919e627df1465050b6cd77b&t\\_id=6919e640ba4626548e133202](https://polo.feathr.co/v1/view_email?cpn_id=6919e627df1465050b6cd77b&t_id=6919e640ba4626548e133202)

An **AAUW National Public Policy webinar** “School Boards: Take Action for Gender Equity” will be held on Thursday, February 12, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. CST. Link to sign in to AAUW and register at: <https://my.aauw.org/event-information?id=a0lQr000001ieXRIAY>

**National dues** increase by \$2 (to \$76) beginning April 1, 2026.

## News from the AAUW MO Board

Planning is well underway for the **AAUW MO State Meeting**, to be held in person this year on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Columbia. The theme is “Blazing Forward—Forging Change.”

The **Missouri Legislative Briefing**, formerly called the Legislative Retreat, will be held online February 28, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. AAUW MO organizes this event, at which representatives from 16 organizations report on relevant legislation and priorities for this session. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86032819949?pwd=CG6WkGE8LaMLJ5bQnTQW6wzHKNbDbL.1>

**Branch bylaws** must be updated and submitted to Marianne Fues, state Bylaws/Governance chair, before June 30, 2026.

If you'd like to post or share a social media item on the **AAUW MO Facebook** page, submit it there and April McArthur, state Facebook manager, will approve and post it.

Two students sponsored by AAUW MO branches to attend the **2025 NCCWSL** program will speak about their experiences via a Zoom presentation February 7, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82237514853?pwd=BbXG1xAEAbWY1hi78tsnbVzfaqwiRb.1>. The recorded program will be shared.

(Spring Fling continued from page 1)

The registration flyer and the Honoring Our Sheroes form are included in this newsletter. We hope you plan to attend and will send in your registration. **Raquet Club Ladue** has been most accommodating and promises to be a great location for our luncheon. Registration begins at 11 a.m., when **Charlotte Parsons**, K-WG co-president, will entertain us on the piano. Come and visit with your friends, buy 50-50 raffle tickets, congratulate the Lackritz Award recipients, and see who has been honored as a Shero. We do not have to rush out at 2 pm, as RCL is allowing us to stay for the afternoon.