

*"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.*

*The Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch of AAUW supports the full range of the AAUW mission through its monthly program meetings, special interest groups, and public outreach events, by engaging in political action, collaborating with local organizations and educational institutions regarding AAUW topics, and by supporting area young women and girls directly. We are one of five branches in the St. Louis, MO, area that comprise the AAUW Metro St Louis Interbranch Council (IBC).*

**Branch Officers, 2019-2020**

**Co-President:**

**Chris Nobbe**

**314-323-0053**

[nobbechristine@gmail.com](mailto:nobbechristine@gmail.com)

**Co-President:**

**Jeanne Webdell**

**573-754-0943**

[jeannewebdell@gmail.com](mailto:jeannewebdell@gmail.com)

**Program Vice President**

**Marsha Koch:**

**636-256-3746**

[mkwkoch@outlook.com](mailto:mkwkoch@outlook.com)

**Membership Vice President:**

**Deb McWard**

**636-733-0757**

[debmcward@earthlink.net](mailto:debmcward@earthlink.net)

**Finance Vice President:**

**Carol Davis McDonald**

**636-227-0511**

[davis-mcdonald@outlook.com](mailto:davis-mcdonald@outlook.com)

**Secretary:**

**Lynne Roney**

**314-727-7175**

[lynnroney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lynnroney@sbcglobal.net)

**K-WG:** <http://kwg-mo.aauw.net>

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

**State:** [www.aauw-mo.aauw.net](http://www.aauw-mo.aauw.net)

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

**Facebook:** AAUWKWG

Click [here](#) to join our FB group

**Message from Co-President Jeanne Webdell**

I have been associated with AAUW for more than 40 years. I heard about it from my Aunt Jean, who was a member of the Hannibal Branch and talked about the good they were doing. After all these years some things are better, but there is a lot more to do. The United Nations issued a report (April 9, 2020 *Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women*) citing the adverse effect of the virus on women economically. The report also noted the increase of violence towards women because of the stresses involved in job loss, social distancing, etc. I have included a short section of that report (see page 6). [You can download the complete report from the U.N. website.](#) The [New York Times published an article](#) on June 3, 2020, about the report.

Women of color face even more discrimination and inequities. The struggle for civil rights has come to the forefront once again and demands our attention. (See AAUW statement on racism.)

After the 40 years I have been involved and the almost 140 years of AAUW, our important work continues. Today's world requires us to find new ways to reach people with our important message of equity for women and girls and equity for all. It is as important now as it ever has been.

*Jeanne*



Jeanne, Chris, and other branch members.

If something new, interesting, funny, sad, unusual happened to you in the past few months, let me know, and I'll post it in the next newsletter.

Carol ([davis-mcdonald@outlook.com](mailto:davis-mcdonald@outlook.com))

## ELECTION OF BRANCH OFFICERS

Because of the pandemic, we could not have our election at a meeting of the Branch. An election ballot has been sent to members by email and mailed to those without email. So far, Jeanne has received 15 affirmative votes from 15 members for our slate of officers. That number meets the requirement for a quorum. Votes will be tallied through June 15. Contact her at 573.754.0943 if you have any questions.



## Committee on Inclusion and Equity


**Nancy Hutchins** will serve as chair of this Branch committee. She asks if you have any resources for inclusion and equity that you email her the information at [bodaciouspsychobabe@yahoo.com](mailto:bodaciouspsychobabe@yahoo.com).

**Are you ready to put your organization and communication skills to work for AAUW?**


**Committee chair positions are open** for

- ♦ Public Policy
- ♦ Legislative Action
- ♦ STEM
- ♦ College-University Representative

Contact **Jeanne Webdell**, [jeannewebdell@gmail.com](mailto:jeannewebdell@gmail.com) or 573.754.0943, or to learn more.



**Maurita Fay Estes Stueck**, a longtime AAUW member and charter KWG member who moved to her daughter's in Ohio in 2016, passed away on March 24, 2020, at the age of 97 1/2. Maurita was given the AAUW MO Woman of Distinction Award at the annual state conference in 2016. AAUW K-WG has made a contribution to AAUW Fund in her memory. If you wish to send notes of sympathy to her family, please address them to: Family of Maurita E. Stueck, c/o Lisa D. McLaughlin, Attorney, MQD Law, LLC, 120 S. Central Ave., Suite 1420, St. Louis, MO 63105.



## AAUW METRO ST LOUIS INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)

This July **Barbara Johnson** and **Deb McWard** begin co-chairing AAUW St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council (IBC). The St. Louis IBC consists of representatives from each of the St. Louis AAUW branches (Ballwin-Chesterfield, Ferguson-Florissant, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, and St. Louis). ***We must also provide a secretary to take minutes. If you are willing and able, there are only four meetings each year.*** Please contact Barbara or Deb for more information.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES



### Patricia Burroughs-Bishop

(Kirkwood-Webster, Ballwin-Chesterfield) will be coordinating the 2021 International Relations Lecture Series for the second year. The last lecture about Identity Politics on April 14 was done by Zoom. Dr. **Debra Leiter** of the University of Missouri-Kansas City delivered an excellent talk. Power point slides from the lecture are available from Tricia. This lecture series is in partnership with the Tuesday Women's Association (TWA) of the Ethical Society of St. Louis.

Condolences as well to the family of **Amy Telthorst Weisser**. Several of you knew Amy, who was a member of the St. Louis Branch for the past 25+ years. She returned to college and earned her MSW at the U of KS in 2013. Amy's daughter Rebecca is grieving and recovering after 24/7 care of her mother the past two years due to Amy's paralysis caused by tumors that pressed on her spine. For contact information, please e-mail Carol.

## AAUW of MISSOURI

The AAUW state conference had to be cancelled, so the annual business meeting was conducted by telephone with 55 people participating. New officers were elected, and the new board will take over on July 1. Two of our members will continue serving on the Board: **Marsha Koch** (secretary) and **Lynne Roney** (program vice president). Other board officers are **Sue Shineman** (president) and **Patt Braley** (finance officer), both from the Independence Branch, and **Marianne Fues** (membership vice president) from the Columbia Branch. **Kay Meyer** is also on the board as past president. **Nancy Hutchins** from our branch and **Mable Davis** from the Ferguson-Florissant Branch are co-chairing the Committee on Inclusion and Equity. Thanks to **Patricia Bishop**, the state website has been updated to include the Inclusion and Equity Initiative under the Advocate tab. [Check it out!](#)

## PUBLIC POLICY

### MEDICAID EXPANSION VOTE

State Public Policy Chair **Pat Shores** sent this information:

"The Medicaid Expansion vote is moving faster than expected. **It will be Amendment 2 on the August 4 ballot.** Health Care for Missouri is the Medicaid expansion campaign for Missouri which AAUW supports.

MOVE (the Missouri Organizing and Voter Engagement Collaborates) is a coalition of grass-roots not-for-profit organizations leading a campaign for Medicaid Expansion. [We encourage you to vote yes.](#)"

### MISSOURI ELECTION DATES

(See chart on page 5 — notary not needed!)

August 4, 2020 - State Primary Election: Register by July 8, request absentee ballot by July 22

November 4, 2020 - General Election: Register by October 7, request absentee ballot by October 21

Check your voter registration at <https://s1.sos.mo.gov/elections/VoterLookup/>

Find your polling place at <https://voteroutreach.sos.mo.gov/PRD/VoterOutreach/>

## 2020-2021 Dues Renewal

*(If you just joined or if you have already renewed, you may ignore this message.)*

Your AAUW 2019-2020 membership expires on June 30, 2020! It is time to renew. E-mail invoices were sent to you a couple times within the past couple months. With a simple "click," you can renew your dues using your credit card. If you prefer to pay by check, a renewal form is attached. You may send your check and the form to Carol Davis McDonald. Except for dual, honorary life, and life members, dues are \$59 AAUW national, \$10 AAUW Missouri, and \$15 AAUW K-WG = \$84 total. \$56 is tax-deductible. The remaining \$3 is not tax deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's section 501(c)(4) Capitol Hill Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities. Your timely response will really be appreciated.



## AAUW FUNDS

### Support AAUW's Mission!

As you know, your dues support only 15% of AAUW's budget. The remaining 85% needs to come from contributions from members, investments, corporations, and foundations. AAUW counts on its members to give to AAUW to carry out its bold, strategic vision for the future. Contributions to AAUW are fully tax-deductible.

In 2019 K-WG Branch members contributed a total of \$3,685, which ranked our branch as 3rd of Missouri branches in total giving and resulted in \$136.48 in per capita giving. AAUW sends a special thank you to our members who achieved Century Club Plus membership (\$250) and Century Club membership (\$100+).

We are now in the 2020 contribution year. Your financial support will help ensure the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW into the future.



## AAUW STATEMENT ON RACISM

AAUW joins the country in mourning the losses of **George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor** and countless other people of color who have been unjustly killed across our nation. Our country needs healing. But healing will only come with justice. As an organization, we condemn racism.

Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the U.S., and today's injustices mirror our shameful history — from police brutality to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. There can be no justice or equality when Black and Brown communities are seen as less deserving of basic human and civil rights.

On behalf of our 170,000 members and supporters, we commit to fighting for justice, long-term and lasting change, and we stand in solidarity against racism. We also acknowledge that as an organization we have our own work to do.

And, as a member of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, we will work to advance the policies and systemic changes identified in the [New Era of Public Safety: A Guide to Fair, Safe, and Effective Community Policing](#) and [Vision for Justice](#) platform.

### AAUW CEO Kim Churches

In case you missed it, here is Kim Churches' letter to AAUW members:

We join the country in mourning the losses of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and countless other people of color who have been unjustly killed across our nation. Our country needs healing, but healing will come only with racial justice.

In addition to taking care of yourself and your loved ones, today we are asking you to do three things: listen, learn, and then vote.

**First— listen.** Listen to the Black and Brown leaders and members of your community when they speak. Remember that many people are struggling with enormous pain and despair, so we urge self-educating instead of asking Black and Brown people to work for the benefit of your learning. *(If you need somewhere*

*to start, we recommend [New Era of Public Safety: A Guide to Fair, Safe, and Effective Community Policing](#) with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and "[Racism 101](#)" with [Showing Up for Racial Justice](#).)* When listening, minimize questions to a simple, "Is there anything I can do to help you today?"

**Second— learn.** Read our [recent statement](#) highlighting AAUW's stand against racism and this [Washington Post article](#) by 2016-17 AAUW American Fellow alumnae Keisha Blain about the problematic history of policing in this country. Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the United States— from police brutality to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. Then talk to your family, children, and friends. Talk to them about how today's injustices mirror our own country's shameful history. Saying "Black lives matter" is important and needed. This is an historic moment that requires your vocal support.

**Third— vote.** [And make sure everyone is able to access and exercise this important right.](#) Our democracy works when everyone can fully participate, but people of color often experience discrimination at the ballot box. With a pivotal election ahead, persuading policymakers to expand voting rights is a powerful way to support marginalized communities.

**Change begins with understanding and ensuring that all are being heard.**

This can be a difficult experience. But it's incumbent on all of us to do the hard work. We at AAUW also acknowledge as an organization that we have work to do. We invite you to join us in learning and supporting this work towards long-term and lasting change.

**AAUW is a powerful and positive force for change — let us truly listen, learn, and [ensure everyone's voices can be heard.](#)**

In solidarity and strength,  
Kimberly Churches, AAUW CEO



- Are you confined, ill or at high risk of COVID-19? Vote Absentee – No Notary Required
- Permanent absentee voter – No Notary Required
- All other voters – Can vote by mail in 2020 – Ballot must be notarized

#### HOW TO VOTE ABSENTEE OR BY MAIL IN MISSOURI IN 2020 DUE TO COVID-19

	How Can I Vote by Mail?	Does my ballot need to be notarized?	How can I request a ballot?	Deadline to request a ballot?	How can I submit my ballot?	Deadline to submit the ballot
Do you expect to be confined due to illness or disability, or are caring for someone who is?	Can vote absentee under excuse #2:  (2) Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability (permanent)	NO	By email, fax, in-person or by mail	Request for mail-ballot must be received by 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday before Election Day  Can vote absentee in person until 5p.m. day before Election Day	Can be returned in-person or by mail, by voter or a close relative of voter	Ballot must be received by close of polls on Election Day
Do you have or are you at risk of complications from COVID-19?  At risk includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 65 years or older</li> <li>• in a long term care facility,</li> <li>• chronic lung disease or moderate/severe asthma</li> <li>• serious heart condition,</li> <li>• immunocompromised,</li> <li>• diabetes,</li> <li>• liver disease,</li> <li>• chronic kidney disease/dialysis</li> </ul>	Can vote absentee under excuse #7:  (7) For an election that occurs during the year 2020, the voter has contracted or is in an at-risk category for contracting or transmitting severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (For 2020 only)	NO	By email, fax, in-person or by mail	Request for mail-ballot must be received by 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday before Election Day  Can cast absentee ballot in person until 5p.m. day before Election Day	Can be returned in-person or by mail, by voter or a close relative of voter	Ballot must be received by close of polls on Election Day
I wish to vote by mail but don't meet any of the excuses to vote absentee.	Any voter can vote by mail for 2020 elections. No excuse required. (For 2020 only)	YES	By mail only	Request for mail-ballot must be received by 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday before Election Day	Must be returned to the election authority by MAIL only.	Ballot must be received by close of polls on Election Day

#### MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION

Questions? [denise@movpc.org](mailto:denise@movpc.org)

Sign up for alerts from MOVPC: Text MOVPC to 66866

## New Research on Women & Loan Debt

Even before coronavirus upended the global economy, the gender wage gap made it harder for women to repay their student loans. AAUW's 2020 analysis of its [Deeper in Debt](#) report also revealed that:

- Black women finish their undergraduate education with more debt than other women.
- First-generation college students face more debt by the time they graduate.

Women who attended for-profit colleges owe far more money than those who attended public or private non-profit schools.

"[Having a female president] matters. It matters because we have half the population that has given so much to building this country, to making it work, and of course I want to see a woman in the White House. Because, if I look at my friends and former colleagues who are now in the Senate, it was the women senators on both sides of the aisle who finally broke the fever over the government shutdown and debt limit debate. They have been working across party lines, and we need more of that." —[Hillary Clinton](#)

"I write for those women who do not speak, for those who do not have a voice because they were so terrified, because we are taught to respect fear more than ourselves. We've been taught that silence would save us, but it won't."

— Audre Lorde (1934-1992), American writer, feminist, womanist, librarian, and civil rights activist.

## UNITED NATIONS REPORTS ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CORONA VIRUS ON WOMEN

**“The limited gains made in the past decades are at risk of being rolled back,” concluded a U.N. report on the virus’s impact on women.**



From the April 9, 2020 **Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women** conclusion:

“A pandemic amplifies and heightens all existing inequalities. These inequalities in turn shape who is affected, the severity of that impact, and our efforts at recovery. The COVID-19 pandemic and its social and economic impacts have created a global crisis unparalleled in the history of the United Nations—and one which requires a whole-of-society response to match its sheer scale and complexity. But this response, whether at the national or international level, will be significantly weakened if it does not factor in the ways in which inequalities have made all of us more vulnerable to the impacts of the crisis. Or, if we choose to simply repeat past policies and fail to use this moment to rebuild more equal, inclusive and resilient societies. Instead, every COVID-19 response plans, and every recovery package and budgeting of resources, needs to address the gender impacts of this pandemic. This means: (1) including women and women’s organizations at the heart of the COVID-19 response; (2) transforming the inequities of unpaid care work into a new, inclusive care economy that works for everyone; and (3) designing socio-economic plans with an intentional focus on the lives and futures of women and girls. Putting women and girls at the centre (sic) of economies will fundamentally drive better and more sustainable development outcomes for all, support a more rapid recovery, and place us back on a footing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”

### Have you taken advantage of the AAUW webinars?

Join Kim Churches on  
**Thursday June 18,  
2020 at 4 p.m. CT** for a  
conversation with Nancy



Racette, co-founder and chief operating officer of Development Resources, inc. (DRI), a leader in development consulting and executive search for the non-profit sector for almost 20 years. You’ll learn how the crises we are confronting in the United States impact networking and job searching, discover best practices for virtual interviewing, and get tips for crafting a resume and cover letter to get noticed.

**Register here** to join The Equity Network for another session to empower us, bring us together and network towards the future.

Take the **Equity & Inclusion survey** from one of AAUW’s newest volunteer committees

### **TAKE ACTION!**

Over the past decade, states and localities across the country have enacted policies that make it harder to vote. The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded this issue into a voting access crisis, and our democracy needs your help.

**Our democracy works when everyone can fully participate**, and a public health crisis makes the ability to participate that much more critical. Elected officials routinely make decisions about issues that directly impact all of us. From our paychecks to paid leave, access to reproductive health care to access to education, our lives are on the line—and our vote is our voice.

To create real change, we must be part of the conversation, and the most powerful way for us to chime in is at the polls. **Tell your Senators it's time to take action and protect voting rights today!**



## **KIRKWOOD-WEBSTER GROVES BRANCH** **Membership Form – 2020-2021**

**Welcome to Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch! Please provide the following membership information:**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred First Name for Nametag: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

(Street) (City) (Zip) (mm/dd)

Preferred phone: \_\_\_\_ Home # \_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method for receiving branch and state newsletters: \_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_ USPS

Degree	Area of Study	College/University	Year

<b>The AAUW year is July 1 – June 30. Membership paid after March 15 extends through June 30 of the following year, i.e., 2020.</b>	Association (National)	Missouri (State)	Kirkwood-Webster Groves	Total	Choose One
New Member	\$59*	\$10	\$15	\$84	
New Dual Member Primary Branch: _____	n/a	\$10 or n/a	\$15	\$15	
<b>Special 2019-20 Membership Campaigns</b>					
Shape the Future (join at a public event)	\$29.50*	\$10	\$15	\$54.50	
Current Graduate Student	\$18.81*	\$10	\$15	\$43.81	
Give a Grad-a-Gift (min. 2-year Associate)	\$0	\$0	\$15	\$15	
<b>Undergraduate Student Affiliates</b>					
Student's school is an AAUW C/U partner member	Free online	\$3	\$6	\$9	
Student's school is <b>not</b> an AAUW C/U partner member	\$18.81*	\$3	\$6	\$27.81	
Representative at an AAUW C/U Partner Member joining branch/state	Incl in C/U Membership	\$10	\$15	\$25	
Current AAUW National Member joining branch/state	Incl in Nat'l dues	\$10	\$15	\$25	
*IRS regulations allow part of your dues to be deducted as a charitable contribution: \$56.00 of \$59.00; \$26.50 of \$29.50; \$16.81 of \$18.81. Suggestion: Make a note for your 2020 tax folder. Membership year runs from July 1 – June 30.					

(continued on reverse side)

**Want help with this form? Call K-WG Finance VP Carol Davis McDonald:  
636-227-0511**

**Mail this completed form with your check payable to AAUW to:**

**Carol Davis McDonald  
827 Bergquist Drive  
Manchester, MO 63011-4215**



*Optional: Please provide additional personal information for the Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch membership directory to help us learn more about you and your accomplishments.*

Employment Status: ☐ Retired from Job Title/Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Employed ☐ F/T ☐ P/T ☐ Self at Company Name/Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer work:

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What would you like us to know about you? (e.g., family, AAUW interests, publications, awards, achievements, hobbies, interests, special skills, etc.)

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