



Kirkwood-Webster Groves (MO) Branch

Newsletter of the

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch

Founded April 1971 ~ Celebrating 50 Years!

2020-2021, No. 7, May 2021

"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, 2020-2021

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State: www.aauw-mo.aauw.net

National: www.aauw.org

Facebook: AAUWKWG

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

AAUW Kirkwood Webster Groves

STEM Scholarships

Thursday May 20, 2021 — Via Zoom

6:30 p.m. Social Time — 7:00 Meeting

Please join us on May 20th to meet the STEM Scholarship awardees. In keeping with our annual focus on the STEM fields, Marsha Koch's niece, **Lindsay Hunt**, will be our speaker. Lindsay will tell us how she chose to go into biomedical engineering, her experience as a woman in engineering, and her career jobs and opportunities. She has worked on some interesting medical projects, and she just got a nice promotion. Lindsay grew up in Columbia, Illinois, and went to Mizzou for her undergraduate studies. She received a B.S. in Biological Engineering in 2009 and an MBA from SIUE in May 2019. She currently is employed at Biomerieux in Hazelwood as a senior project manager where she leads a team developing a bacterial detection instrument.



Our Scholarship Awardees

Afton High School Student: Olta Rexhepi.

Olta is planning to pursue pre-med at Saint Louis University or at Washington University. The Afton counselor, Ms. Mary Guinta, wrote, "Olta is a fantastic student! She is well-loved, especially by her science teachers. She can definitely use the

(continued on page 2)

Maplewood-Richmond Heights Student: Rachel Dickens.

Rachel is pursuing nursing after she graduates from MRH. Rachel plays volleyball and participates in additional extra-curriculars like FBLA. She has been working at

(continued on page 2)

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85260795688>

Meeting ID: 852 6079 5688 Passcode: 864014

(Unsure of using Zoom? Contact Marsha or Chris for assistance.)

KWG congratulates these young women for choosing STEM careers in medicine. The pandemic has shown us just how important our health professionals are and how challenging the field can be. We wish them great success at college and in their chosen professions.

(Olta Rexhepi continued)

scholarship and would be highly appreciative!" Olta wrote: "Entering high school, I had absolutely no idea what I wanted to do with my life career-wise or, rather, what sparked a light inside of me like no other. However, as a high school freshman, I was exposed to the biomedical sciences through the PLTW (Project Lead the Way) courses that are offered at Affton High School. Through experiencing this course and all that it had to offer, I was given the opportunity to work hands-on doing investigations, presentations, and labs whilst taking a



deeper look into the medical field. While enrolled in the PLTW courses all four years of high school, I was able to discover my passion for nuclear medicine, which was highlighted in many of the lesson plans. This course continues to heighten my interest in medicine far and beyond what it had already been."

(Rachel Dickens continued)

the Food Bank at The Crossing since 2018, processing and packing food items, providing quality control, communicating and organizing product distribution, and assisting with fundraising events.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Debbie McWard, Membership Vice President

Last month was perhaps a little early to bring up membership renewals. It was precipitated by national's sending out renewal requests. Actually, it's nice to have the renewals in early to help plan for the next year. And it does save my making and your receiving those awkward reminders. Too, it saves Carol from some last-minute paperwork.

That being said, as an incentive to renew before the last minute, everyone who submits dues by June 1 will have her name entered in a drawing for a prize. And the winner will be announced in the newsletter.

AAUW has survived a strenuous year of limited personal contact at the national, state, and branch levels and managed to come out stronger; but we need every person to support its many programs. The two local college students who were selected by IBC to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) were disappointed to have the conference cancelled. It was rescheduled for this May, but virtually. They will attend. Can you imagine being a student in this pandemic? The result of it all might be a very resilient generation. Well, perhaps we can say the same for ourselves. NCCWSL is one of the many programs we are involved in supporting. Our very own branch plowed ahead to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment with a monumental effort to distribute more than 800 celebratory yard signs. One of them now stands in the Missouri History Museum. Good leadership abounds in our branch. Please stay part of this forward-thinking group.

Condolences to Nora Beiswenger's Family.

Long-time branch member **Eleanor Haven (Hutchins) Beiswenger** passed away on March 20, 2021, at home in Webster Groves after a stroke. Nora lost her first husband, John Nothstine, in 1958. Her husband, Hugo Beiswenger, died several years ago while they were living in St. Louis. She later married John Norris; they were one of the subjects of a book on late-life marriages.



Nora was born in Detroit, MI, on June 24, 1926. She joined AAUW in 1982 and K-WG after moving here from TN. She had received an AA from Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, Michigan, 1962; AB with honors, University of Michigan, Dearborn, 1964; MA in English, U of M, Ann Arbor, 1966; PhD in American Culture, U of M, Ann Arbor, 1969. She taught English at Clarkson College (Potsdam, NY); UT-Nashville; Austin Peay State U. (Clarksville, TN), specializing in 18th and 19th century women writers; and was vice president of Austin Peay from 1982-85 and 88-91.

In addition, Nora was a board director for Cooperative Center for Study in Britain, 1990-1994; International delegate, People to People/Citizen Ambassador Program, Russia and Lithuania, 1993. Besides AAUW, she belonged to many organizations: League of Women Voters, Jane Austen Society North America, Elizabeth Gaskell Society, George Eliot Fellowship, National Museum of Women in the Arts, National Women's Hall of Fame, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Phi Kappa Phi.

KWG Earns Awards at AAUW MO Annual Meeting

Kirkwood–Webster Groves Branch came away with a number of awards from the AAUW Missouri Annual Meeting held by Zoom on Saturday, May 1. Top of the list was again being named a 10-Star Branch in the Missouri Star Awards.

Branch member Marsha Koch was re-elected secretary of the state Board of Directors. KWG's generosity and support of AAUW Fund was recognized by the following awards:

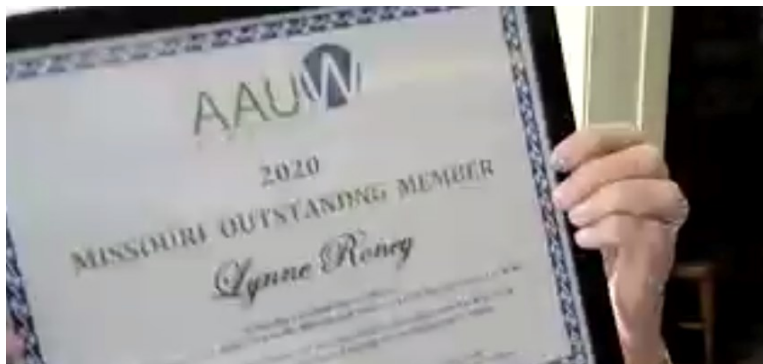
- Second in the state in per-capita giving by branches to AAUW Fund with \$101.07
- Third in the state in total branch giving to AAUW Fund
- Three members recognized as Century Club Plus donors for gifts of \$250 or more: **Carol Davis McDonald, Julia Muller, and Lynne Roney**
- Six members recognized as Century Club donors for gifts of \$100 or more: **Barbara Johnson, Marsha Koch, Deborah McWard, Mara Minarik Perry, Jeannie Webdell.** Suffragist-sign purchaser **Janie Foltz** from the Kansas City area credited her donation to our branch.



Jeannie Webdell presented our suffragist sign, which was awarded an Incentive Grant.



Marsha Koch was re-elected state secretary.



Lynne Roney was named AAUW MO Outstanding Member for 2020.



Nancy Hutchins was recognized as an AAUW Legacy Circle member.

Branch Co-president **Jeannie Webdell** described our Incentive Grant awarded by AAUW MO. This project in 2020 provided more than 800 yard signs across the state and U.S.A. honoring suffragists and the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

KWG member **Lynne Roney** was named AAUW MO Outstanding Member for 2020, an award chosen by a committee of the State Board. Outstanding Members for 2021 were **Ellen Irons** of St. Louis Branch and **Sue Shineman** of Independence Branch.

Missouri Woman of Distinction Awards went to **Donna Myers** of Boonville Branch (posthumous award) and **Marjorie Boudreaux** of Joplin Branch. They were presented by **Kay Meyer** in her capacity as Past President of AAUW MO.

National AAUW Board member **Jeanie Latz** was keynote speaker at the conference. More than 70 members and guests attended. KWG members were involved in planning and orchestrating the meeting, including **Lynne Roney** in her capacity as AAUW MO Program Vice President; **Chris Nobbe**, who handled technical features and photography; and **Marsha Koch**, AAUW MO Secretary.

Jeannie's Report to the State

(This report was made to the AAUW of Missouri annual conference on May 1 concerning the grant Kirkwood-Webster Groves received from the State organization.)

This was a project involving the whole branch. The pandemic forced people to give up in-person meetings and curtailed celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote. The Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch decided to do yard signs to remember the work of the suffragists.

The Missouri AAUW Grant allowed us the freedom to take on this purchase of 800 signs honoring the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote without fearing we would bankrupt our branch treasury. The signs were essentially sold at our cost of \$3.00. The grant helped pay for an information sheet explaining the project and allowed us to give some signs away to community leaders and media people as well as our Kirkwood-Webster Groves members. It also allowed us to place an advertisement thanking the suffragists and the community for their support of the project. Through our AAUW connections, signs were planted in people's yards all over Missouri. They were taken by the LWV to the Botanical Garden for the ceremony designating a yellow rose as the Suffrage Rose. The signs were at special services at cemeteries remembering suffragists and at the Missouri History Museum at the entrance to the special Suffragist Exhibit Beyond the Ballot Box (picture). Signs were shipped to AAUW people in Texas, North Dakota, South Carolina and New Mexico. Thank you Missouri AAUW for helping with this project.

★ **THANK YOU ★**
SUFFRAGISTS
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT
CELEBRATE WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE!

Let's Celebrate

Watch for an announcement about our
June meeting - we will be gathering
outside someplace on a Saturday to
celebrate our accomplishments as we end
the AAUW year.



The Kirkwood-Webster Groves (K-WG) Branch of AAUW was formed to meet the needs of an ever-increasing population in two of the oldest communities in St. Louis County.

Many of its charter members belonged to the first AAUW branch in the St. Louis area, the St. Louis Branch, established in 1893.

The K-WG charter was granted at the Missouri State AAUW meeting in April 1971 when Miss **Lillian Stupp**, a former Missouri AAUW president, a member of the St. Louis Branch, and one of the K-WG charter members (Aunt Lil to Maurita, to whom she gave a membership), installed the first officers. Installed were **Maurita Stueck**, president; **Margaret Joyce**, first vice president; **Roberta Sterling**, treasurer; and **Ella Bettinger**, secretary. There were 47 members of the Branch who were listed with the honorifics of Mrs. and Miss. Many of the married women were listed with their husband's first name instead of their own given name. Some had their own name in parentheses and a few went by their given name. (Times have changed in 50 years. Today some prefer the gender neutral title of Mx.)

Do you remember (or did you know)...

When we sponsored a community program called Mother-Daughter Choices? Sixth grade girls and their mothers were provided with an opportunity to grow and learn from each other. The program, initially begun by Girls, Inc. (formerly the Girls' Club) of Santa Barbara, CA, was organized locally by Branch Member **Linda Duckworth**. Using a variety of thought-provoking exercises and group discussions, the program attempted to improve communication between girls and their mothers during the critical preteen years and to promote assertive and responsible behavior. Participants learned to assess career options and the economic realities they might face in the adult world, while at the same time expanding their visions of themselves and their capabilities. Beginning in 1990 with a Girl Scout troop from Webster Groves, the program brought together two to three groups of girls and their mothers every year. Approximately seventy-five girls completed the six-week program.

Hello from Hot Springs Village!

My husband and I are at our timeshare in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, in the Ouachita Mountains. We are in the largest gated community in the U.S., encompassing 40.7 square miles (about 26,000 acres). I finally made it to an AAUW meeting here, the Hot Springs Village - Hot Springs Branch. They had their first in-person meeting today, under a pavilion at one of the lakes. Unfortunately, it was in the 50s, and it rained. This was their annual meeting for election of officers and officer reports. We started out with wine, iced tea, etc. and many delicious munchies; and we ended with a game of Bingo, where all the squares were famous women in history.



Members were very friendly, and there was a lot of laughter (several humorous members). It was quite an enjoyable meeting, and I heard some impressive fundraising information (\$15,000+/- each year for 10 \$1,500 scholarships). Membership is down, as it is in most organizations. They have around 60-70 members, and today's meeting brought out at least 30 women despite the cold, rainy weather. I'll be on their mailing list, looking forward to hearing their ideas.

Well, back to working on this newsletter. Thank goodness for the portability of laptops.

Carol Davis McDonald

Have you eaten all your pecans?

If you want more, there are still some plain (\$13/lb) and some chocolate-caramel covered pecans (turtles) (\$11) remaining. Remember: pecans (and other nuts) contain important minerals for good health. A handful a day might keep the doctor away. They are also good in salads. Email or call Carol (636-227-0511 or davis-mcdonald@outlook.com).



Programs of Interest

MISSOURI HUMANITIES

2021 Annual Spring Symposium: The Future of Work

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRE5lpS6sPv4LXbP9AM9_IOYeszqeWWfe

The Future of Work Symposium explored the central roles of work in our lives by exploring a number of questions about the past, present, and future of work. Seven recorded sessions, one of which is **Wendy Doyle**, KC Women's Foundation:

"Status of Women in Missouri and the Shecovery" – Wendy Doyle, CEO and president of United-WE-Women's Foundation.

NCJW STL

Advocacy in Action Lunch & Learn

May 20, 2021

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Segregated by Design: Housing Inequality in St. Louis

Join us for our May Lunch & Learn as we watch and discuss "Segregated by Design," a powerful and engaging video that details how our federal, state, and local governments segregated metropolitan areas, including St. Louis, by imposing unconstitutional residential policies.

St. Louis is divided along many lines, and race plays a role in every one of those divisions. It determines our future because if you make a transparent map of racial segregation and lay it over other maps – political power, cultural influence, health, wealth, education, and employment – the pattern repeats itself. Why was segregation more dramatic here in St. Louis than it was in other Midwestern cities? Why hasn't it lifted as quickly?

Judy Gladney, a longtime community activist, will speak about the impact of these policies in St. Louis.

For more information and to RSVP, please email **Jennifer Bernstein** (jbernstein@ncjwstl.org)

"Nothing is worth more than laughter. It is strength to laugh and to abandon oneself, to be light."

– **Frida Kahlo**

AAUW METRO ST LOUIS INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)

IBC Barbara Lackritz Service Award

A proposal has been made to change the format of the Barbara Lackritz Award given out at the annual Spring Fling event. Instead of honoring one person each year, each branch will be given the opportunity to select one of its members to be recognized. Presentation of the awards will continue to be a major celebration. There are numerous reasons for the proposal, the main one being that it eliminates the competitive format to make it one of recognition. With AAUW's discontinuance of the Named Gift Awards, it provides a way for branches to honor deserving members. Of course, it's always difficult to break tradition, but Barbara Lackritz will always be remembered and honored for her passion for AAUW's mission.

We will vote at our next meeting, May 20, and take our consensus to the IBC vote on May 25. If you need to vote by mail, you may send your vote to either Jeannie or Christine.

WHAT THE OTHER (IBC) BRANCHES ARE DOING

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch:

The May meeting will be held at a park shelter for A Thursday in the Park to celebrate spring and join other members in person (with masks and social distancing). Box lunches will be served.

Ferguson-Florissant Branch: (see next column)

The branch will hold their May luncheon on May 15 at Catering to You. The speaker this year will be **Dr. Gena Gunn McClendon**, who is the director of the Voter Access and Engagement, and the Financial Capability and Asset Building initiatives. Her policy work focuses on issues related to voter suppression and civic participation of low-and moderate-income households and marginalized populations. She is from The Brown School Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis.

St. Charles Branch:

No information

St. Louis Branch:

An outdoor, in-person get together will take place on May 16th with talks by members **Linda Lindsey** (Working Across the Aisle: Where Are We Now With Bipartisan Partnerships?) and **Kathleen Ferrell** (Updates on Key National Legislation—Equal Pay Act, ERA, Voting Suppression Laws and More). This is also their annual business meeting

We are invited to Ferguson-Florissant's spring luncheon on Saturday, May 15th (see [previous column](#)).

Guest Speaker: **Dr. Gena Gunn McClendon**

Place: **Catering to You**, 12775 New Halls Ferry Rd, Florissant, MO

Time: 11:30 am—3:00 pm

Lunch Reservation: payment of \$25.00 (by check) is due by Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

Contact: **Joyce Wolf**, branch finance officer, 314-839-3888 or j.wolf14@att.net or **Pamela Meyers**, branch president, 314-303-6661 or wpemeyers@gmail.com

CALENDAR

2021

- Apr 7 thru May 17—AAUW national elections
- May 20 Branch STEM Award program
- May 24 Branch board Zoom meeting, 7 pm
- May 25 IBC meeting, 7 pm
- May 26-29—NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders), U of Maryland; virtual event
- June 30 2021-2022 branch officer reports due to AAUW national by branch presidents via Member Services Database
- July 1 Deadline for dues payments to national AAUW and AAUW MO
- July 1 Branch and state annual reports due to state president
- July 10 AAUW MO board meeting, via Zoom
- July 15 MO Star Award guidelines for 2021-22 released
- Aug 21 Equality Day 101st anniversary brunch, St. Louis
- Aug 26 19th Amendment Centennial Celebration Panel, Zoom event
- Sep 30 Updates due for AAUW MO directory
- Oct 31 Membership renewal deadline

"The greatest danger to our future is apathy."

— Jane Goodall



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

Kirkwood-Webster Groves

2021-2022 Membership Renewal

July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022

Name	Home #
Address	Work #
City, State, Zip	Cell #
Email	
Signature	Date
Remarks	

In addition to attending monthly meetings with informative speakers, I would like to participate in these branch activities:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning programs | |

DUES

National	\$62.00**
State (MO)	10.00
Branch	<u>15.00</u>
TOTAL	\$87.00

Payable to AAUW—KWG
Send to: Carol Davis McDonald
827 Bergquist Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011-4215

****\$59.00 is tax deductible.**