

"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 social action, collaborating with local organizations and educational institutions regarding AAUW topics, and 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).

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

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

State: www.aauw-mo.aauw.net

National: www.aauw.org

Facebook: AAUWKWG

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

Monthly Branch Meeting

Thursday Evening, April 21, 2022

Annual Meeting and STEM Awards

6:30: Login for Networking

7:00: Introduce STEM Awardees

7:15: STEM Presentation by Dr. Leslie Gertsch,
Missouri Science & Technology

7:45: Q/A

8:00: Annual Meeting

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



Researchers at Missouri Science & Technology (S&T) will develop mineral extraction techniques for lunar construction to help make it possible for people to live and work on the Moon. NASA will provide up to \$2 million over two years to support S&T's research. Dr. Leslie Gertsch, associate professor of geological engineering, will coordinate S&T's research efforts. In this presentation, Dr. Gertsch will provide an overview of the project.

Information came from an article posted on S&T's website: <https://news.mst.edu/2022/02/nasa-selects-st-for-moon-mining-project/>

Photo Credit: <https://people.mst.edu/faculty/gertschl/index.html>

2022 KWG STEM Awardees

Katherine Barron, Maplewood Richmond Heights High School

I'm planning on majoring in mechanical engineering and finishing my flight training to become a commercial pilot after I graduate college.

Katherine's interests are in aviation and engineering. She earned a private pilot license in 2021. She is a member of National Honor Society and several organizations, including the Student Group on Race Relations, Women Who Look Ahead, and Youth and Government. She is an athlete, focusing on cross country, track, volleyball, and soccer. Katherine is also a member of the National Thespian Society and has been responsible for props at MRH productions. She has participated in the Academic Challenge in Science and Engineering, placing third in mathematics in districts and a member of the first-place state team. Finally, Katherine has work experience at the Heights Community Center as a Recreation Aide, running concessions at St. Luke's Soccer Field 2018, babysitting, and volunteering at the STL Area Food Bank and Weekend on Wheels Food Pantry.

Jane Ireland, Affton High School

I want to be on the team that's designing and making the machines that help us get into and explore our solar system and beyond.

"I was born in Canada and lived there until I was 7 years old. After graduation, I will attend Missouri University of Science and Technology to obtain an aerospace engineering degree. After earning my bachelor's degree, I wish to work for NASA, to help mission control launch and build spacecraft and satellites. While doing so, I would like to help discover more environmentally friendly methods for exploring and traveling in space, in order to help combat the growing issue of global warming.

"As an aerospace engineer, I hope to collaborate with NASA on developing new technologies and environmentally sustainable methods of space travel and exploration. It would be incredibly interesting to be a part of the team working on issues like creating technology to clean up space debris, or discovering ways to minimize our environmental impact, while still making important discoveries and breakthroughs. I want to be on the team that's designing and making the machines that help us get into and explore our solar system and beyond."

Michelle Manegre, Valley Park Senior High

I am excited to excel in a male dominated field.

"I am planning to go to Missouri University of Science and Technology after I graduate to pursue a degree in computer science. I decided to go into a STEM field because I enjoy my math and science classes the most, and I am excited to excel in a male dominated field. Overall, I am an ambitious, hardworking student. I have good grades that I am proud of, and I am also a student leader in my school. As for my personal life I enjoy crocheting, playing video games, and reading. I also love traveling and going on vacations with my family, especially to the beach. I love math and science and I am looking forward to furthering my education in college."



Jeanne

From Co-President Jeanne Webdell

The annual Interbranch Swing into Spring luncheon was great this year! The food was good and the entertainment terrific. But for many of us who went, it didn't seem like it lasted long enough. There was not enough time to see our branch members let alone people from other branches. This is pandemic related; but anytime we get together, we like to know what is going on with our work for equity and how people are doing in their lives.

That day reiterated what I think many of us feel about the importance of AAUW's work to expand and protect women's rights. But it also reminded me that AAUW is not only about our efforts for equity, it's about the shared journey. It's about the friendships.

With those thoughts in mind, I want to share part of an article I read about Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton who were staunch allies in the suffrage fight and close friends. In an article in the *National Endowment for the Humanities Magazine*, writer Katy June-Friesen wrote about a letter Anthony wrote to her friend Stanton, recalling their 51-year friendship.

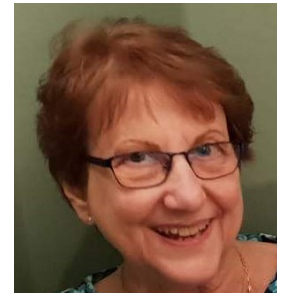
"It is fifty-one years since we first met, and we have been busy through every one of them, stirring up the world to recognize the rights of women," Susan B. Anthony wrote her friend Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1902.

The letter, in honor of Stanton's eighty-seventh birthday, was printed in *Pearson's Magazine*. It continued: "We little dreamed when we began this contest, optimistic with the hope and buoyancy of youth, that half a century later we would be compelled to leave the finish of the battle to another generation of women. But our hearts are filled with joy to know that they enter upon this task equipped with a college education, with business experience, with the fully admitted right to speak in public—all of which were denied to women fifty years ago. They have practically one point to gain—the suffrage; we had all."

Anthony's reflections reveal a friendship that was public and political but also private and genuine. From their activist beginnings in the antislavery and temperance movements to their leadership of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), the two women—Anthony as an on-the-ground organizer and strategist and Stanton as a writer, thinker, and commentator—were an inseparable force."

The letters the two wrote to each other reveal what made the partnership work: unflinching respect for each other, scathing honesty when one thought the other was wrong, and a commitment to take on challenges as a team. They are such wonderful role models for our journey for equity as we, too, treat each other with respect and honesty (without the scathing) and face challenges as a team.

Yes, the Swing into Spring celebration was wonderful! A chance to re-energize ourselves and renew friendships. Thanks to K-WG branch for selecting me as the Barbara Lackritz award winner for our branch. Considering the talent and hardworking members of our branch, who are deserving, it was a great honor. But most of all thanks for the friendships in our journey toward equity.



Marsha



Our condolences to **Barbara Johnson** on the passing of her mother the first week of March. There will be a memorial service for **Ruth Johnson** on Saturday June 4th, 2022, at 3:00 pm. The service will be at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 3600 Hampton Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109. The family asked that donations be made to the church organ fund.

A WORD FROM DEBBIE McWARD

Membership Vice President

New Member

We welcome **Janet King** to our membership. Janet found us by visiting the website. She has a BA degree in Elementary Education from the University of New York at Oswego and earned an MA and PhD in Educational Technology from the University of Northern Colorado. We will have an interesting conversation about that when we meet her at our next meeting. She has two daughters whom she calls math/science nerds, so STEM is certainly on her radar.



Dues Increase Reminder

It will soon be time for dues renewals; but before we send renewal forms out, I need to remind you that national dues will be going up \$5.00. It was determined two years ago that instead of raising them \$15.00 at one time, the increase will be spaced over 3 years. This is the second year.

With sticker shock an everyday experience these days, this isn't great news; but keep in mind, it will help keep our organization healthy. Like they say, it's about the same price as a Starbucks coffee.

Vote for Branch Officers for 2022-2023

In even years, the board officers for membership, finance, and secretary are elected; president and program are elected in odd years. This year's nominating committee--**Phyllis Foster, Chris Nobbe, and Marsha Koch**--have made the nominations shown below. Other nominations can be made, with the consent of the nominee, by any member at our annual business meeting which is on April 21. Voting will be at this business meeting. Terms of office begin July 1, 2022, for two years or until a successor has been elected and assumes office.

Nominees are:

Membership Vice President: Deb McWard, University of Illinois, B.S. Sociology 1961. Deb has been serving as membership vice president for the past two years and has graciously agreed to continue in that role. For the past two years, she also has served as co-chair of AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council. She has served in many AAUW roles for the Creve Coeur (now disbanded) and KWG

branches and AAUW MO. She is also quite active with Manchester UMC, at times chairing their fair trade market. She and her husband have four sons and many grandchildren!

When we begin meeting in person again, KWG could benefit from having several membership helpers who could greet members and visitors, facilitate sign ins, distribute literature, coordinate snacks and refreshments, etc. If you are interested in doing this, please contact co-presidents Marsha Koch or Jeanne Webdell.

- ◆ **Finance Vice President: Gloria Champion, Montclair State University (NJ), B.A. Mathematics 1970 and B.A. Mathematics Ed. 1974.** A long-time member, Gloria has served in quite a few KWG roles including originator of our STEM scholarship program. She is a retired Parkway South High School math teacher, taught at St. Louis University, and tutored many students in math. She loves to sing and belongs to two singing groups. She and her husband have one son and two daughters and a handful of grandchildren!
- ◆ **Secretary: Cathy Gilbert, Drury College, B.A. English 1971; Webster University, MAT in Communication Arts 1976.** Cathy joined KWG five years ago; and although this will be her first role on our board, she is no stranger to working with volunteer groups! She is very active with MOMS Demand Action for Common Sense Gun Laws and Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice. You may have seen her on local news broadcasts as the spokesperson for MOMS speaking about gun locks. She has had varied careers as an English teacher at Oakville Senior High, manager at an IT consulting company, and manager at Edward Jones from which she retired. She and her husband have two sons and one granddaughter!

Mark Your Calendar

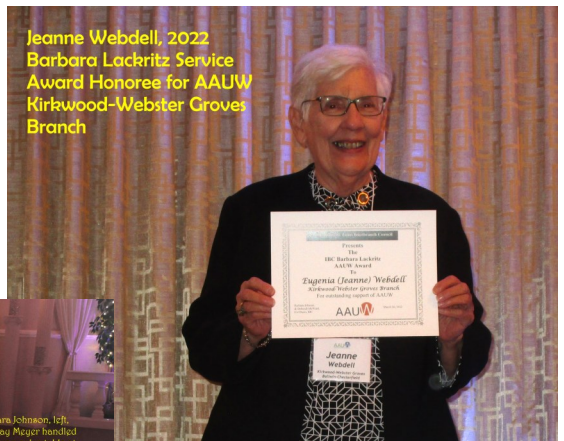
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| Apr 12 | IRLS: The Waxing and Waning of Democracy Around the World |
| Apr 21 | Monthly branch meeting: STEM and business meeting |
| May 2 | K-WG board meeting |
| May 6-7 | AAUW MO annual meeting & conference |
| May 8 | Mother's Day |
| May 21 | Year-End Celebration, 10 am |
| July 1 | Beginning of new membership year. New officers begin term of office |

Fun at Swing Into Spring



KWG Members (except Chris Nobbe, who left early) posed for a group photo

Each branch contributed gift cards for the fundraising-affle. KWG's were for Trader Joe's and Total Wines and More.



Jeanne Webdell, 2022 Barbara Lackritz Service Award Honoree for AAUW Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch

KWG Co-President Jeanne Webdell was our branch's honoree for the Barbara Lackritz AAUW Service Award for 2022

Always willing to help out, Kay and Barb handled KWG's pecan sales table.

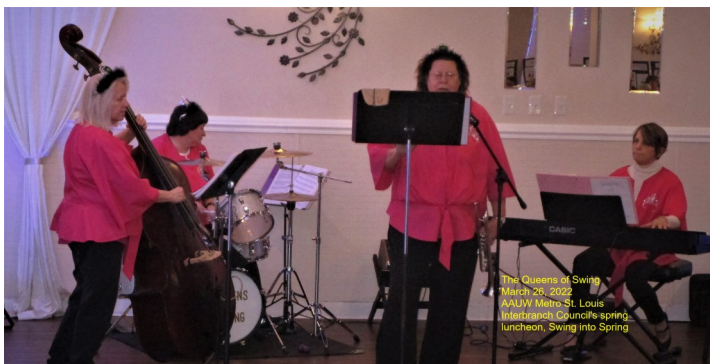


Puzzle pieces were offered for donations to send students to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.



Barbara Johnson, left, and Kay Meyer handled the pecan sales table at the AAUW event.

Lynne visits with former KWG member Diane Ludwig of the Columbia Branch, and AAUW MO president Sue Shineman of the Independence Branch.



The Queens of Swing provided us with some fantastic music and urged us to get up and dance.

Catering To You is a beautiful venue in Florissant. They have delicious food and a helpful, attentive wait staff.



AAUW METRO ST LOUIS INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)

The AAUW St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council (IBC) consists of representatives from each of the St. Louis AAUW branches. The following officers from each branch are voting members of IBC: president, program vice president, membership vice president, and a member at large. All members are invited to attend meetings (quarterly, fourth Tuesday of August, November, February, and May) and participate in IBC activities, which include:

- Planning the Spring Fling luncheon fundraiser
- Sponsoring a student to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)
- Co-sponsoring the International Lecture Series held at the Ethical Society building
- Sponsoring the ¡Adelante! book group
- Awarding the Barbara Lackritz Service Awards

The next IBC meeting will be May 24, 2022, at 7 pm via Zoom. All members are welcome to attend. A link will be sent to you upon request.

for 93 years, this Series has put a spotlight on forces driving world news events. Lectures are free & open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Each meeting will begin promptly at 10:45 the second Tuesday of the month, January through April. The public is cordially invited. There is no fee, but all contributions are greatly appreciated. The 45-50 minute lecture will be followed by a question and answer period.

All 2022 events are on Zoom:

- Go to the Zoom website - <https://zoom.us/>
- Click "Join a Meeting"
- Enter the Zoom meeting I.D. - 384 4225785

April 12, 2022

The Waxing and Waning of Democracy Around the World

The "ominous" decline of democracy around the world

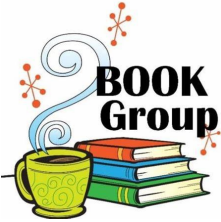


Speaker:
Olga Bezhanova, Ph.D.

Olga Bezhanova is an associate professor of Spanish Literature and chair of the Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literature at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. Her book, *Growing Up in an Inhospitable World: Female Bildungsroman in Spain*, was awarded the Victoria Urbano Prize for the Best Critical Monograph.

After the fall of the U.S.S.R. in 1991 and the subsequent efforts of countries in Eastern Europe and the Global South to establish democratic regimes, there was a widespread feeling that humanity had achieved what Francis Fukuyama termed "the end of history" and accepted the primacy of representative democracy over other types of political systems. Since then, however, we have seen the initial enthusiasm for democracy weaken in Latin America and countries of Central and Eastern Europe. At the same time, well-established democracies of the West have experienced a series of crises that cast doubt over their capacity to preserve fully democratic systems of government. What is the future of democracy? Will it renew itself in the coming years or are we to prepare for continued weakening of democratic institutions everywhere?

Coordinator: Sharon Poe



IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP

This group meets in September, October, and January through May to discuss books written from diverse perspectives.

Where: Currently via Zoom
 When: 1:30 pm the 4th Thursday of the month in October, January, February, March, April, May
 Contact: Contact Deb McWard (314-607-2908) for sign-up
 Send suggestions for book selection titles/authors to Teri Brecht tebrecht@yahoo.com

Apr 28 *American Dirt* (Novel) - Jeanine Cummins

2022 International Relations Lecture Series

Sponsored by the **American Association of University Women** (AAUW) & the **Tuesday Women's Association** (TWA) of the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117.



Want to know more about cultural and political changes around the world? Here's your chance! The TWA and AAUW invite you to learn from experts about the most critical issues affecting our global community. Annually,

IBC Branch Events:

In case you would like to visit another branch, here are some of their events. For information, check their website or contact a KWG officer who will have contact info.

BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH:

On April 14 at 11 am, the branch's monthly program will feature Microbiologist **Carol Gravens**, advanced level St. Louis master gardener at the Missouri Botanical Garden, who will speak about Plants that Changed the Course of History. The meeting will be in person at Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road at Hwy 141, 63017.

FERGUSON-FLORISSANT BRANCH:

They are planning their May luncheon on May 14th at Catering To You. **Susan Slaughter**, retired principal trumpet for the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, will provide the program.

ST CHARLES BRANCH:

The program for Thursday, April 7, will feature **Valerie Battle Kienzle** on the topic, Ready to Wear. She is a freelance writer, has conducted extensive research, and authored several books. The branch meets at 1:00 pm at First United Methodist Church, 801 First Capitol, St. Charles, MO 63301.

ST LOUIS BRANCH:

The branch met via Zoom with the San Juan (PR) Branch for a program on Afghan refugees and their resettlement, from the 1980's to current times. Speakers are **Linda Lindsey** from AAUW St. Louis and **Susan Rodriguez** of AAUW San Juan.

AAUW Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

AAUW Vision: Equity for all.

AAUW Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and intersectionality.



Saturday May 21 – End-of-the-Year Meeting and Celebration – 10:00 am. A Celebration of our members and their accomplishments with brunch at the Webster Groves Public Library.

ITEMS OF INTEREST



Still Behind Bars: Criminal Legal Reform

Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m. (CST)
In-person program at The Heights
8001 Dale Ave. 63117

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination will be required for entry.

[Registration required; please register here.](#)

In theory, after inmates have “paid their debt to society,” they are able to return to society and create a normal, fulfilling, and productive life. In Missouri that is far from true. Instead, these individuals face a multitude of barriers to employment, education, housing, food support, voting rights, and more. Burdensome parole requirements set the stage for recidivism – at great cost to them and to taxpayers as well.

The criminal justice reforms passed in last year's legislative session are a step in the right direction. But they do not fully address the situation, nor are they fully implemented.

We'll gain an understanding of the status quo, what additional reforms are needed, and how we can help make them happen.

Beth M. Huebner is a professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. **Shawntelle L. Fisher** is the founder and leader of The SoulFisher Ministries.

GATEWAY HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Presents Session 7 in the Race, Crime, and Justice Speaking Series: Community Policing
Monday, April 11, 5 pm-6 pm CST

Speaker: We are pleased to invite you to join us for a conversation with Chief Gregory, St. Louis County PD; Chief Frisz, St. Charles County PD; and Chief DiGiuseppi, Lake St. Louis Police Department to discuss Community Policing.

[RSVP is required](#)

April Lunch & Learn: Crime Victim & Child Abuse Preven- tion Advocacy - Jeff Dion

When: Thursday, April 21 | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CT

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

April is designated as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, both nationally and in Missouri. It is a month to highlight and make an extra effort to create awareness about the importance of strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect. As one of the founders of the Child Abuse Prevention Program at JFS, NCJWSTL is proud to amplify this vital issue.

For our April Lunch and Learn, we are excited to welcome Jeff Dion of the Zero Abuse Project. Jeff is an attorney, survivor, and nationally recognized victim advocate. He comes to the Zero Abuse Project after more than twenty years with the National Center for Victims of Crime, where he served as Director of the National Crime Victim Bar Association. He has led efforts to reform civil statutes of limitation to expand access to justice for victims of child sex abuse.

From 2002 to 2010, Jeff served as a gubernatorial appointee to the Virginia Criminal Justice Services Board, where he chaired the Victim Services Advisory Committee. He has received numerous awards including the 2006 Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award presented by the U.S. Department of Justice for outstanding innovation and commitment to crime victim legislation. He earned his undergraduate and a law degree from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and an Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Georgetown University.

If you have any questions, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.

Marian Wright Edelman

State Conference and Annual Meeting PLUS

100th Anniversary Celebration

Friday and Saturday, May 6-7, 2022

Holiday Inn Executive Center

2200 I-70 Drive SW, Columbia, MO 65203

Friday, 6:30-8:30 pm—100th Centennial Dinner, Displays, Program

Saturday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm—State Meeting, Awards, Speakers, Celebrations

Saturday will include an address and congratulations from AAUW's new CEO, **Gloria Blackwell**, who will be joining us via Zoom to talk about "AAUW in a Changing World." There will be a dynamic state meeting with awards for Woman of Distinction, Outstanding Member, AAUW FUND awards, all our wonderful branch STAR Awards; and the election and installation of our new state officers. The afternoon will feature **Cheryl Roberts**, senior organizational, development & diversity executive with MODOT, who will present "Living Life Through an Inclusive Lens."



She is a dynamic speaker and facilitator who is recognized for her innovative approaches to incorporating diversity, inclusion, and equity. There will be committee reports and branch sharing and planning opportunities in the Moving Forward Session.

For details and conference agenda, see the latest issue of [Missouri in Motion](#). Incentive to attend: The AAUW MO Incentive Grant committee has made funding available to encourage more members to attend. Each branch can apply for up to three \$30 grants to assist with their conference expenses. If you are interested, contact Jeanne Webdell or Marsha Koch.

AAUW NATIONAL

National History Day in Missouri

Betty Takahashi
AAUW MO Chair

This event will be held virtually again this year at University of Missouri in Columbia in April. The theme this year is



“DEBATE AND DIPLOMACY.” Judging will be April 11-27 by the staff at Missouri Historical Society. AAUW of Missouri will offer three \$100.00 special prizes to the best Junior and Senior individual entries on Performance and Documentary on Women's History. As chair, I encourage branches to promote the contest in local middle schools and high schools. An article will be in Missouri in Motion reporting History Day results.

In recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Title IX, AAUW Missouri Public Policy Committee and Missouri and Kansas City Human Rights Commission are inviting you and your friends to attend

"An Evening With Alexandra Brodsky"

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 Program: 6:00 pm

Join us on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/kclibrary>

Alexandra Brodsky is a civil rights lawyer, author, and founder of Know Your IX, a youth-led organization working to fight gender violence in schools. As an attorney, she advocates nationally for student survivors of sexual harassment. Her writing on the subject has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Nation*.

Brodsky discusses and reads from her new book ***Sexual Justice: Supporting Victims, Ensuring Due Process, and Resisting the Conservative Backlash***, which sets the stage for the next phase of the #MeToo movement. It examines ways to balance the handling of allegations of sexual harm to be fair to both accusers and the accused. Brodsky also explains “how contemporary debates continue the long, sexist history of ‘rape exceptionalism,’ in which sexual allegations are treated as uniquely suspect.”

Please take a moment to vote in the [AAUW National Election](#), which opened April 6th.

For this year's vote, you are asked to elect members to the national AAUW Board of Directors and to weigh in on changes to the bylaws that would streamline the nominations process and ballot administration.

You'll find all the information you need on the [National Election page](#), which includes key deadlines, board candidates' bios, and answers to members' most frequently asked questions. **Voting closes at 5:00 p.m. ET on Monday, May 16, 2022.** Voter information and link were provided in an email to you and are unique to you, so please do not share the email with others.

NCCWSL 2022: The Premier Leadership Conference for College Women, May 24-26

The 2022 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) will once again be entirely virtual. The workshops, panels, speakers and activities provide endless opportunities to learn from experts, while peer networking allows attendees to learn from one another and make lifelong connections. We are excited to offer this opportunity for safe, easy access to learning and networking for all.

AAUW believes NCCWSL provides valuable opportunities for students from all backgrounds, and each year awards scholarships to the conference.



AAUW Community Hub Tips

The new AAUW Community Hub is every member's personal portal into AAUW. It allows people to self-manage their membership, donations, contact details, and personal preferences. Because the Community Hub operates in real time, we ask that you please await directions on when and how to perform tasks. Community Hub Updates will be sent regularly. We also encourage you to review webinar trainings and videos .