

AAUW Mission: AAUW advances 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.

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).

Branch Officers, 2023-2024

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TBD

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY PROGRAM

September 21

6:30 social; 7:00 program

KIRKWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

201 WEST ADAMS—Room 201

WILL THE 2024 LEGISLATIVE YEAR BE A REPEAT OF 2023?



The Missouri legislative session in 2023 reflected the culture wars, beginning with the passage of a dress code for women legislators. The General Assembly session saw the introduction of more than 3,000 non-budget bills with only 43 passing. Changes to the initiative petition process, a corporate tax cut, state control of the St. Louis police department, education bills targeting critical race theory and others fizzled out despite being priorities for the GOP supermajority. These issues no doubt will be back in 2024.

Our speaker at our September 21 meeting 90th District Representative Barbara Phifer will give her perspective on the 2023 legislative year and upcoming agenda for 2024.

Barbara was first elected in 2020 running on a platform of building strong communities, health care for all, quality education for all children. and productive jobs that pay a living wage.

Before retirement in 2019 Barbara served as a United Methodist pastor for 41 years in Missouri except for five years in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Following Barbara's informative presentation, there will be time for sharing strategies, ideas, and upcoming branch activities. Refreshments will be served.

FROM YOUR CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear Branch members,

Though “Back to School” memories are clashing with “Hottest Summer I Can Remember,” it’s time to make fall plans. KWG Branch is getting ready for some exciting events. See the **September 21 program** article on page one in this issue for one of them.

If you haven’t already done so, please consider registering for the **October 19-21 AAUW Central States Regional Conference** by September 16 at [this link](#). AAUW Missouri members are deeply involved in ensuring that this will be a fantastic event. It’s one of the few chances to mingle with members from other states. AAUW conferences are always inspiring. Plus, **your registration fee will be reimbursed by the Branch and State at the early bird rate of \$200.**

If you’re **not** staying at the Drury Plaza Hotel downtown, please consider carpooling. Contact Lynne at roneyeditorial@gmail.com or 314-223-3426 if you’re interested. You will not be able to park at the hotel. There will also be one food event to pay for outside of the registration fee (it is included only in the hotel reservation). More information should be coming about this from Pat Shores, apatriciashores@att.net or 636-448-4387. Because you will not have a room keycard, tag along with someone to enter the elevator up to the meeting room or ask the front desk to activate the elevator.

If you **are** staying at the Drury, please consider arriving early enough October 19 to avoid a lineup at the hotel entrance. The conference kicks off at 1 p.m. with the keynote address at 1:30. Don’t miss it! You will need to

- Drive up to the front entrance on 4th St.
- Go inside to register and obtain your parking pass.
- Return to your car and drive around the corner to the parking garage.
- Park, take the elevator up, and check your luggage at the front desk because you may not be able to get to your room immediately.

With some planning, it should not be as complicated as it may sound! We hope to see you at our September 21 meeting and the October conference!



*Lynne
and
Jeanne*



KWG POLICY CHANGES

A small committee of KWG board members has reviewed the KWG policies and recommended updates to reflect changes at the state and national levels. These recommendations will be voted upon at the September 21 meeting.

Please review the proposed changes in the document attached to this email. The column on the left represents existing policies with deletions highlighted in red; the column on the right shows the proposed changes in yellow highlight.



**REACHING NEW HEIGHTS – TOGETHER!
MID-STATES AAUWMO CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 19-21, 2023**

September 15 is the last day to register AND book a hotel room at the EARLY BIRD RATES!

Detailed information and the registration form as well as the impressive Conference schedule are [here](#). The registration form is also attached to the newsletter email.

Several KWG members are planning to attend. Let Jeanne or Lynne know if you will be, too!

Questions? Contact: Karen Francis, MO State President, karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com, 314-223-4235 or one of your KWG Co-Presidents.

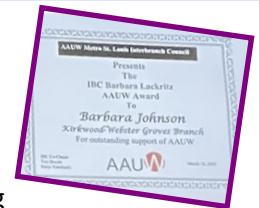


MEMBERSHIP [Deb McWard](#), Membership VP

Thank you to all who renewed your Kirkwood-Webster Groves membership. Your continued support will help us continue to be an active participant promoting the mission and values of AAUW. It was sometimes an arduous task to maneuver the revised website, so give yourselves credit for sticking with it.



**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR BARBARA LACKRITZ
AWARD**



AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC is seeking nominations for the Barbara Lackritz annual service award. Each IBC branch may honor a member to receive this award. The honorees will be acknowledged at the annual IBC spring luncheon on March 23, 2024. Please submit your nomination to Jeanne Webdell at 573.754.0943 or jeannewebdell@gmail.com.

With your nomination, please include a few sentences about your nominee. The criteria to consider are as follows:

1. Upholds the mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
2. Provides service to AAUW at any of the local, state, regional, or national level(s).
3. Provides leadership to AAUW at any of the local, state, regional or national level(s).
4. Provides service and leadership in non-AAUW areas in the community, religious, professional, and/or political arenas.

Nominations should be submitted by October 31, 2023. The award is named after Barbara Lackritz, who served as a leader and mentor for AAUW members. Barbara was a member of KWG, as well as Creve Coeur and Ballwin-Chesterfield branches.

In 2023 Barbara Johnson from our branch received the award. Other winners from KWG were Jean Shull (2005), Ella Bettinger (2006), Carol Davis McDonald (2007), Lynne Roney (2009), Deb McWard (2015), Kay Meyer (2017), Marsha Koch (2019), and Jeanne Webdell (2022).

KWG FUNDRAISING [Kay](#)

[Meyer](#), Chair

We continue to sell delicious Georgia pecans to raise funds for the three \$500 STEM scholarships we give to women graduates of Valley Park, Affton, and Maplewood-Richmond Heights high schools.



Pecans can be ordered at any time by email to [Kay Meyer](#) or by mail using the order form attached in the newsletter email.

- Fancy Mammoth Halves (\$14)
- Carmel Pecan Clusters (\$12)
- Cinnamon Glazed Pecans (\$12)
- Chocolate Covered Pecans (\$12)
- Dark Chocolate Covered Pecans (\$12)

HELP NEEDED

We have arranged to have a table to sell pecans and raise awareness about AAUW at the annual Pecanapalooza in Ste. Genevieve on November 4 and at the Holiday Bazaar in Affton on November 11. Your help is needed at both events. Please email [Kay Meyer](#) and offer to help for an hour or two!

AAUW METRO ST. LOUIS IBC

KWG is **one of five branches** that form the AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council, more commonly known as IBC. The purpose of IBC is to foster cooperation among member branches for the sharing of ideas and interests and to financially support programs and projects such as NCCWSL scholarships, publicity for AAUW, and the Lackritz Award. Representatives from each branch meet quarterly to share program information, plan the annual spring fundraiser that supports sending an area college student to AAUW's National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), and plan area marketing materials.

The IBC Book Club (formerly known as ¡Adelante! and now AAUW's Operation Equity) reads books written from diverse perspectives and meets by Zoom on the 4th Thursday at 1:30 p.m. All are welcome.



The September 28 discussion of [This Tender Land](#) by Wm. Kent Krueger will be led by Lynne Roney.

The 2023–24 book selection meeting will be held by Zoom. For the link and more information contact Patty Murray at pattymurrayaauw@gmail.com.

Branch Meetings (Branch name links to their website.)

[Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch](#)—Thursday, September 14
Social time 9 a.m. Business meeting 9:30 a.m. Program 10 a.m.
Ballwin Golf Course Events Center
333 Holloway Rd., Ballwin 63011

Light refreshments will be served. Members may bring their own beverage. **Meet Feleesia Cunningham and Shayla Pham our National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.**

Eleanor Roosevelt Walk—Friday, September 15
9 a.m. Des Peres City Park
12325 Manchester Rd, Des Peres 63131

[Ferguson-Florissant Branch](#)—Contact President Patty Murray, 314-838-7887, pattymurray2011@gmail.com for meeting information.

[Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch](#)—Thursday, Sept. 21
Social 6:30 pm; Program 7 pm; Business after program
Will the 2024 Legislative Year Be a Repeat of 2023?

[St. Charles Branch](#)—Thursday, Sept. 7
Meets First Thursday of the month, 1 pm, First UMC
See their website for meeting and contact information.

[St. Louis Branch](#)—See their website for meeting and contact information.

LINKS TO LOCAL, STATE & NATIONAL AAUW

KWG: <http://kwg-mo.aauw.net>
Zoom link for KWG meetings:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3041753234>

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

State: www.aauw-mo.aauw.net

National: www.aauw.org

Click [here](#) to join us on Facebook AAUWKWG.



Have a question about AAUW or our branch?
Something you have been wondering?
Just ask. Our Co-Presidents will get an answer.
Jeanne Webdell, jeannewebdell@gmail.com
Lynne Roney, roneyeditorial@gmail.com

CALENDAR

Sep 21	KWG Branch Meeting Will the 2024 Legislative Year Be a Repeat of 2023?
Sep 28	IBC book group, 1:30 pm via Zoom
Oct 19-21	Regional Conference Drury Plaza Hotel, St. Louis
Oct 26	KWG Branch Meeting (note date change)
Nov 4	Pecan Sales at the Pecanapalooza Ste. Geneviève
Nov 11	Pecan Sales at Holiday Bazaar in Affton
Mar 24	IBC Luncheon