

**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**

**Co-President:**

Jeanne Webdell  
573-751-0943  
jeannewebdell@gmail.com

**Co-President:**

Lynne Roney  
314-223-3426  
ronyeditorial@gmail.com

**Program Vice President:**

Kay Meyer  
314-962-7487  
kicmeyer51@gmail.com

**Membership Vice President:**

Deb McWard  
314-607-2908  
debmcward@earthlink.net

**Finance Vice President:**

Carol Davis McDonald  
314-623-1847  
davis-mcdonald@outlook.com

**Secretary:**

TBD

**NOVEMBER 30 PROGRAM**

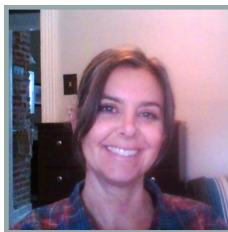
(last Thursday of the month)

6:30 social; 7:00 program

Kirkwood United Methodist Church  
201 West Adams, Room 201 (main level)

**THE POSITIVE POTENTIAL OF THE MISSOURI  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

**LESLI MOYLAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MEEA**



Lesli Moylan, a new KWG branch member, has a BA degree in biology from Truman State University and an MA degree in sustainability education from Prescott College in Arizona. For 4½ years she has been with the Missouri Environmental Educational Association ([MEEA, meea.org](http://MEEA.meea.org)), where her focus is on the Show-Me Green Schools programs. Lesli will share her journey to her current position and her hopes for the future of environmental education.

Lesli says, “I look forward to sharing more about the positive potential of MEEA and Show-Me Green Schools with the Kirkwood-Webster AAUW branch and hearing your creative ideas for collaboration to expand our reach. There are approximately 6,000 schools in Missouri, and I’d love to see at least one per county become a green school. I also look forward to learning more about what drives the other branch members, as I’m always looking for win-wins when thinking about collaboration. Finally, I’m curious about ideas you all might have about a new report on pay equity in the field of environmental education, which is dominated primarily by women with enough privilege that they don’t need to be the main breadwinner for their families. This excludes many women with a passion for children and nature—especially women of color—from a job that they’d love if it could pay the bills.”

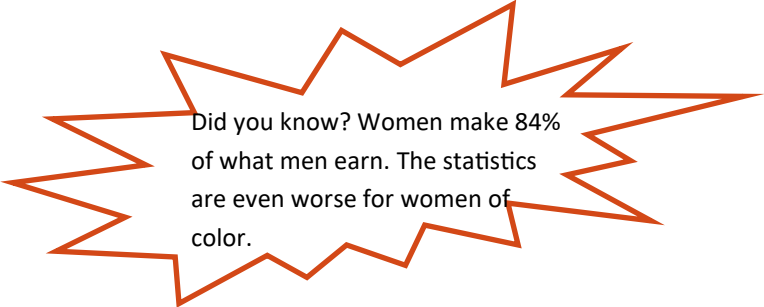
Dear Branch members,

How can we make an impact? That question was discussed at the AAUW Central States Regional Conference on October 19-21 and also at our October branch meeting. Membership organizations such as AAUW are looking for ways to recreate themselves in the digital age. How can we still make a significant contribution to building equity for women and girls? We know that equity is our mission, but so many areas can affect women's efforts to achieve it (a nod to Deb McWard for the list):

- Pay disparities
- Student loan debt
- LGBTQ+ issues
- Environmental factors
- Domestic violence

Not to mention other societal concerns: school bullying, human trafficking, gun violence.... Yes, the list is discouraging, but we do have a proven record in supporting girls entering the STEM fields, where they have great opportunities. Let's build on that! What are other ways we can support them? Build coalitions with other groups? Increase our scholarships? Add one-time projects that are easy for members to participate in? Let's keep the conversation going!

**Lynne Roney and Jeanne Webdell**  
Co-Presidents



Did you know? Women make 84% of what men earn. The statistics are even worse for women of color.



## SAVE THE DATE!

Our branch's holiday outing will be on **Sunday, December 10.**

We will attend the 3 p.m. performance by the St. Louis County Community Chorus (including our member Gloria Campion) at Manchester United Methodist Church, 129 Woods Mill Rd, Manchester, MO 63011, followed by an early dinner at a nearby restaurant. Tickets for the concert may be purchased at <https://stlccc.org/content/tickets> (at press time they were not yet available). Check the branch website at <https://kwg-mo.aauw.net/events/> or the December newsletter for later details.



## Notes from AAUW Central States Regional Conference

### See Presentation Materials on AAUW MO Website

A larger than expected number (165) of AAUW members from 14 states attended the Regional Conference Oct. 19-21, 2023, at the Drury Plaza Hotel downtown. Members clearly were happy to get together in person after conference cancellations during the pandemic and the discontinuation of national conferences.

East and West Coast AAUW groups are rumored to soon follow the Midwest's lead in organizing their own conferences. We can be proud of AAUW Missouri for heading up the organization of this conference. Many St. Louis-area members volunteered or presented at the conference. Six Kirkwood-Webster Groves members (Lucy Barringer, Marsha Koch, Kay Meyer, Charlotte Parsons, Lynne Roney, and Jeanne Webdell) attended.

AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell and former AAUW Public Policy staffer, now consultant, Lisa Maatz were only two of the outstanding keynote and topical speakers. Ideas were shared by branches and at officer counterpart sessions. Marsha and Jeanne presented KWG's yard sale voting sign project.

At the October 26 KWG Branch meeting, our six attendees shared the best ideas they gleaned from conference sessions, and branch members built on those for a great discussion of how our small branch can have a real impact on equity.

For an idea of the dense content of the conference presentations, here are summaries of some:

#### ***Inclusion-Infusion Exercises (Sue Shineman)***

- Introduce self to all at table; pair off
- Find something in common with your partner
- Share a time you felt left out
- What was your favorite job? thing you are most proud of? best way to set an example?
- Take 5 minutes to discuss a question (at table or group), 5 minutes to share with larger group
- Use DEI Toolkit

#### ***KEYNOTE: Challenges Facing Member-Driven Organizations (Lisa Maatz)***

- Ask what value we bring to our members; how the organization affects the quality of members' lives
- Think about assigning tasks, not roles
- Use more technology, such as 2-Minute Activist, and e-mailed newsletters; make sure members are signed up for them
- Think about acting locally
- Think about using partners and coalitions such as LWV and unions
- Tell your story; what is your branch's story? Why are you still an AAUW member?
- Consider free membership, compensating with non-dues revenue (such as small fees for activities)
- Don't spend a lot of time recruiting young members
- Have an occasional meeting at an active senior living community, such as an interest luncheon
- Hold unique (i.e., one-time) events that draw people by affinity rather than an issue
- How does what we are doing impact members' lives? Challenge what they think.
- Streamline meetings
- What are we going to do at this time that will make an impact on our issues?
- We have to be family friendly
- Let people who are interested in AAUW rethink what we want to do. Give them a voice immediately.



~ Notes continued on next page ~

## AAUW Central States Regional Conference Report p. 3

### TRENDING TOPICS

#### ***Sanitary Pads for African Girls (Carol Heisler, Crystal Lake Area Branch)***

- Provide handmade period pads to African villages so that girls do not have to stay home for a week when on their periods; members donate fabric and sew the pads.
- Bags of 3 pads and 1 pair of panties are shipped by another organization.

#### ***Gen Z to Millennials: Issues and Advocacy (panel of Lincoln University students, professor, and Rachel Gonzales, Social Justice Advocate, Brady)***

- 1901 – 1927 The Greatest Generation
- 1946-64 Baby Boomers
- 1981-96 Gen Y or Millennials
- 2013-2025 Generation Alpha (usually children of Millennials)
- 1928-45 The Silent Generation
- 1965-80 Gen X
- 1997-2012 Gen Z or Zoomers
- Some voting locations are hours away from home; no food and drink is allowed to voters waiting in line to vote; gerrymandering
- Iowa has a new law: if you do not vote, you are removed from the voting role
- The U.S. vs Rahime is a gun control case in domestic violence cases that is now before the US Supreme Court. If the Court fails to allow the law to stand, federal prohibition on gun possession for people subject to domestic violence restraining orders (DVROs) will be unlawful.
- [See the PowerPoint for additional statistics.](#)
- There are more places to buy firearms than McDonald's and Starbucks combined.

#### ***1619 Freedom School Project Liberation through Literacy (Sheritta Stokes, VP of Freedom School Project and Co-Director of Curriculum)***

- The program in Waterloo, Iowa, originated from a donation from Waterloo High School graduate and New York Times writer Nikole Hannah Jones, author of The 1619 Project.
- This school is based on the premise that there is liberation through literacy. It is an after-school program taught by black female and male teachers. To encourage reading, students receive \$300 worth of books and a special bookcase.
- An evaluation of the program shows that students have increased reading skills. A summer school component has been added.

#### ***The 8th International Women's Day Celebration in Manhattan (Usha Reddi, Manhattan Branch)***

- The branch sponsors a dinner on International Women's Day on March 8 each year. In 2023 the dinner was headlined by women from 4 countries, Mexico, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Morocco. The community was invited to the program after an optional dinner (\$25) during which each woman spoke about life in their country of origin and the United States.
- Suggested projects: Solicit professional clothing for students; ask students to work on STEM projects in elementary schools, write articles for the student newspaper, and help with Women's History Day activities; a luncheon for student leaders and women mentors.

~ End of Notes ~

The gender pay gap is math, not myth. Women working full time, year-round take home 16% less pay than men working full time, year-round. This is a government-published statistic based on a large, detailed, nationally representative survey of income in the United States, the Annual Social and Economic Supplements of the Current Population Survey. In 2022, the typical woman working full time, year-round was paid around \$10,000 less than the typical man working the same hours.

## AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC

### **¡Adelante! Book Group**

January 25, 1:30 pm by Zoom

**Sold** by Patricia McCormick, Reviewer Patty Murray

The powerful, poignant, bestselling National Book Award Finalist gives voice to a young girl robbed of her childhood yet determined to find the strength to triumph. Lakshmi is a thirteen-year-old girl who lives with her family in a small hut on a mountain in Nepal. Though she is desperately poor, her life is full of simple pleasures. But when the harsh Himalayan monsoons wash away all that remains of the family's crops, Lakshmi's stepfather says she must leave home and take a job to support her family. He introduces her to a glamorous stranger who tells her she will find her a job as a maid in the city. Glad to be able to help, Lakshmi journeys to India and arrives at "Happiness House" full of hope. But she soon learns that she has been sold into prostitution. An old woman named Mumtaz rules the brothel with cruelty and cunning. She tells Lakshmi that she is trapped there until she can pay off her family's debt—then cheats Lakshmi of her meager earnings so that she can never leave. Lakshmi's life becomes a nightmare. Still, she lives by her mother's words—Simply to endure is to triumph—and gradually, she forms friendships with the other girls that enable her to survive in this terrifying new world. Then the day comes when she must make a decision—will she risk everything for a chance to reclaim her life?

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85338959790?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85338959790?pwd=NFNKS01FMXh6bXpiaXh0ci80VC9rUT09)

[pwd=NFNKS01FMXh6bXpiaXh0ci80VC9rUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85338959790?pwd=NFNKS01FMXh6bXpiaXh0ci80VC9rUT09)

Meeting ID: **853 3895 9790**, Passcode: **614379**

Dial by your location: **312 626 6799**

### **Branch Meetings**

**Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch**—Thursday, November 9  
Social time 9 a.m. Business meeting 9:30 a.m. Program 10 a.m.

**"Women in the Economy: An Undeveloped Powerhouse"**

**Ana Kent, Federal Reserve Bank**

Ballwin Golf Course Events Center

333 Holloway Road, Ballwin 63011

Light refreshments will be served. Members may bring their own beverage.

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

**St. Charles Branch**—Thursday, November 9, 1 pm

**UN-Auction to benefit AAUW's national "Greatest Needs Fund" followed by games and activities**

First St. Charles United Methodist Church

801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles 63301

**St. Louis Branch**—Movie discussion November 27, 7 pm

**If Beale Street Could Talk** on Netflix

RSVP to President Ellen Irons, 314-727-9918 or

[ironnew@msn.com](mailto:ironnew@msn.com) for Zoom link.

## KWG FUNDRAISING

### Kay Meyer

- Don't forget to order your pecans for holiday baking! An order form was included in the email containing this newsletter.
- Send a completed order form with your check payable to "AAUW K-WG Branch" to Kay Meyer or email your order to her at [kicmeyer51@gmail.com](mailto:kicmeyer51@gmail.com).
- Ask family and friends to support us as well.
- KWG will sell pecans at:
  - **Pecanapalooza** in Ste. Geneviève on Nov 4
  - Holiday Bazaar in Affton on Nov 11
- For questions or to schedule a time to work at one of the sales, call Kay Meyer at 314.962.7487 or 314.225.9149 or [email](mailto:kicmeyer51@gmail.com) her. Her home address is 2443 Mary Drive in Brentwood, Mo. 63144-2031.



**OUR PECAN PRICES  
ARE VERY COMPETITIVE!**

## YOUTH VOICES FOR GLOBAL GENDER EQUITY

AAUW webinar recorded 10/25/23

## CALENDAR

### 2023

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Nov 4  | Pecan Sales at the Pecanapalooza Ste. Geneviève                        |
| Nov 11 | Pecan Sales at Holiday Bazaar in Affton                                |
| Nov 30 | KWG Branch Meeting (note date change) Kirkwood United Methodist Church |
| Dec 10 | KWG Branch Holiday Outing MUMC STL County Community Choir              |

### 2024

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Jan 18 | KWG Branch Meeting                       |
| Feb 15 | KWG Branch Meeting                       |
| Mar 23 | IBC Luncheon (in lieu of Branch Meeting) |
| Apr 18 | KWG Branch Meeting                       |
| May 16 | KWG Branch Meeting                       |