



Newsletter of the

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch

Founded April 1971 ~ **Celebrating 54 Years!**

2025-2026, No. 5 January 2026

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, 2025-2026

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<https://facebook.com/AAUWKWG>

<https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net>

<https://aauw-mo.aauw.net>

Kirkwood-Webster Groves and St. Louis Combined January Online (Zoom) Meeting

Missouri lawmakers set a new record for pre-filed bills. Our speaker for the **January 15th Zoom meeting** will be Mo. State District 90 Representative Mark Boyko who will update us on pending legislation for 2026. Among the 10 bills Rep. Boyko himself has pre-filed are two proposals: one for charter school regulations and another to lower the compulsory education age from 7 to 5. Please mark your calendar for our session; **“doors open” at 6:30 pm for networking.**



Rep. Boyko, who represents part of St. Louis County (which includes parts of Kirkwood, Glendale, Des Peres, St. Louis County, and Valley Park) was elected to his first two-year term in November 2024.

Rep. Boyko earned his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, his Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri School of Law, and his LL.M. from New York University School of Law. He has been practicing law for the past twenty years, with the majority of his career spent practicing as an ERISA litigator (Employee Retirement Income Security Act). In the house he serves on the primary and secondary education committee, utilities committee, and government efficiency committee among others.

Beyond his legal career, Rep. Boyko has been involved in his community. He has served on the Kirkwood School Board and the St. Louis area non-profit Places for People and is currently a director for both the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank and Friends of the Kathy J. Weinman Center, where he supports vital services for local women and families in need.

What questions do you have for Rep. Boyko? See next page for important links.

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

(Program information continued from page 1)

2026 Missouri Legislative Session

The Missouri Legislative Session begins on January 7, 2026, and ends on May 15, 2026. You can follow the proceedings by visiting the websites listed below. Governor Mike Kehoe will deliver the 2026 State of the State Address detailing his legislative priorities and his Fiscal Year 2027 budget proposal on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.** The speech will be live-streamed on [Governor Kehoe's Facebook page](#), the [State of Missouri's Facebook page](#), and [mo.gov/live](#). A satellite uplink with closed captioning will also be available. The link, schedule of the day's events, and logistical details will be provided at a later date.

Please bookmark these websites to refer to throughout the legislative session.

- ⇒ Missouri Senate: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/>
- ⇒ Missouri House of Representatives: <https://house.mo.gov/>
- ⇒ Governor: <https://governor.mo.gov/>
- ⇒ Budget: <https://budplan.ia.mo.gov/budget-information/fy2027>

To study the prefiled bills, you can go to these two webpages.

- ◆ Senate: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/BillTracking/Bills/BillList?year=2026&session=R> (646 bills filed as of December 30, 2025)
- ◆ House: <https://house.mo.gov/BillStatisticList.aspx?in=1&out=> (1023 prefiled bills on December 30th.)

Missouri lawmakers set a new record for pre-filed bills. so it should be a busy and interesting session to follow. You can view (or just listen to) the proceedings of both the Senate and House using the website links above. Chris (KWG and STL member) is following two gifted education bills, as shown below.

Bill: [HB1748](#)

Sponsor: [Miller](#)

Date/last action: 12/01/2025 - Prefiled (H). (LR# 4621H.01I) - Adds provisions including gifted education pupil count for purposes of funding schools through the foundation formula

Bill: [HB1757](#)

Sponsor: [Shields](#)

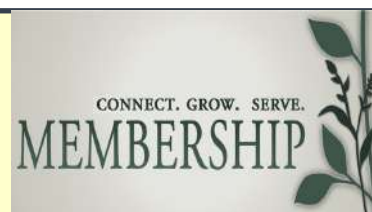
Date/last action: 12/01/2025 - Prefiled (H). (LR# 5274H.01I) - Establishes procedures for school districts to test for gifted students

Hello From Your Membership Veep, Deb McWard

First of all, warm wishes for a happy and healthy new year. At the same time, I extend similar wishes from our branch. These we have some control over by your continued interest and support of our programming. National has done some reorganizing, and branch officers have had to do some adjusting. At times, it has been challenging; but we stay faithful to our mission, and I hope you still feel some passion that brought you into the organization. We remain an important voice for women.

It is my wish that those of you who take advantage of our programs continue to do so; and those who don't, please consider attending. We'll work out carpools or help with the Zoomed meetings. The board even encourages any of you to attend its meetings held the first Monday of each month by Zoom at 7 p.m. We get lots done, even if we tend to get a little loose with Roberts Rules of Order, plus sometimes we even get a little silly. More importantly, you could give us some thoughts on what you'd like to see done. In other words, the meetings are not intimidating.

The very best thing you can do is to bring a friend along to some of our gatherings. The officers are listed on the front of the newsletter. Contact them for any information.





Nancy

From Your Co-Presidents ...



Charlotte

Welcome with open arms to our New Year.

- ◇ Our executive **branch board meeting** will be Monday, January 12th, over Zoom at 7 p.m.
- ◇ Our **regular meeting** will be Thursday, January 15th, over Zoom at 7 p.m. Our social get-together begins at 6:30 p.m. Rep. Mark Boyko from the Missouri House of Representatives will enlighten us on upcoming legislation.
- ◇ On Saturday, January 17th, we have a **statewide MO AAUW board meeting** on Zoom from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We'll have the opportunity to see and hear Sue Shineman, our AAUW MO president.
- ◇ We are also invited to attend on Zoom the January 10th (10 a.m. St. Louis time) "**AAUW MO Branch Right Sizing State Program.**" Beth Haynes will be the presenter. She is a member of the AAUW National Governance Committee. Please RSVP to Christine Nobbe (nobbechristine@gmail.com) so she will know approximately how many will be on the call: Meeting ID: 813 8889 3929 and Passcode: 043691
- ◇ Our **Adelante Book Group** meets on Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on January 22nd. *All the Colors of Dark* by Chris Whitaker will be presented by our own Kay Meyer. Let's support Kay in this endeavor: Meeting ID: 831 7379 5268 and Passcode: 701526. For a clickable link to the meeting, please email : pattymur-rayaaauw@gmail.com
- ◇ January 13th, our first **International Relations Lecture** is at the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road. It begins at 10:45 A.M. in the upper auditorium and is free. Dr. Steven Lawrence, MD, with Washington University School of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, will be speaking on "Vaccines to Prevent the Next Pandemic." AAUW helps to sponsor this event.
- ◇ The **Movie Club** meets Monday, January 26th at 7 P.M. via Zoom. The January selection is *Stand By Me*. Meeting ID: 815 8265 7369 and Passcode: 168308
- ◇ Our Interbranch Council presents the annual **Spring Fling Luncheon** on Saturday, March 28th, at Racket Club Ladue, 1600 Log Cabin Lane. It is a lovely location with a grand piano. It's a buffet, and we will have plenty of handicapped parking. Please notate on your registration form that you need handicapped parking. We will pass the word along to the general manager who is very accommodating to our group.
- ◇ Co-president Nancy Hutchins lost her husband, Gene, in December after 54 years of marriage. He was a very kind, loving, and generous man. He was a longtime member of Eliot Unitarian Universalist Chapel in Kirkwood. He loved the many acres of land at Eliot's historic Bergfried Sanctuary and spent many hours there, including time roasting pigs. He loved to cook, and Nancy says he made the best fried egg sandwiches. She loved them and him. His **Celebration of Life** will be at 2 P.M. , April 4th, at the Eliot U. U. Chapel.

We hope all of you have a joyous and healthy January. Stay warm.

Charlotte and Nancy

CALENDAR

Jan 10 AAUW MO Branch Right Sizing State Program
 Jan 12 K-WG board meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
 Jan 13 International Relations lecture, 10:45 am, "Pandemic and Vaccines"
 Jan 15 Monthly combined branch meeting via Zoom
 Jan 17 Statewide MO AAUW board meeting
 Jan 19 Dr Martin Luther King Jr celebration day
 Jan 22 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, *All the Colors of Dark*
 Jan 26 Movie Club, *Stand By Me*
 Feb 10 International Relations lecture, 10:45 am, "Supply Chains"
 Feb 24 Quarterly IBC meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
 Feb 26 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth*

Mar 8 International Women's Day
 Mar 10 International Relations lecture, 10:45 am
 Mar 26 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, *Sula*
 Mar 28 Spring Fling!, Raquet Club Ladue
 Apr 4 Celebration of Life, Gene Hutchins
 Apr 14 International Relations lecture, 10:45 am, "Crop Yields and Future Food Security."
 Apr 23 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, *My Friends*
 May 2 Annual state conference, in person, Columbia, MO
 May 28 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, *Anna: The Biography*
 June Gun Violence Awareness month
 June 25 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, *By Any Other Name*
 Sep 24 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom,

Pecan Sales Fundraiser

A decades-long branch fundraiser has been sales of pecans from Schermer Pecans out of Georgia. Check with Kay Meyer if you need more. Here's a recipe you might like, Pecan Pimento Cheese.

1 pound sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
 1 (8oz) package cream cheese, at room temperature
 ½ cup mayonnaise, or to taste
 1- 1 ½ teaspoons Tabasco
 1 (7oz) jar diced pimentos, undrained
 1 cup chopped pecans

Combine the cheddar and cream cheese in a food processor, pulsing to mix. Mix in the mayonnaise and Tabasco. Scrape into a mixing bowl and stir in the pimentos, their juice and the pecans. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Serve with crackers.

Source: Pecans, by Kathleen Purvis (A Savor The South Cookbook)

For more recipes, [go here](#).



MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

March 28,
2026
Spring Fling
at Racquet Club
Ladue

AAUW METRO ST LOUIS IBC

St. Louis is **one of the five branches** that form the AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council, more commonly known as IBC. They meet 4 times a year, some virtually and some in person. Each branch is allowed 3 voting delegates, and historically the officers of each branch have served as those delegates.

The purpose of IBC is to foster cooperation among member branches and to financially support programs and projects and to open channels of communication among branches for the sharing of ideas and interests.

The next quarterly meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb 24, 2025, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

The website is <https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net/>. All AAUW members are welcome to attend.

IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP

This group meets virtually to discuss books written from diverse perspectives.



Where: Join Zoom meeting:
For a clickable link to the meeting, please email: PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com

When: 1:30 pm the 4th Thursday of the month in September, October, January, February, March, April, May, and June.

Contact: PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com

Upcoming selections:

Jan 22 *All the Colors of Dark*, by Chris Whitaker, 608 pages, June 2024, Kay Meyer, facilitator.

1975 is a time of change in America. The Vietnam War is ending. Muhammad Ali is fighting Joe Frazier. And in the small town of Monta Clare, Missouri, girls are disappearing. When the daughter of a wealthy family is targeted, the most unlikely hero emerges—Patch, a local boy, who saves the girl, and, in doing so, leaves heartache in his wake. Patch and those who love him soon discover that the line between triumph and tragedy has never been finer. And that their search for answers will lead them to truths that could mean losing one another.

Feb 26 *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth*, by Sarah Smarsh, 304 pages, 9-18-2018. Lynne Roney, facilitator.

Sarah Smarsh was born a fifth generation Kansas wheat farmer on her paternal side, and the product of generations of teen mothers on her maternal side. Through her experiences growing up on a farm thirty miles west of Wichita, we are given a unique and essential look into the lives of poor and working-class Americans living in the heartland. During Sarah's turbulent childhood in Kansas in the 1980s and 1990s, she enjoyed the freedom of a country childhood but observed the painful challenges of the poverty around her; untreated medical conditions for lack of insurance or consistent care, unsafe job conditions, abusive relationships, and limited resources and information that would provide for the upward mobility that is the American Dream. By telling the story of her life and the lives of the people she loves with clarity and precision but without judgement, Smarsh challenges us to look more closely at the class divide in our country. Beautifully written, in a distinctive voice, *Heartland* combines personal narrative with powerful analysis and cultural commentary, challenging the myths about people thought to be less because they earn less.

Mar 26 *Sula*, by Toni Morrison, 192 pages, 1973. Nancy Hutchins, facilitator.

Sula and Nel are two young black girls: clever and poor. They grow up together sharing their secrets, dreams and happiness. Then Sula breaks free from their small-town community in the uplands of Ohio to roam the cities of America. When she returns ten years later much has changed. Including Nel, who now has a husband and three children. The friendship between the two women becomes strained and the whole town grows wary as Sula continues in her wayward, vagabond and uncompromising ways.

Apr 26 *My Friends*, by Fredrik Backman, 448 pages, 2025. Jayne Kasten, facilitator.

Most people don't even notice them—three tiny figures sitting at the end of a long pier in the corner of one of the most famous paintings in the world. Most people think it's just a depiction of the sea. But Louisa, an aspiring artist herself, knows otherwise, and she is determined to find out the story of these three enigmatic figures. ... Louisa is proof that happy endings don't always take the form we expect in this stunning testament to the transformative, timeless power of friendship and art.

Metro St. Louis Branch Programs

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch— On Thursday morning, January 8, the monthly meeting will occur via Zoo. Contact Carolyn Brown for time and a link. The program will be presented by Emeara Burns, the Fundraising Development Officer for the St. Louis Story Stitchers, where she has dedicated eleven years to advancing the organization's mission. She is passionate about creating artistic programs and opportunities for at-risk youth, helping them grow into confident, professional artists. Her work supports the continued growth of St. Louis as a vibrant and thriving arts city.

The branch has an interesting program series in winter called Munching Matters: Lunch with Food for Thought at a local restaurant, where members tell about something interesting in their life/careers.

Ferguson-Florissant Branch—Contact [Joyce Bluett](#) for meeting information, 314-800-8979.

Saint Charles Branch—Meets the first Thursday at 1 p.m. at First St. Charles UMC, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles 63301.

St. Louis Branch—Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch and St. Louis branches will combine their meetings for the 2025-2026 AAUW year (see page 1).

International Relations Lecture Series

If you are interested in international relations and learning about worldwide issues, you will enjoy these lectures held at **10:45 a.m.** on the **second Tuesday of January, February, March, and April** each year at the **Ethical Society building** on Clayton Rd in Ladue. AAUW and the Tuesday Women's Association have sponsored these lectures for over 90 years, and they are always interesting.

The Tuesday Women's Association (TWA) from the Ethical Society will lead the group again since no AAUW people were available to take the leadership. The Ethical Society supplies the facilities and equipment at no cost for the lectures. Speakers are paid \$250 from the funds raised by our donations and by passing the basket at the lectures.

ZOOM for WINTRY WEATHER ONLY

Meeting ID: 819 6279 7894 Passcode: 412511
For direct link, email pattmurrayAAUW@gmail.com.

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The speaker for **January 13, 2026**, will be **Steven Lawrence, MD**, MSc Epidemiology, Washington University School of Medicine: **Vaccines to Prevent the Next Pandemic: Is There a Will to Find the Way?**

Dr. Lawrence earned his MD degree from Washington University School of Medicine in 1997 prior to completing internal medicine residency at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in 2000 and infectious diseases (ID) fellowship training at WashU Med in 2004. He subsequently earned his MSc degree in Epidemiology from the London School of Tropical Medicine and joined the full-time faculty of the ID division in 2005, where he is a professor of medicine. He has been actively engaged with preparedness, education and response to ID threats including the 2001 anthrax letter attacks, 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, 2014 Ebola outbreak and COVID-19, for which he has served on numerous WashU and public health agency task forces.



Dr. Lawrence is assistant dean for curriculum within the Office of Medical Student Education where he oversees several components of the new medical student Gateway Curriculum. He conducted published research studies on influenza and other respiratory viral illnesses, vaccines against viral illnesses, and infections in transplant patients. He sees patients and supervises trainees in the WashU ID outpatient clinic and on the transplant ID consult service in Barnes-Jewish Hospital.



Each of us watches a selected movie on [Netflix](#). The movie is then discussed by the group on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Request to join the email list? Submit to dsher63105@gmail.com. Prospective-member guests are welcome!

Mon. Jan 26: *Stand by Me*

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81582657369?pwd=aqAkICdAvoieBFwc1t97u8UNDYjua.1>

Meeting ID: 815 8265 7369 Passcode: 168308

National News

From Susan Barley
AAUW Advancement Committee
December 25, 2025
314-361-2920
barley702@gmail.com



Greetings from the AAUW Advancement Committee!

In this holiday season, we want to thank you for your accomplishments this year and look forward to what is coming in 2026. To that end, and to make your work easier, we are sharing links to resources.

- **Alumnae Recognition Award 2025:** <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-celebrates-2025-alumnae-recognition-award-honoring-finance-leader-yie-hsin-hung/>
- **Archivist Webinar Recording:** “Branches in Action: A Century of Advocacy, Fundraising and Impact,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pcLysNAbgl>
- **Bylaws Toolkit:** The Governance Committee also worked on creating better directions for bylaws updates: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/bylaws-toolkit/>
- **Degree Equivalency Policy:** In May 2025, the AAUW National Board of Directors approved a formal policy for Degree Equivalency for prospective members. This policy explains the criteria for equivalency. The policy can be found on page 4 of the May 14, 2025, Board of Directors’ Minutes: <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2025/07/5.14.25-Board-Minutes-FINAL.pdf>
- **Membership Webinar:** Four branches, Carlsbad (NM), Morgan Hill (CA), North Hills Pittsburgh (PA), and Rapid City (SD): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XydvfPODZS8>
- **Public Policy Priorities 2025-2027:** <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2025/05/Public-Policy-Principles-One-pager.pdf>
- **Public Policy Webinar on Collaborations:** “Working in Coalition: Building Power through Partnerships,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=im6VsWTi7X8>
- **Right-sizing Toolkit:** The Governance Committee worked on how branches can streamline their bylaws and their operations so they can be more successful: <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2025/11/AAUW-Right-Sizing-Toolkit-10.1.2025.pdf>

Attached is “At Your Fingertips: AAUW Leader Resources and Tools” list that accompanied the membership webinar last month. It’s a handy guide to finding key resources on the national website. You will find these helpful in leading your states and branches.

AAUW December Updates

- **NCCWSL:** NASPA has recently shared updates, and they are posted on their website here: <https://www.naspa.org/events/nccwsl> The event will be held May 27-30, 2026, at the University of Maryland College Park. Registration amounts: Residential attendees in double occupancy: \$585, single occupancy: \$625; and commuters: \$385. The registration deadline is **May 18** for those needing housing; for commuters, the registration deadline is **May 28**.
- **Membership Recruitment Best Practices Webinar:** The recording is live on our website and YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XydvfPODZS8>
- **SAVE THE DATE:** February 18th Member Gathering (virtual) – 4:30pm ET / 1:30pm PT. Invitation and registration link will be sent in January.
- **Branch and State Website Maintenance:** Please be advised that the branch websites will be undergoing scheduled maintenance. TENTATIVELY, this will begin on Friday, January 9th at 5:00 PM (EST). The maintenance window is expected to conclude on Monday, January 12th at 9:00 AM (EST). During this time, branch and state websites hosted on aauw.net may be unavailable. More information will be shared once the timeline has been confirmed.
- **Annual Branch Survey:** Approximately 155 branches did not complete the 2025 branch survey. Tremayne Parquet has been seeking feedback from those branches, state leaders, and the Advancement committee to make improvements for the coming year that will enable more branches to respond. We need to increase and reinforce getting these responses. The changes made last year increased the response rate, but there is more that can be done by understanding barriers to completion. The deadline for submitting the follow-up questionnaire for these non-responding branches is Feb. 28, 2026.

(continued on next page)

- * **Support Needed:** Tremayne Parquet emailed all State Presidents a list of Branches that did not complete the survey in their state on September 26th. He also included a link to the short 5 question questionnaire to learn more about their barriers to completion. The link to the questionnaire is here: [FY25 AAUW Annual Branch Survey Feedback](#) He sent an additional two reminders – but we still have low participation. **Please reach out to the branches in your state that DID NOT fill out the survey for 2025.** If you need to receive that list again, please email Tremayne at parquett@aauw.org
- **Feedback from Unresponsive Branches:** So far, we have only 19 responses from this group, so conclusions now are preliminary. That said, there are four reasons that more than one respondent gave:
 - * **Communication about the survey:** 5 of the 19 respondents said they missed survey notifications or said they did not receive anything;
 - * **Purpose of the survey:** 4 of the 19 said they were uncertain as to why the survey matters to branches. We need to strengthen the messaging around the value of completing the survey and the value the national office brings to branches;
 - * **Branch capacity:** 2 of the 19 said they do not have someone who can complete the survey, suggesting that their branch status is uncertain and/or that they too few members;
 - * **Survey completion support:** 3 of the 19 needed extra support to complete the survey: 3 said they had a timing conflict—they didn't have the time to complete the survey by the deadline; others needed help with the online form or needed an alternative method (paper form or phone call) for completing it.

So far, there has not been resistance to the idea of the survey; it is mostly that more support and communication are needed. As leaders change, we need to continue to communicate well about this. Through the end of February, follow up with those who have not responded yet to this questionnaire as needed.

News from the Inclusion and Equity Committee **Karen Francis and Trish Garner, co-chairs**

The Committee has focused this cycle on strengthening members' comfort, confidence, and skill in engaging in inclusion and equity conversations during a time of heightened polarization. Our goal is to support members in practicing courageous listening and taking meaningful, practical steps toward more genuine inclu-

sion across AAUW and the communities where we live and lead.

Recent Committee Activities

- **Reaffirming AAUW Values through Conversation** – In State Diversity Chair meetings, we have centered our discussions on “The Courage to Listen, The Willingness to Act: Moving Inclusion Forward,” highlighting AAUW’s ongoing commitment to fairness, equity, and justice—while acknowledging both successes and missteps in past DEI efforts.
- **Shifting from “Talking To” to “Talking With”** – We introduced and practiced simple, accessible discussion frameworks and exercises designed to help branches and states move from presentation-style conversations to more reciprocal, member-centered engagement.
- **Member Engagement Over Webinar Production** – Rather than rushing into webinar development, we have intentionally invested in building capacity and trust through direct dialogue with State Diversity Chairs, modeling the inclusive practices we hope to amplify across the organization.

Plans for the Coming Months

- **Showcasing Branch and State Initiatives** – State Diversity Chairs will share how they have implemented inclusion and equity conversations locally; we hope these examples will form the foundation of our next national webinar.
- **Addressing Challenging Information Environments** – Because “facts” increasingly depend on differing media ecosystems, the Committee will develop guidance for engaging with diverse news and information sources as part of healthy inclusion practices.
- **Clarifying Key Concepts** – We plan to help members explore complex topics such as engaging with diverse news and information sources and topics such as “equity” vs. “equality” through practical frameworks that keep discussion grounded, respectful, and accessible.