

TAKING ACTION

2020 NATIONAL ELECTION: AN URGENT IMPERATIVE CHALLENGE

With the election only weeks away, we are confronted with the COVID pandemic, serious state-by-state election barriers that regulate and threaten legitimate voter outcomes, a myriad of unresolved social and economic issues, as well as a deeply politically divided nation.

AAUW, at the national, state, and branch levels, has and continues to advocate, develop, and distribute crucial information on issues and choices affecting the lives of all Americans. We have this obligation and we must always remember the hard-fought battle for women to vote in 2020.

AAUW-Missouri has recently revitalized the policy issues of education and advocacy as a priority. Sue Shineman, AAUW-MO President, has enhanced the opportunity for branch presidents and public policy chairs to communicate and share ideas using our regularly-



scheduled zoom sessions. Participants have shared much information about branch sponsored activities and other events sponsored with local partners such as the **League of Women Voters**. Our scope of concern often addresses statewide and national issues.

For example, members have extensively shared crucial information about Missouri's Constitutional Amendment #3 on the ballot. Its stated purpose is to dismantle protections against gerrymandering and implement radical changes that target Missouri communities of color. Our position on Amendment #3 is a "NO" VOTE. The potential outcome of its passage is to erode equity for all. We again recommend

watching the award-winning film **RIGGED** to better understand the complex and diverse ways gerrymandering was and is now being applied for 2020. Additional information on the context and political gains/losses can be easily explored at www.commoncause.org

There are still many other urgent issues we must address, such as the future of public education, uncovered health care for the now uninsured and underinsured, societal transformations to achieve social and economic justice as well as changes in our society resulting from COVID's long lasting impact. These and other critically important issues will be of major focus for AAUW in the coming months and years.

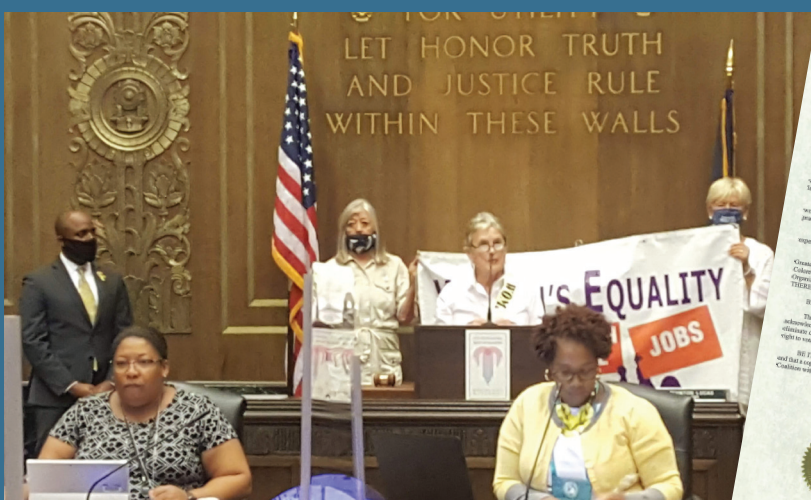
Several additional websites relevant for understanding important information for the 2020 election:

- www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri
- www.kclibrary.org/community-services/voter-information
- www.kceb.org/elections

Lee Rathbone-McCuan
Public Policy Co-Chair

The City of Kansas City, Missouri, passed a resolution on August 20, 2020 recognizing the Women's Suffrage Movement, the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, and supporting numerous organizations' goals to eliminate existing gender biases and sex discrimination.

Carol Cowles, Alice Kitchen, Joanie Shores, and Stacey Webb represented three organizations who helped bring the resolution to the floor: AAUW-KC, WEC (Women's Equality Coalition) and League of Women Voters.



MAYOR QUINTON LUCAS (FAR LEFT), AAUW-KC MEMBERS ALICE KITCHEN (AT THE LECTERN) AND CAROL COWLES (FAR RIGHT)





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



So it was said by some ancient sage: 'We grow stronger through adversity and adaptation'.

In these uncharted waters of a global pandemic, we keep afloat thanks to the technology of Zoom. And when your smiling faces pop up on my screen, please know that it cheers me and brightens my day!

Here are your officers for our new year (2020–2021):

ELECTED OFFICERS

President – **Joanie Shores**

President Elect – **Luna Mukherjee**

Membership Chairs – **Hortense Burr, Pat Taylor**

Secretary – **Corinne Mahaffey**

Finance Officer – **Linda Berube**

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Communications Chair – **Stefanie Hatfield**

Funds Chair – **Ellen Johnson**

Public Policy Chairs – **Patty Cahill,**

Lee Rathbone-McCuane

SPECIAL PROJECTS

College/University Chair, Re-Entry and Women's Center Liaison – **Stephanie Holthaus**

Thorpe Menn Chairs – **Corinne Mahaffey, Carrie Maidment, Jane McClain, Anita Parran**

Wagy Fund Chair – **Ellen Johnson**

Newsletter/Website – **Carrie Maidment**

At this summer's board retreat we decided most events will be held virtually due to health safety concerns.

The Thorpe Menn Literary Excellence Award will be presented **October 3** via Zoom. We will miss this elegant luncheon at the Kansas City Library. Wagy Awards will be presented later this year, *likely virtually*. My thanks to the committees who are working so diligently through these challenging times.

The AAUW initiative 'Start Smart' continues to gain momentum with 'how to' salary negotiation skills.

Despite COVID-19, the public policy committee is determined to safely celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment. They composed a powerful resolution and submitted it to Kansas City's mayor and council members. This commemorative document also speaks to support of ongoing work on eliminating the gender pay gap and other discriminatory practices.

IT'S MY VOTE



Our activism blossoms when we work together to Get Out The Vote (GOTV) and educate regarding voter rights and related ballot initiatives. This is an opportunity for you to connect and follow your passion by volunteering for AAUW public policy projects. There's much good you can accomplish from the safety of your home!

And I urge you to join me in advancing real change promoting diversity and inclusion. Needed? Your active involvement changing the toxic attitudes of racism everywhere you experience it. When I hear racist hate talk, I will call it out! My failure to do so, my silence is tantamount to my own complicity. By standing up for your values and beliefs you sow the seeds to change hearts and minds. Let us all pull together to make a better world for women and girls—and indeed ALL people!

Joanie Shores

AAUW-KC President



Through the online **AAUW Work Smart** workshops you'll gain confidence in your negotiation style. Through facilitated discussion and role-play, you will learn:

- How to identify and articulate your value.
- How to develop persuasive responses and other negotiation strategies.
- How to conduct objective market research to benchmark a target salary and benefits.
- About the wage gap and its long-term consequences.

Share this link: **<https://salary.aauw.org>** and encourage friends and colleagues to participate!

**JOIN
OR RENEW**

MISSION

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

2020–2021 ANNUAL DUES: \$89

Dues cover National membership (\$59), State membership (\$10), plus Kansas City membership (\$20). Send **\$89**, payable to **AAUW-KC** to: **Linda Berube, 13020 Grand Ave, Kansas City, MO 64145-1300**, or you can also join/renew at: **aauw.org/membership**

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.



NATIONAL AAUW ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

It is that time of the year when we encourage Kansas City members to make a donation to AAUW national to support our mission of *advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy*.

The easiest way to donate is to use this link to make your donation online: <https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/>

Follow the prompts to make your donation. Enter your member ID number in the designated spot to have your information automatically loaded into the form and our branch credited. If you don't know your member ID, email **Linda Berube** at ljbaauw@hotmail.com. Using your member ID number will guarantee our branch gets credit for the donation.

If you prefer to send a check, please make it payable to AAUW and in the memo line include the designated fund, along with **MO7032-Kansas City** for credit to the branch. Mail your check to: **AAUW Inc., P.O. Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045**

We encourage members to contribute to the **AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (9110)** which allows AAUW to use the money where it is needed the most. Other available funds include: **Education and Training Fund (4452)**; **Leadership Fund (4452)**; and **Economic Security Fund (4449)**.

2020 WAGY AWARDS— GIVING BACK TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WHO GIVE TO WOMEN AND GIRLS



This December marks the 21st celebration of the **Wagy Awards**.

Each year the AAUW Kansas City Branch awards several grants to local organizations for projects that support our mission by promoting equity, education, intellectual growth, individual worth, and development of opportunities for Kansas City women and girls.

The Wagy grants are made possible from a generous bequest from the estate of Irene Wagy, a member of the Branch who passed away in 1996, plus donations from Branch members. Since 1997 we have awarded 85 grants totaling \$224,435. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$4,000. The Wagy Committee is now reviewing proposals from this year's grant applicants. In addition to the grant funds, it is possible for members to contribute to this year's available grant total. If you wish to participate in this way, send your check payable to **GKCCF-Wagy Fund** to: **GKCCF-Kelli Doyle, 1055 Broadway Blvd., Suite 130, Kansas City, Mo 64105**.

MONTHLY SPECIAL-INTEREST GROUPS

2ND & 4TH FRIDAY FORUM / 10–11 AM

Join us on Zoom for this freewheeling discussion group meeting each 2nd and 4th Friday 10–11 a.m. You are welcome to present a newspaper or journal article that interests you and we encourage your suggestions for topics to discuss. Recently there was discussion about deregulation, what it is, examples, pros and cons. We will send a reminder with Zoom information to all AAUW members with an email address a few days before each Friday session.

• OCT 9 & 23 / NOV 13 & 27

Please contact **Linda Berube** at ljbaauw@hotmail.com for information on how to attend via Zoom.

3RD THURSDAY "BOOKS & BREWS" / 6–7 PM

Co-sponsored with the Kansas City Public Library, our book club, "Books and Brews" meetings are held via Zoom on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 pm. During this time of social distancing and libraries open only for drop off and pick up, our reading and appreciation of the virtual event have both increased! Facilitated by **Jane Hatch** with **Carol Cowles** and **Sue Coy** providing assistance, meetings are lively as diverse opinions and preferences are shared. Books are selected yearly by the membership and members volunteer to lead the discussions. The benefits of this interesting community collaboration are many, including acquainting newcomers to our AAUW-KC community. New members are always welcome!

• OCT 15 *FINDING DOROTHY* BY ELIZABETH LETTS
MODERATOR: JANE HATCH

• NOV 19 *BOOK WOMAN OF TROUBLESOME CREEK* BY
E.R. RICHARDSON
MODERATOR: AUDREY MYERS

• DEC 17 *THE LINE BECOMES A RIVER* BY FRANCISCO CANTER
MODERATOR: CAROL COWLES

Please contact **Linda Berube** at ljbaauw@hotmail.com for information on how to attend via Zoom.

3RD THURSDAY CUISINE CLUB

Cuisine Club lunch get-togethers are postponed till further notice due to the COVID pandemic.



For more information and news, visit
<http://kansascity-mo.aauw.net/>





You're invited to attend the 42nd Annual

THORPE MENN AWARD VIRTUAL CEREMONY

*Celebrating the literary excellence
of local authors.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Keynote Speaker

ROBERT F. SOMMER



Bob Sommer has published two novels, *Where the Wind Blew* and *A Great Fullness*. His nonfiction collection, *Losing Francis: Essays on the Wars at Home*, won the 2019 Thorpe Menn Literary Excellence award. The book chronicles his son's deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq as an Army infantryman and return home to civilian life. Sommer teaches part-time at Avila University and works for the

Kansas Sierra Club in support of its mission to explore, enjoy and protect the planet. He holds a doctorate in American Literature from Duke University. Bob also authored *Teaching Writing to Adults: Strategies and Concepts for Improving Learner Performance* and co-authored *The Heath Literature for Composition*. His blog is *Uncommon Hours*.

2020 THORPE MENN AWARD NOMINEES

Everyone I Love Immortal

Catherine Anderson

The Notebook: And Other Strange Tales

Randy Attwood

A Friend for Henry

Jenn Bailey / Mika Song, Illustrations

In the Company of Patriots

Virginia Brackett

Vengeance is Mine: The Reaping

Calogero Bradley

If My Dog Could Fly

A.J. Culey

Tyrabbisaurus Rex in Tigernapped

A.J. Culey

Deep Seeded Secrets

Marvela Dawnay aka Christine J. Gilbert

Angie's War

Gary DeRigne

Go Cars Go!

Mandi Dow

The Book of Bearings

Diane Glancy

The Misadventures of Nobbin Swill: Crumbled!

Lisa Harkrader

The Queen's Heart

Jennifer Haskin

Front Lines to Headlines: The WWI Overseas Dispatches of Otto P. Higgins

James J. Heiman

My Hope Secured

Theresa Hupp

A Passion for Purpose: Building Cities for Our Children

Sly James with Sean Wheelock

Twas the Night Before Tipoff

Chris Meggs

Survival Tips for the Pending Apocalypse

Shawn Pavey

Above the Walls

Steve Physioc

Fire on The Horizon: The Death of the Morro Castle

D.L. Rogers

Mob Rule

Bob Sands

And Eve Said Yes: Seven Stories and a Novella

Mark Scheel

Enemy Child: The Story of Norman Mineta, a Boy Imprisoned in a Japanese

American Internment Camp During World War II

Andrea Warren

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. REGISTER EARLY, SEATING IS LIMITED.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mne_PuJHR0WTuglxzBpD8w

This is a ZOOM event. (If you do not have a ZOOM account you will be prompted to sign up for free.) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the event.