



TAKING ACTION

IT'S YOUR AAUW, AND YOUR VOICE COUNTS! KANSAS CITY'S SLATE OF ELECTED OFFICERS, 2021-2022

BALLOT:

REGISTER FOR THE VIRTUAL
ANNUAL MEETING USING
THE LINK BELOW AND JOIN
FELLOW MEMBERS TO VOTE!

For President
☐ **Luna Mukherjee**

For President-Elect
☐ **Corrine Mahaffey**

For Program Vice President
☐ **Wanda Perkins**

Finance Officer
☐ **Linda Berube**

Membership Vice President
☐ **Pat Taylor**

Secretary
☐ **Lynette Procopio**

VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 20: ELECTION OF 2021-2022 OFFICERS AND PROGRAM ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION WITH DR. STACY KING



For the last 25 years, **Dr. Stacy King** has served as an educator. She has worked with students PreK-12 in various roles from special education teacher to literacy coach, elementary principal, and currently as Director of Family and Student Services. In this role, Stacy has supported students, family and staff, focusing on building relationships to strengthen the learning community. Her work has led her to understand the importance of race and equity when planning for the needs of all. Over recent years, Stacy has been teaching college level courses on race and equity designed for future educators.

Join us on Thursday, May 20, 7 p.m. CT on ZOOM. Please register in advance: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0odeCqqjsh9Lc5pSz4KRAAnRHGxQZ8Nlkd>

After registering, you will receive an email with a link and information to join the meeting.

AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION 2021

Voting is now open! For this vote, members are asked to vote to elect members to the national AAUW Board of Directors, vote on changes to the bylaws that would open membership, and on changes to the Public Policy Priorities.

Here you'll find all the information you need to vote: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>

Voting closes at 5 p.m. ET, Monday, May 17, 2021.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE. BE HEARD!

JOIN
OR RENEW

MISSION

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

2021-2022 ANNUAL DUES: \$92

Dues cover National membership (\$62), State membership (\$10), plus Kansas City membership (\$20). Send \$92, payable to AAUW-KC to: **Linda Berube, 13020 Grand Ave, Kansas City, MO 64145**, or you can also join/renew at: [aauw.org/membership](https://www.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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A farewell to winter... Looking out over the pond, I am dazzled by the redbud trees! Never before have they bloomed in such profusion, great masses of pink to fuchsia. And all of them planted by Mother Nature. Finally, we can see some beauty after the dark winter.

Year 2020 was cataclysmic. My thanks to each of you for helping to keep our branch together. We celebrated most of the important events—**Thorpe Menn Literary Awards, Waggy, Reentry**, and others. We've enjoyed outstanding virtual programs from Jackson County Prosecutor **Jean Peters Baker** and former Kansas City Mayor **Sly James**. We've continued our advocacy campaign for equity for women and girls in all efforts.

Please stay safe and if you haven't already done so, get your 'Dr Fauci Ouchies' and vote your conscience in the AAUW National Election by May 17. **You are the GREATEST group of women!**

Joanie Shores
AAUW-KC President

COLLEGE
CORNER

BY STEPHANIE HOLTHAUS, COLLEGE/
UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP CO-CHAIR

WHAT EXACTLY DOES THE
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
(CU) CHAIR DO, ANYWAY?

According to comments from members who attended a recent regional meeting of several states, some branches are unaware of the college/university position and responsibilities. The CU state committee members are presently working on a packet of information to present to Missouri colleges and universities to explain the relationship between local branches and higher institutions in their areas and the benefits to both. Our own Kansas City branch has connections with UMKC, MCC Penn Valley Community College and Kansas City Kansas Community College.

How do these partnerships
with local colleges and
universities work and what
are the benefits?

The Kansas City Branch CU Chair contacts

the college representatives on campuses every Fall to ensure that they will distribute the documents necessary for the Re-Entry Scholarship Program and the National Conference for Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). The Interbranch Council, made up of the KC, Independence, Parkville, and North Kansas City Branches, sponsors the Re-Entry scholarship awards and awards ceremony each Spring. The KC Branch has also provided funds for registration and transportation to College Park, Maryland to attend NCCWSL for several years. (This year because of the pandemic the conference will be virtual.)

The benefits of our relationships with our partner institutions for the students is clear; those that meet the criteria receive scholarships and we hope those students will continue a relationship with AAUW as student members and, eventually, as branch members.

What are the goals of the
statewide and local branch
CU Committees?

The goal of the CU State Committee is to encourage those institutions in Missouri that do not have institutional memberships to become members of AAUW and reap benefits such as free annual memberships for two faculty and/or staff members, provide information for AAUW grants and

fellowships as well as leadership training and professional development for both students and faculty/staff members, specific examples include Start Smart and Work Smart programs developed by AAUW.

The CU Chair at the local branch level should maintain and nurture contacts with the institutional representatives, advocate for those campus programs that advance equity for women and girls on campus. There are several that the Kansas City Branch has participated in over the years including at UMKC Equal Pay Day, Women's Equality Week, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, and the Vagina Monologues. The CU committee and individual branch members have (pre-pandemic) been active in those events as well as Sister Circle events (formerly Women on the Move) at Penn Valley.

This article, it is hoped, makes clearer the scope of responsibilities of the CU Chair for this branch and, also, clarifies the need to expand AAUW's influence to even more college and university campuses across Missouri. Ultimately, the goal is to recruit college women, students, faculty and staff members to become branch members and an advocate for equity for women and girls across the spectrum.

Please email stephanieholthaus2@gmail.com for more information or if you are interested in serving on the CU Committee.



2021 REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY HONORS EIGHT OUTSTANDING WINNERS!

Debra McArthur of the Parkville Branch and IBC Reentry Chair hosted this virtual celebration on **Saturday, April 17**. Debra introduced the keynote speaker **Joni Wickham** (pictured below), chief of staff in former Mayor Sly James' office. Joni is the author of the book, *The Thin Line Between Cupcake/Bitch: Taking Action, Driving Change and Getting Results*.



The title reflects encapsulating the conflict and tensions women in politics often experience in an older, white male dominated world. Her personal experiences inspired her to develop the thesis of the book which is that women should use their POWER to overcome bias vis-a-viz Preparation, Ownership, Wisdom, Energy, Emotion and Respect. She explained in detail with a slide presentation the concept of POWER and ended her presentation by congratulating the Reentry award winners and encouraging them to use their own POWER in the fulfillment of their goals.

Debra introduced the IBC scholarship winners, all of whom are nursing students. They include: **Electra Arzola**, Park University; **Angela Bennet**, Maple Woods; **Adra Sanchez**, Blue River MCC; and **Tomisha Woodruff**, UMKC.

The **Toni Thornton Award** recipients were congratulated by **John Thornton** who explained the background of the award, a legacy provided by his deceased wife whose name honors the award and who figured very prominently in AAUW. The winners are **Argelia Fagre-Rivas**, a student at KCKCC in the respiratory therapy nursing program, and **Emily Holmes**, also a student at KCKCC in the nursing program.

The Reentry scholarships were awarded to two more students this year! The additional funds were provided through the gracious donation of AAUW-KC, due to the disruption in the face-to-face program for 100 High School Girls. The recipients are **Amanda Kuhn** and **Patricia Stover**, both KCKCC students. Amanda is an accounting student and Patricia is enrolled in the medical assistant program.

The program ended on a high note with congratulations to all the outstanding and deserving recipients and a fervent hope by Debra that the awards ceremony can be held in person next year!

MONTHLY SPECIAL-INTEREST GROUPS

ALL EVENTS ARE ONLINE ON ZOOM!

2ND & 4TH FRIDAY "GREAT DECISIONS"

MAY 14 / 10–11 AM

TOPIC: THE COLDEST WAR: TOWARD A RETURN TO GREAT POWER COMPETITION IN THE ARCTIC

MAY 28 / 10–11 AM

TOPIC: GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS

(THIS WILL BE OUR LAST GREAT DECISIONS FOR 2021)

Beginning Friday, June 11 at 10 a.m. we will resume Friday Forum, a freewheeling group discussion of current events and other topics of interest.

Join Great Decisions/Friday Forum: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82194733001?pwd=0GRJdkRUN0didUizUzJVNGhMN2V4QT09>

For more information, contact **Ardy Pearson** at pearson@kc.rr.com or 816-444-6651 or **Joanie Shores** at joaneshores1010@gmail.com or 1-660-200-5809.

3RD THURSDAY "BOOKS & BREWS" / 6–7 PM

Co-sponsored with the Kansas City Public Library, our book club, "Books & Brews" meetings are held via Zoom on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 6–7 p.m. Facilitated by **Jane Hatch** with **Carol Cowles** and **Sue Coy** providing assistance, these virtual meetings are lively as diverse opinions and preferences are shared. Books are selected yearly by membership and member volunteers 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!*

• **MAY 20 / THE WEIGHT OF A PIANO** BY **CHRIS CANDER**

MODERATOR: **PAT MCCURRY**

• **JUN 17 / DEFENDING JACOB** BY **WILLIAM LANDAY**

MODERATOR: **RITA GIENAPP**

• **JUL 15 / THIS TENDER LAND** BY **WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER**

MODERATOR: **SUSAN ABELSON**

Join "Books and Brews" Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81768989160?pwd=eWYrc1IVY2JPZGYvVGdyYzg4UFpudz09>

The May 20 meeting will use a different Zoom link due to our Annual Meeting, contact **Carol Cowles**, carolcowles63@gmail.com / 847-846-3450 for this link or for more information about Books & Brews.

3RD THURSDAY CUISINE CLUB

Lunch get-togethers are postponed till further notice due to COVID-19 restrictions.



WHERE DO WE START WITH DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION?

By Lee Rathbone McCuan, AAUW-KC Public Policy Chair
Corinne Mahaffey, AAUW-KC Secretary, Editor
Sue Shineman, AAUW-MO President

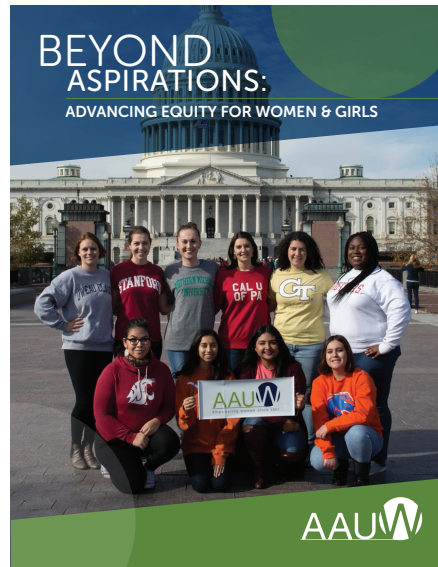
The 2018 AAUW Strategic Plan *Beyond Aspirations: Advancing Equity for Women & Girls* (link 1) was centered around four main areas:

- Education and training
- Economic security
- Leadership and governance
- Stability

This plan was modified in 2020 (link 2) with more emphasis on **STEM** and **racial and gender equity**. To help state and branch level units, critical educational and programmatic resources were prepared as guidelines to help branches address the complex and sensitive issues of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). To assist the branches, a DEI Toolkit was designed to offer a starting point to address these important values and principles. This information is available on the AAUW website located at (link 3).



Since the release of these resources, and with guidance and support from national staff, along with state and branch leadership initiatives, AAUW has made some momentous progress to advance DEI within our organization. Branches have generously shared additional educational resources they have relied on to address diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Despite all that has been achieved nationwide there continues to be major challenges. Those States and branches are taking the lead to move forward on DEI goals and programming and new resources identified by other national and local organizations, including the National Council of Jewish Women, Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice, and many others who have become active partners to design and launch new programming, and because this is a major challenge, DEI research and program evaluation are, and will continue to be, a priority.

We recognize and applaud what has already been achieved by the AAUW

branches nationwide. AAUW-MO is one of only 17 states to have an Inclusion and Equity Committee. Resources will soon be available from branch outreach and collaboration.

For all of us who are wondering where and how to begin, we can start with Step One (link 4) of the national tool



kit. This means we “start the inclusion conversation”. As National points out, “discussion” may sound simple, but emphasizes it is anything but easy. The conversation process requires a sharing of personal experiences, values and contemplating our visions for a better world enhanced by diversity, equity, and inclusion. We exemplify this in our organization by our efforts to reach gender pay equity and inclusion, to achieve all forms of diversity, and to promote the well-being of women and children.

If the AAUW-KC branch decides to engage in the first step, we have numerous resources to guide our initial efforts through the clear, systematic, and challenging guidance of “Having the Conversation”. Having and continuing, the conversation, will help us work towards the goals of our strategic plan.

1. <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/03/2018-AAUW-Strategic-Plan.pdf>
2. <https://www.aauw.org/strategic-plan-2-0/>
3. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>
4. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/difficult-conversations/>

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

