



Bulletin

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From the President-Elect's Desk



Liz Rempel
2022-23 AAUW of Kansas President

Kansas AAUW is at a turning point. We have moved through the survival mode and constant pivoting of the early pandemic into a time where we can lift up our heads and envision a future for ourselves and our organization. What does Kansas AAUW, and each of our branches, have to offer to the women in our communities? April's state conference captured the vibrant energy and sense of possibility that emanates between women who are united in supporting women.

"Vibrant energy" describes the glowing remarks from Dr. Tahmineh Azizi about AAUW's 2021 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Dr. Azizi's experience is a great example of the way AAUW supports and advances women's opportunities. Dr. Azizi is from Iran and came to the U.S. for her Ph.D. She received a Kansas AAUW scholarship to attend NCCWSL last summer.

Dr. Azizi said NCCWSL's focus on women was special. She learned how to identify her value, including for salary negotiation. She said that women do not always have the time to learn specifically about leadership from "other strong leader women. It was a privilege to be there. I met so many incredible women."

Mary Porterfield, an AAUW life member who was honored by Fort Hays State University with their Distinguished Service Award, highlighted that AAUW helped her build leadership skills that she has used throughout her life. A leadership

statement she will never forget is "sometimes leadership opportunities are thrust upon you. You never know what opportunities are going to be provided for you, and if you don't say 'yes,' you don't know where you will be able to go." Is there something you are being called to do right now that is waiting for your 'Yes?'

Finally, and very vibrantly, Regina Platt, Racial Justice and Advocacy Coordinator with the YWCA of Northeast Kansas, presented "See Me Too." I cannot do justice to her message in print, but I have excerpted a few of her remarks which I hope will inspire you, too.

"Your dreams and ambitions still have opportunity to come to fruition. See that the young women and girls who are coming after you on the path that you have laid still have opportunity to be the reflections of the light and love of you. AAUW...women who have been game changers. Educated.... There is nothing broken about you... You are important. You are powerful. Your job is not yet done. There are young women in your community who are waiting for you to grab hold of them... You're not done yet. You're not done yet... There is something in you that you are called to do. Come on!... Change starts with you."

I'll conclude with an invocation from Gloria Blackwell, AAUW's CEO, "that we use our success to maximum advantage... Ultimately, we want to make a better future for all women and girls as a result of our elective work." What are you feeling drawn to do, and how can your state board help empower you? Can we sponsor more girls for summer STEM programs? Can we fund ten women next year to attend NCCWSL (my dream)? Can we rally other women to vote on August 2nd? Most importantly, what ideas do you have, and what are you excited about? To use Regina's words, "let's link arms and grab hold of the women and girls in our communities who are waiting on us."

Liz Rempel, 2022-2023 President, AAUW KS

Still going strong at 100... Manhattan Branch Centennial

By Dede Brokesh, Manhattan Branch

At the 2022 AAUW KS Conference, Manhattan Branch Co-VP for Programs, Dede Brokesh, presented a program about the 100+ year history of the Manhattan branch. Brokesh prepared the presentation based on research by members, Joan Strickler, Nancy Bolsen, and herself. The Branch's 100th anniversary in 2020 coincided with the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment.

Manhattan AAUW began its history in 1920 as a local organization. By 1924, it gained membership in National AAUW with the eligibility of Kansas State Agricultural College (Kansas State University (K-State)), along with other land-grant colleges, into the National Association of Colleges. Early prominent Manhattan Branch members included namesakes for K-State buildings such as Van Zile Hall, Justin Hall, Holtz Hall, Pittman Hall.

From 1924 to about 1955, Manhattan AAUW hosted public cultural, educational, and social events as well as service resources that would not have been available in Manhattan and surrounding communities otherwise. Top level entertainers came from New York theatre such as Ruth Page Ballet and Ruth St. Denis Dancers (Martha Graham's teacher) and well-known speakers such as William Allen White. These events were fundraisers for the branch and allowed the branch to fund scholarships for women to attend K-State.



Photo by N. Bolsen of one of the records of the Manhattan Branch and part of the Riley County Historical Society's collection housed at the Riley County Historical Museum. The Riley County Historical Society owns the collection.

Additional funding came to Manhattan AAUW in the years 1933 to 1943 from the Works Progress Administration to start a nursery-childcare to support working mothers. AAUW also helped pay for meals for the children each day.

Also, in the 1930's, AAUW's educational committee started a rural school library. It provided 15 traveling libraries of 50 books each to the rural schools near Manhattan. The local branch provided the funding.

At one time, AAUW Manhattan had as many as 40 interest groups such as the Literature Group, Play Reading Group, Young Matrons Group, Poetry Group, Radio Group, and Creative Cookery. Cook books were created by the Creative Cookery Group and used as fundraisers. Currently, there are two interest groups, Serendipity and Great Decisions.

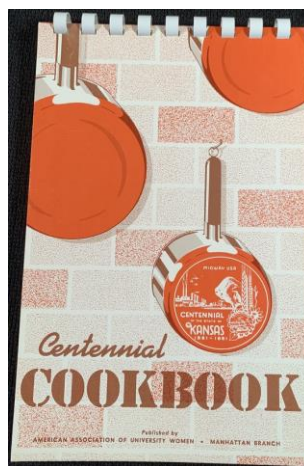


Photo by N. Bolsen of one of the records of the Manhattan Branch of AAUW and part of the Riley County Historical Society's collection housed at the Riley County Historical Museum. The Riley County Historical Society owns the collection.

Throughout the years, the branch has hosted social gatherings such as tea and branch programs in the 1940's and friendship dinners in the 1990's. Friendship dinners brought together members of various women's service clubs in Manhattan.

Membership in the local branch started with 28 charter members and swelled to over 300 members in the 1960's. In 1969, there were 54 branches across Kansas. Now, in 2022, there are five branches in Kansas. Currently, the Manhattan branch has 47 members. Manhattan Branch actively invites prospective members to join.

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Find AAUW news for Kansas at our website -
<https://aauw-ks.aauw.net/>



Kansas Suffragist Memorial Update

Our beloved Kansas Capitol will have a memorial honoring Kansas women winning the right to vote. Thanks to funds remaining from the League of Women Voters (LoWV) Centennial Suffragist celebration and a generous donor there is a fund to kick it off. The leadership of the LoWV asked for volunteers from the Centennial Committee of which I was a member representing AAUW. The other members are from LoWV. The committee found out that before coming up with proposals we would first need the blessing of the Capitol Preservation Committee. Thanks to Jennie Chinn, Chair of that committee, she guided us on the process and steps. Sadly, Jennie suddenly passed away in April. But she did know of the great success thanks to her lead.

Dr. Marlene Merrill of LoWV presented the lead testimony to the Committee with great assistance by Lucille King. It was Senator Elain Bowers who presented to the House Committee on Senate Affairs and Rep. Valdenia Winn on the House side who carried the Bill for passage. Many senators and representatives co-sponsored the bill. The bill passed and was signed by Governor Kelly.

I proudly represented AAUW KS at the Suffrage Memorial Ceremonial Bill signing by Gov. Kelly on May 23.

The added part that made the bill even more acceptable was creating a fund administered by the State Treasurer to hold the funds for the project which makes it much easier for fundraising plus insures it is privately funded. The Suffrage Memorial Committee will now meet with a subcommittee of the Capitol Preservation Committee to develop a plan to request proposals from artists. And also, how we will find additional funds?

Louise Ehmke, Public Policy
Kansas Suffrage Memorial Committee

AAUW KS ANNUAL CONFERENCE Some attendees of the 2022 AAUW Kansas Annual (Virtual) Conference



2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Kansas Star Branches 2021-22

The branches submitted applications that highlighted their activities and efforts in the area of membership growth, AAUW Funds support, projects and events, visibility, and membership communication.

Manhattan
Newton Area

BRANCH RECOGNITION

All Kansas branches were recognized for their contributions to AAUW Funds for calendar year 2021. The total amount given for the year from all sources was \$3,487. This is up from \$2,128 the previous year. The **Shawnee Mission** branch received the award for Highest Overall Giving. The Per Capita Giving recognition was earned by the **Wichita** branch. This award is based on giving per member.

Branches contributing to the Kansas Sunflower Garden were recognized as follows:

Newton Area branch donated in memory of branch members Lois Bartel, Martha Graber, and college representative Jean Butts. **Manhattan** branch donated in memory of branch member Judith Cattell. Wichita branch donated in memory of branch members Mariam LaBaron and Delores Johnson. **Shawnee Mission** branch contributed in memory of branch member Mary Jo Bowman and state member-at-large Gretchen



Morgenstern. Mary Porterfield also contributed in memory of Gretchen Morgenstern.

Thank you for your support of AAUW Funds! These gifts allow AAUW to create and expand our renowned research, mission-based programs, and advocacy initiatives that tackle challenges facing women and girls.

Tresa Landis, AAUW Funds Chair

BRANCH MEMBER RECOGNITION Shawnee Mission

- Dr. Jessica Hellings earned her medical degree in psychiatry in South Africa. She is a 10 year AAUW member. She has served as branch president in both Columbia, Missouri and Shawnee Mission. Currently, she is mentoring two minority medical students from the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Newton

- Lynnette Redington serves as the Harvey County Health Department Director. She manages the county COVID response along with her daily duties. She serves on the AAUW State Board as the Communications and IT. She is responsible for our website, Facebook page, and bulletin.

- Dr. Rachel Epp Buller is a professor of visual arts and design at Bethel College and is at the University of Alberta under her second Fulbright award. Her project, "Slow Practices for Speculative Futures: Embodied Listening through Contemporary Art," explores art forms such as letter writing, embroidery, and walking.

Wichita

- Kathryn Compton is 96 years old and a role model of how to age well. She lives independently and took a plane trip to the East Coast to see family by herself. She has been an AAUW member for 54 years. She has served as treasurer for many years. One of the main reasons that she is a member because of their focus on equal pay.

El Dorado

- Kandy Miller is a retired Butler County Community College math professor. Kandy does a lot of basic preparations for meeting, and communicates with members. She also pick-ups a few members to bring them to the meetings.

- Kristina Haahr has been a great influence with both the El Dorado branch and state president of AAUW. She is enthusiastic and very dedicated to women. At one state meeting she shared her graduate work focusing on women in history including Mary Todd Lincoln.

Manhattan

- Mary Stamley picks out a book to give to the public library that is dedicated to the speaker. The book relates to the speaker's topic. Also, she is chairperson of the Great Decision interest group.
- Dede Brokesh for planning outstanding programs.
- Barbara Gatewood updates the Facebook page.
- Marlene VerBrugge set up the hybrid model so they can have both in person and virtual programs at the same time.

THE SPEAKERS



A highlight of the Spring Conference was speaker **Regina Platt, Racial Justice Coordinator for YWCA of Northeast Kansas.**

Regina stirred and inspired us with her message.

“When you stand connected tangibly to who you are, giants fall; when you stand lovingly as your authentic self, giants fall.”

With her powerful, “Come on, now,” Regina called us to “step in, step up, step out, and step forward,” and ask, “what am I called to do now?”

Embedded in her message was the power of women to love and champion each other, to see the girl, woman, creator, and dreamer in each of us, and to build a path for women and girls coming after us so they may be “reflections of our light and love.” She left us with the challenge, “Your difference makes the difference.”



Scholarship Winner Shares Experience

Submitted by Tresa Landis and Nancy Bolsen, NCCWSL Scholarship Committee



Dr. Tahmineh Azizi received one of the State's scholarships to the virtual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) conference held in May 2021. In addition, she is the recipient of two Manhattan branch K-State scholarships. She graduated from K-State

with her PhD in Applied Mathematics in December 2021 and is currently a post-doc at Florida State University.

Tahmineh is a native of Iran. She earned a Bachelor's of Science in Applied Mathematics from the University of Isfahan, and a Master's of Science in Applied Mathematics Differential Equations and Dynamical Systems from the Isfahan University of Technology.

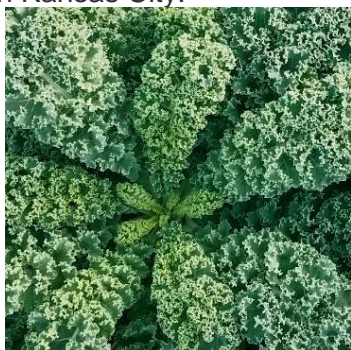
She came to K-State in 2017 as a graduate research assistant with the Institute of Computational Comparative Medicine. Tahmineh's field of study is mathematical modeling with applications in physics, biology, chemistry, and engineering.

NCCWSL is only one of a number of leadership programs in which Tahmineh has participated. She is very active in international student affairs and has held leadership positions in many community service organizations. She is aware of the unique challenges that women leaders face and seeks out strategies and behaviors to overcome them.

She expressed great appreciation for the opportunity to attend NCCWSL, connect with other participants in the workshops, and hear from the renowned speakers including the

keynote, Dr. Brittney Cooper. In her hectic daily life of a research scientist, NCCWSL afforded her the opportunity to set her research aside to fully focus and reflect on the content that was presented.

Tahmineh is very dynamic and multi-faceted as evidenced by this artwork that she created entitled "Branching Structures." It was donated to Science2Art, which is a platform for regional scientists to display and describe their research through the visual arts. Her piece (below) raised \$1,040 which will be donated to STEAM education in Kansas City.



We delight in supporting Tahmineh and look forward to following her career.



NEED A GIFT FOR A FRIEND?

How about an AAUW membership?
Go to...

<https://www.aauw.org/membership/>

Welcome to the AAUW KS BOARD LINDA BALL



Linda serves as an Assistant Lecturer of Business at Bethany College. Her focus is on Leadership. She received a BA in

Chemistry and Mathematics Education from Bethany College and finish her Physics degree at Washburn University. Her MA is in Leadership from Bellevue University. She is the new AAUW of KS College/University Partnership representative.



Photo by E. Brokesh at Manhattan St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 19, 2022

Manhattan Branch Centennial

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In the 1930's, instead of direct scholarships, AAUW had a Graduate Student Loan Fund. Women could apply, receive the loan, then later pay it back. This program helped AAUW maintain its funding resources during the Depression.

Today, the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation manages AAUW scholarship funds. AAUW Manhattan offers (1) \$1,500 and (3) \$1,000 scholarships to K-State women's students and (2) middle-school girl STEM camp scholarships.

Currently, Manhattan Branch partners with the League of Women Voters of Manhattan to celebrate and promote voting. Also, the branch hosts its signature event, International Women's Day Panel. Each year, four women, living in Manhattan and having origins outside of the US, share their unique perspectives on women's issues.

With its history as a foundation and today's commitment to supporting women and girls, Manhattan AAUW is ready for the next century!

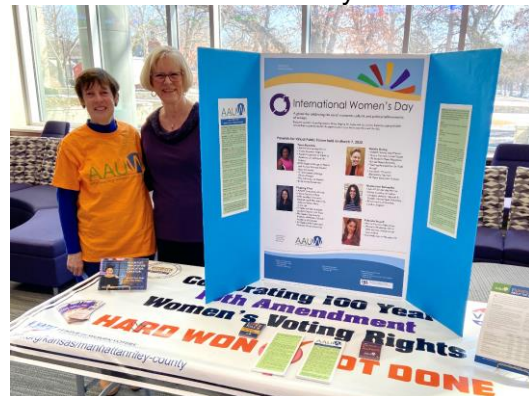


Photo by others at KSU outreach event & membership drive-----



Kristina Haahr
2021-22 AAUW Kansas
President

PARTING WORDS

Another year is in the books. We had an amazing state conference via Zoom, and that means that even if you couldn't attend it live, you can catch a replay and see what we are all (still) buzzing about! What great speakers from the first to the last, and it was so nice to hear from all of the branches and to celebrate with Manhattan as they clock in over 100 years of AAUW. We have some pretty amazing women in our circle, and I was so excited to recognize and celebrate all of you.

I was tempted to say we had a great conference "even though" it was on Zoom. Because to get real with you, I'm so ready to shake things up and meet in person once in a while. This is my last little bit as your president and I miss the camaraderie of being in the same space! I wanted us to be in the same room, to take it all in. We followed National's instructions and kept it virtual this year, but I do not anticipate virtual conferences to be our norm. Right now, Kansas AAUW is planning to meet in real life for our spring conference 2023 and I am so excited.

We've been told that COVID isn't going anywhere. But neither is AAUW! So, enjoy your summer and then let's get back to business, with new branch and state officers to carry us through the next phase of AAUW. I want to encourage each of you to reach out and invite a friend to join you at a branch meeting this year. If you love being a part of this organization, then assume they will love it too. What a great gift to share with your neighbor or a work friend. And if you're not in a branch, let's talk about ways you can continue to be involved with AAUW.

Thank you, again, for allowing me the greatest honor of being your state president. It's an opportunity I will never forget.

AAUW Action Fund Mission

The AAUW Action Fund advances equity for women and girls through member activism and voter mobilization.

Since 1881, AAUW has been the nation's leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls.

The AAUW Action Fund was established July 1, 2009, following a strategic restructuring of AAUW, the AAUW Educational Foundation, and the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute. The AAUW Action Fund supports AAUW's continuing goal of breaking through barriers for women and girls, and it does so through member activism and voter mobilization. Both organizations have a nationwide network of nearly 100,000 members, 1,000 branches, and 600 college/university institution partners.

AAUW Action Fund
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connect@aauw.org

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a 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.



May 2022 Bulletin

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

Stay on top of AAUW Public Policy issues by subscribing to the AAUW Action Network.
<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

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