



Bulletin

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From the President's Desk



Linda Ball
2024-2025 AAUW of Kansas President

I'm dedicating my Bulletin article to the upcoming AAUW KS Town Hall. Be sure to register to join us virtually on **Saturday, April 26 at 9:00AM**. Here's all the scoop.

Linda Ball, 2024-2025 President, AAUW KS

SAVE THE DATE AND REGISTER

AAUW KS VIRTUAL TOWN HALL: *Connect and Engage – Dialogue for Change*

Date: Saturday, April 26th

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Format: Town Hall via Zoom

Purpose: A virtual assembly of women who make up AAUW of Kansas to discuss current issue and resources to get involved.

Registration: Registration is free. **Email** lindas.ball@gmail.com **by Wednesday, April 23rd** if you plan to attend so you can receive a Zoom Link the event.

Schedule:

- Welcome & Introductions
- Business Meeting
- Anchor Talk to Frame Group Interactions
- Rotating Sessions with Facilitators

○ Session 1: *Children & Families in Kansas*

Facilitator: Andrea Ring

Description: Andrea is a Professor of Psychology and Licensed Clinical Psychotherapist. She will be facilitating a discussion about current concerns related to children and families in Kansas. Topics may include increased cost of living, lack of access to affordable childcare, defunding public education, restrictions on gender-affirming care, gun violence, and food insecurity.

○ Session 2: *Women's Health*

Facilitator: TBA

Description: This session will focus on the intersection of socioeconomic status and access to care. How does AAUW's mission of gender equity speak to women's health? The facilitator for this session TBA.

○ Session 3: *Agriculture Issues – Kansas & Beyond*

Facilitator: Louise Ehmke / Linda Ball

Description: Louise is co-owner of Ehmke Seed and a farm woman in Western Kansas. Linda is a Professor of Business and is a life-long rural Kansan. This session will focus on issues that affect not only Agriculture in Kansas, but the implications around the world. Areas of interest include but are not limited to the dismantling of USAID and the USDA as well as the implementation of tariffs imposed by the United States and against the United States with a focus on how these issues affect women, children and families in Kansas and around the world.

○ **Session 4: What Are You Reading?**

Facilitator: Rachel Finnell

Description: Rachel is a Professor of Political Science. This session will focus on what participants are reading to educate themselves on the vital and often dividing issues we are facing as a country and around the world. Discussion may include books, reliable news sources, media, and beyond.

- Wrap-Up and Adjournment



PHOTO GALLERY

REBEL WOMEN MURAL REVEAL

January 29, 2025

Phyllis J. (Pease) Garibay-Coon created the Kansas Suffragist Memorial “Rebel Women” that will live in the Kansas Capitol. On Wednesday, January 29, 2025, the dedication and unveiling of the piece of art was marked with words from Phyllis and Governor Kelly. Here's a few pictures that captured the day.

Look at the Facebook page of *Kansas Suffragist Memorial* to relive the process and final product from the artist's view.



Phyllis Garibay-Coon, artist, (left) watches as Gov. Kelly signs the back of the painting *Rebel Women*.



Here's the mural covered with the flag representing Women's Right to Vote.



Our AAUW KS representative on the KS Suffragist Memorial Committee, Louise Ehmke, proudly wearing the colors and sash.



Members of the KS Suffragist Memorial Committee: Dr. Jeanne Klein, Cille King, Dr. Marlene Merrill, Louise Ehmke, and Sara Funk.



Cake celebrating the KS Suffragist Memorial.



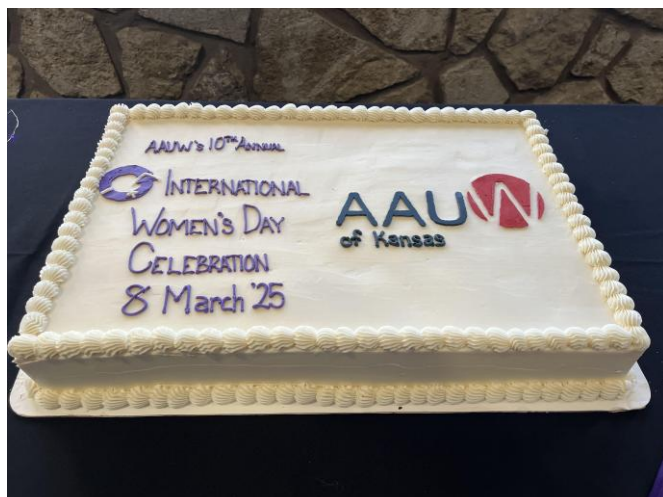
Final framed painting of *Rebel Women*.

AAUW NATIONAL DUES INCREASE

On April 1, 2025, individual member dues will be \$74. On April 1, 2026, dues will change to \$76.

AAUW CALENDAR 2025

- June 23 Title IX Anniversary
- June 30 2025-2026 Officer updates due to National
- July 1 NEW AAUW YEAR BEGINS 2025-2026
- July 2 Civil Rights Act 61th Anniversary
- July 9 Black Women's Equal Pay Day
- August 26 Women's Equality Day
- September 24 National Voter Registration Day



International Women's Day Celebration in Manhattan

March 8, 2025, marked the 10th Anniversary of AAUW of Manhattan's observance of International Women's Day. This year's theme was "Celebrate Achievements – Address Challenges – Accelerate Action." The meeting room was beautifully decorated, setting the stage for this special occasion. The organizing committee had prepared large poster displays with pictures and descriptions of each previous year's event. The evening began with a social hour and dinner, followed by the panel presentations.

Each year the Manhattan branch invites a panel of women from diverse cultures, backgrounds, countries, and professions to talk about the challenges they have faced and the successes they have had. Their stories are inspiring, moving, sometimes heart-wrenching, and speak of their courage and the importance of moral and professional support from organizations like AAUW. This year, the panelists were women from Kansas with unique stories to share about their work, their challenges, their hopes, and goals for the future. On the panel were former Kansas State Senator Lana Oleen; Dr. Chardie Baird, Director, K-State Office for the Advancement of Women in Science and Engineering; Sheila Ellis-Glasper, CEO Black Entrepreneurs of the Flint Hills; and Paige Vulgamore, President, K-State Student Governing Association. One of the issues addressed by several panelists was the order from the White House to purge all references to "DEI" in schools, colleges, and every governmental agency. Dr Baird spoke of sexism in higher education in the matter of granting full professorship. Miss Vulgamore noted the importance

of mentoring and supporting young women in leadership opportunities. Senator Oleen talked about the importance of overcoming the current state of polarization and hyper-partisanship and using the power of the vote. She encouraged the audience to "think in circles, not lines." The presentations culminated in a challenge to move into the current environment, make our voices heard, and enlarge the circle of like-minded people to effect change.

Here is a link to the panel presentation.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/164T2eEktv/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Donna Becker,
Vice President of Programs, AAUW KS



NCCWSL Update from National

Source:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/events/nccwsl/>.

AAUW was home to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) for 39 years. Starting in 2025, NCCWSL will move to our trusted friends at NASPA, the professional home for student affairs administrators in higher education. Please visit their NCCWSL page for the most up-to-date information on NCCWSL 2025. A form is also available on that page to receive alerts on NCCWSL.

AAUW will have a presence at the conference as a speaker, exhibitor, presenter and promotional supporter. However, NASPA will be responsible for the planning and execution of the conference moving forward.

Thank you for your support of NCCWSL and our country's next generation of women leaders!

Please visit NASPA's NCCWSL website for the most up-to-date information at this link:

<https://naspa.org/events/nccwsl>.



WOMEN WHO INSPIRE

A few AAUW KS Board members shared about a woman who inspired them, so you can enjoy their stories and remember your own inspirational woman.



Carol Wolfe Konek

Carol Wolfe Konek, PhD (1934 – 2019) continues to hold my attention and affection. Carol was the co-founder, along with Dorothy Walters, PhD, of the Women's Studies Department at Wichita State University. Founded in 1972, it remains the second oldest women's studies department in the U.S.

I began college in 1979 at the age of 31. My children were 3 and 5. My children's father was very encouraging and supportive of my educational pursuits. However, he was appropriately very involved with his own developing career opportunities while I, a first-generation college student, found my way into and through academia. Carol recognized the challenges that faced students with families, jobs, and community responsibilities. She, as Associate Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, encouraged class schedules that met the needs of "non"-traditional students.

Carol taught and lived her convictions related to gender equity, liberatory education, and social justice. She exhibited graceful and generous confidence. Her wry sense of humor and ability to truly listen enhanced the learning and compassion of all who

knew her. She absolutely stood up and spoke up with resolute intelligence when she saw unfair practices and policies.

As soon as I completed a master's degree (1983), she invited me to teach for the Women's Studies Department. She presented this invitation without any qualms about my complete lack of experience. Her confidence enveloped me and she sent me on my way out into the world.

Marjean Harris, Secretary, AAUW KS

If you were to ask someone what they remember about my Grandma, they might mention her delicious chocolate cookies and cinnamon rolls, her deep commitment to the Catholic Church, her love of rouge and hairspray, her hugs or her less-than-stellar driving skills. But what I cherished most about her was she was never afraid to say what was on her mind. Some people, including my mother, thought she was too blunt, a little uncouth. Growing up on a farm in Illinois, losing her mother at a young age, and being raised primarily by her father, my grandma didn't conform to what was expected of women in her generation. My mom believed that women should always be polite and non-confrontational. I disagreed. Witnessing my grandma challenge those norms inspired me to express my thoughts and advocate for myself.

My grandma passed away when I was 29, and I miss her tremendously. Every time I speak frankly and my mom remarks that "I'm just like Laura," it's a reminder of her legacy. I welcome it as a compliment.

**Andrea Ring, Vice President of Membership,
AAUW KS**



Laura Ring



Juliana Alewoh Mbah

My mother, Juliana Alewoh Mbah, is the epitome of inspiration; a woman whose love and care know no limits. She is not only a mother, but a powerful role model, teaching me the true essence of strength through her resilience, grace, and unshakable faith in God.

Growing up in a community where the value of a 'girl child' was often overlooked, and where opportunities for girls were limited, my mom, with four daughters and a son, made a resolute decision that her girls would defy the odds and achieve greatness. She ensured that we would not be confined to traditional gender roles, as is often the case for many African girls, and instead, she empowered us to become the best versions of ourselves. Her unwavering support and nurturing spirit have created a safe, loving environment for us all, making us feel valued and cherished.

At 54, she returned to school to earn her degree, becoming the oldest student at her institution, a testament to her relentless pursuit of growth and self-improvement. Her ability to overcome life's challenges with such poise and determination is nothing short of inspiring. She retired as one of the most esteemed sound engineers at Cameroon Radio and Television (CRTV), the government-run radio and television service in Cameroon.

She is the heart of our family, always putting others first, radiating kindness, and demonstrating compassion in all that she does. It is her strength,

selflessness, warmth, and wisdom that continues to motivate me every day to push forward and strive for excellence.

Ruth Mbah, Ph.D., Treasurer, AAUW KS



There are many women who inspired me, but I will honor my college Forensics teacher, Mrs. Ada Mae Haury. As a first-year student, I enrolled in the forensics and speech program, hoping to build on the public speaking skills I had developed in high school and 4-H. Mrs. Haury determined that I had potential she could work with, and I soon developed a personal connection with her. Under her guidance and constructive criticism, I wrote and performed prose and poetry interpretations and original orations, competing in state and national competitions. More important was her genuine interest in me, her kindness and warmth, and the affirmation I continued to receive from her throughout her life.

The impact of a mentor who believes in you, genuinely cares for you, and brings out the best in you can be life-changing. Mrs. Haury, I will never forget you and the influence you had on me; you helped me become the person I am today.

Donna Becker, Vice President of Programs, AAUW KS





RESOURCES from AAUW National

AAUW Advocacy Strategies for In-District Meetings April 8 | 7:00 p.m. ET

Face-to-face advocacy can drive real change. This session will guide members on how to set up in-district meetings with members of Congress, maximize town hall participation, and effectively use key talking points during the upcoming April congressional recess. Learn how to make your voice heard. [Register Here](#)

Funding Futures: Understanding Changes to Sex and Gender-Based Scholarship Programs April 15 | 7:00 p.m. ET

Navigating legal changes to sex-based scholarships can be complex. This interactive session will provide information to AAUW branches on funding scholarships amid evolving regulations while staying true to our mission of advancing education for women and girls. Space is limited. [Register Here](#)

Does **What Every Woman Should Know About Social Security** sound interesting? This and other AAUW webinar recordings are available for free! Kick back and catch up on recordings of expert-led discussions on key topics that impact economic security, education equity, and public policy advocacy.

Featured: Table Talks: [Tips for Bold Conversations](#) and the [Winter Member Gathering!](#)

Live Webinar Trainings for College/University and Individual Members!

Check out the [2025 Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative \(WEEI\) Webinar schedule](#) for College/University member students, staff, faculty and now, all AAUW members. Register and take advantage of these free live training courses today!

Community Hub Spotlight: How to Register for Upcoming Webinars

On the AAUW website: From your **Personal Snapshot** page, click **Event Calendar** at the top right of the page. You can search or simply scroll down to see upcoming events. Click **View** by the event name to see details and to register.

So What is ChatGPT?



Image by ChatGPT

With all the talk about artificial intelligence (AI) and the use of 'ChatGPT', I decided to let it write an article for me to tell us what it is...here's the result.

ChatGPT is an advanced language model developed by OpenAI, designed to engage in human-like conversations. Built on the GPT-4 architecture, it uses machine learning to process and generate text based on the input it receives. By analyzing vast amounts of data from books, websites, and other sources, ChatGPT can understand and respond to a wide variety of topics, ranging from casual chats to more technical discussions. Its versatility makes it useful for a variety of tasks, including answering questions, drafting emails, offering suggestions, and even creating content.

What sets ChatGPT apart is its ability to generate contextually relevant and coherent responses, making interactions feel natural and intuitive. It can adapt its tone and style to match different conversations, from formal business communication to casual banter. Despite its capabilities, it operates within limitations, such as sometimes offering responses that lack up-to-date information or occasionally misunderstanding nuanced requests. Nevertheless, ChatGPT represents a significant step forward in the development of artificial intelligence and is widely used in applications ranging from customer support to education and entertainment.

So, with that presented, there are a number of discussions about the use of this technology in our classrooms; high school and college/university studies. I'll let that sit with us for now and plan a second article in our next Bulletin. Perhaps you'll wish to delve into this yourself.

Lynnette Redington, Communications, AAUW KS



TWO MINUTE ACTIVIST

Are you receiving AAUW's Two-Minute Activist emails? Sign up to send emails and texts to legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education, and more. Get alerts to take timely action on the issues that count!

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Don't forget...

...to talk to those young women graduating college or other schools about speaking up for equal pay and understanding their finances.

AAUW National has the *Smart Start Salary Negotiation* and *Financial Literacy* resources at the link below. Take a look and a few notes, then share with other women in your life.



[Get Empowered – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

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.

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VoterEd@aauw.org



April 2025 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/>

AAUW of Kansas:

website - <http://aauw-ks.aauw.net/>

email - aauwks@gmail.com

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