

The Kentucky Agate

The Kentucky Agate is known for its hardness and resistance to acids and weathering as well as its fineness of grain and brightness of color. As such, it represents the grit and determination we bring forth to create Equity in Kentucky.



A message from Gae Broadwater, AAUW State President:

Greetings to AAUW Kentucky members and friends. With so many pressing issues affecting women these days, it can be difficult to keep current. I hope your branch has a public policy officer. We did have a victory in the November election--public education was resoundingly supported by Kentucky voters. But that does not mean it is safe. Both public education and women's health care continue to be scrutinized by Kentucky legislators.

You can follow their activities at the LRC's (Legislative Research Center) website:

<https://legislature.ky.gov/LRC> You can track bills, communicate with your state representatives and senators, research current laws, tap educational resources, and much more.

The Kentucky Legislature convenes January 7, 2025, and you can follow their schedules and calendar at the [legislative site](#).

All committee meetings are also live-streamed for viewing online. Visit the [Live Stream](#) page for more information.

If your branch produces a newsletter, please include me in your e-mail distribution. I want to hear from each of you and share your successes.

Speaking of success -- please be sure to read the article in this newsletter from the Bluegrass Central branch. I am proud of my home branch as I am all of you. Many of you have Facebook pages and I hope you are keeping those updated, along with your webpage. Potential members do use these online tools to search for us.

Sometimes the challenges facing us can seem overwhelming. That is why AAUW is important to me. It connects me to each of you who care about many of the same issues that are important to me. Over my 35 years in AAUW, I have seen how the expression, "grow where you are planted," can and does make a difference in the lives of so many.

Wishing you peace and joy as we celebrate in all the ways that mark the end of the year and begin a new one. As we enter the winter season, let's lift our spirits by sharing our own lights! AAUW shines bright when we do.

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Quick Stats



36 members

8 counties

Fields: Medical, STEM,
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF BLUEGRASS CENTRAL BRANCH

Branch Spotlight - Bluegrass Central

By: Stephanie Cason and Jana Cuddy

The Bluegrass Central (BGC) Branch was established in 2003 by founding members Gae Broadwater, Nancy Dicken, Annabel Girard, and Sara Porter. Gae and Nancy remain active Life Members. Sara and Annabel are no longer with us, and are missed. In honor of Sara, the BGC Foundation supports the Sara Porter Educational Scholarship Fund for women seeking to improve their lives with a college degree and focuses on returning, non-traditional, and minority students. Anne Hackett is chair of the committee overseeing this important mission.

Having close-proximity to Frankfort and several members who are former state employees, gives BGC a unique opportunity to be more involved in voicing women's concerns and issues at the KY Capitol. Women's rights events in Frankfort are often promoted and attended by BGC and members are encouraged to contact their state legislators as individual citizens on bills they feel passionate about. Twelve members helped with the "Get Out the Vote" campaign and hand-written, non-partisan messages were sent out on 200 postcards to remind people to vote.

BGC Foundation is currently working to establish a pilot teacher award program which provides a one-time \$500 grant to a public school teacher focused on arts education within our chapter's district. Priority will be given to teachers at schools in high poverty areas and rural settings.

If you would like to know more about the BGC, we can be reached at our website <https://bluegrass-ky.aauw.net>. You may also follow BGC on our Facebook page [AAUW-KY Bluegrass Central](#). If any or all-of the activities we participate in are of interest, then we invite you to join us! We are always happy to meet new people with the same visions and aspirations towards a better future for WOMANKIND!

Events & Happenings with the Bluegrass Central Branch

- The **"Circle of Giving"** program encourages monthly, quarterly, or annual donations. This year's circle levels are named in honor of the American Women Quarters Program of the U.S. Mint. Pauline Van Horn chairs the Fund-Raising Committee, which supports scholarship and annual operating expenses.
- BGC hosts a **"Meet and Greet"** event in mid-September for potential new members. Sharon Marcum, serves as Membership Chair. She and committee members supply newcomers with an AAUW informational folder explaining AAUW's mission statement and goals. BGC also offers a first-year reduced cost on membership that evening. This event is catered and well-attended.
- **Monthly branch meetings** (including a light meal, speaker, and chapter meeting) are on the third Thursday at the Woodford County Library in Versailles, KY. Past speakers discussed women's issues, STEM, public policy, and environmental concerns. Lisa Johnson is the chair for the Speaker Program. BGC also donates to the library and helps support the **Kentucky Reads** event in June.
- The **monthly book club** meets every fourth Monday at at the Woodford County Library. Chairperson Reda Bianchi, leads a lively discussion with book selections featuring non-fiction, KY authors, and popular fiction novels. Members often lunch after at a downtown Versailles restaurant.
- BGC **"Lunch Bunch"** takes place the first Monday of every month. The chair, Sandi Whitaker, reserves a table for 8 to 12+ members to enjoy fellowship and a meal. Lunch gatherings occur at various towns in the Bluegrass Region, and we try to focus on locally owned restaurants.

Get Students Involved in AAUW for Free

Is your school an AAUW College/University Member Campus?

If so, students can join or renew their membership to the AAUW for free using the coupon code **CUSudentFY25**.

If not, the benefits of becoming an AAUW College/University Member Campus are significant. With membership, students, faculty, and staff gain access to virtual trainings on salary negotiation, financial literacy, and voter education, and become part of a network of community activists. Membership also includes free student memberships to help them start their career journeys. Encourage your own institution and others to join today.

To get started visit the [Leader Resources and Tools](#) page to access the **College/University Member Toolkit**. This resource aims to help branches promote and engage with prospective and current campuses in their communities and includes instructions on how to join or renew student memberships, ready-to-print brochures and flyers for students, faculty, and staff to make attracting new members easy and stress free.

AAUW Donations & Needs

When you donate to AAUW's national fundraising, you can designate your gift to one of these **five funds**:

- **Greatest Need Fund (9110)** allows the AAUW to put the funds to work in spaces with emerging challenges and opportunities.
- **Education & Training Fund (4450)** focuses on equal access to education as well as eliminating harassment and discrimination from schools.
- **Leadership Fund (4452)** addresses systematic biases preventing women in leadership as well as skills and training for future leaders.
- **Economic Security Fund (4449)** works toward fair-pay legislation, salary negotiation training, and pay equity research.
- **Governance & Sustainability (4451)** supports the AAUW to function administratively and sustain member databases and web systems.



AAUW Public Policy Priorities

The public policy priorities of AAUW underscore the mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy, and include:

- Equitable access to education including and climates free of harassment, bullying, and sexual assault.
- Economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons.
- The right to privacy and freedom from violence.
- An end to white supremacy and structural and systemic racism.
- National and international policies against human trafficking and that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people.

For more information on AAUW's public policy priorities visit their [extended policy descriptions](#).

Contact Your Congressional Legislators

U.S. Senate

Sen. Mitch McConnell 202-224-2541 - Washington
502-582-6304 - Louisville
859-224-8286 - Lexington
859-578-0188 - Fort Wright
606-864-2026 - London
270-781-1673 - Bowling Green
270-442-4554 - Paducah

[Contact Sen. Mitch McConnell](#)

Sen. Rand Paul 202-224-4343 - Washington D.C.
270-782-8303 - Bowling Green
(all other offices closed)

[Contact Sen. Rand Paul](#)

U.S. House

Rep. James Comer, 1st District (202) 225-3115 - Washington D.C.
(270) 487-9509 - Madisonville
(270) 408-1865 - Paducah
(270) 487-9509 - Tompkinsville
or [Contact Online](#)

Rep. Thomas Massie, 4th District (202) 225-3465 - Washington D.C.
(606) 324-9898 - Ashland
(502) 265-9119 - LaGrange
(859) 426-0080 - Northern KY
or [Contact Online](#)

Rep. Brett Guthrie, 2nd District (202) 225-3501 - Washington D.C.
(270) 842-9896 - Bowling Green
or [Contact Online](#)

Rep. Hal Rogers, 5th District (202) 225-4601 - Washington D.C.
(606) 679-8346 - Somerset
(606) 886-0844 - Prestonsburg
(606) 439-0794 - Hazard
or [Contact Online](#)

Rep. Morgan McGarvey, 3rd District (202) 225-5401 - Washington D.C.
(502) 582-5129 - Louisville
or [Contact Online](#)

Rep. Andy Barr, 6th District (202) 225-4706 - Washington D.C.
(859) 219-1366 - Lexington
or [Contact Online](#)

Take Action: Become a Two-Minute Activist

There are many ways your branch members can encourage involvement in improving and expanding legislation protecting access to issues of equity in your community:

- **[Become a Two Minute Activist:](#)**
 - Visit the [AAUW website](#) to access pre-scripted messages to Congress and state legislatures on issues such Title IX, Gender Equity in Education Act, Paycheck Fairness Act, FAMILY Act, Federal Minimum Wage, Equal Rights Amendment, Reproductive Rights, and Voting Rights.
 - Organize an [Issue Forum](#) to bring up important issues to your legislatures
 - Write [Letters to the Editor and Op-Ed Articles](#) to bring issues important to the AAUW to the attention of your community!
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AAUW Leadership In Kentucky

Kentucky Branch Presidents 2024-2025

Ashland Area	Patricia Hall
Berea	Jackie Burnside
Bluegrass Central	Stephanie Cason
Louisville	Kathy Matheny
Maysville	Sue Ellen Grannis
Owensboro	Mary Cupp

Kentucky State Board 2024-2025

President	Gae Broadwater (Bluegrass Central)
Vice President	Open
Treasurer	Robinil Jameson (Bluegrass Central)
Secretary	Teena Halbig (Louisville)
Website Manager	Randolph Hollingsworth (Bluegrass Central)
Bylaws	Sharon Marcum (Bluegrass Central)
Newsletter Editor	Laura Seroka (Berea)
College University Rep.	Jamieca Jones (U of L)
Public Policy/Historian	Gae Broadwater (Bluegrass Central)

EVENTS & REMINDERS

- **Join us for Office Hours -**
Attending our virtual office hours is a great way to address questions you may have in your role as member leader.
 - [Tuesdays, 3 p.m. EDT](#)
 - [Thursday, 3:30 p.m. EDT](#)
- The next Kentucky State Board Meeting is Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. EST. All are invited to attend.
[Join us via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 823 488 2471
Passcode 782954

Keep us in the know:

If your branch has news they would like featured in the next newsletter, please [Submit News](#) or reach out to Laura Seroka, Newsletter Editor, at SerokaL@berea.edu.

Stay in Touch

