



Shirley and Pat
Co- Presidents

Wilzetta
Program Vice President

Gwen
Membership Vice-President

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Pat, Editor

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

There will not be a board meeting in December.

NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING

The November branch meeting was canceled due to inclement weather. Brrrrr!

DECEMBER HOLIDAY CELEBRATION, December 14, 2-4 pm.

Fran's lovely home nestled in the woods will be the site of Ferguson-Florissant's Annual Holiday Celebration this year. We hope everyone comes to celebrate the season and wish each other Happy Holidays.

Entertainment will be provided by characters performing scenes and songs from the fairy tale *Frozen*. This performance centers around the power of girls/women to accomplish as well as or better than their male counterparts. Be sure to check out the synopsis of *Frozen* included with this newsletter as a flyer (postal mail) or pdf (e-mail version) before the celebration if you are not familiar with the story line.

Holiday desserts and appetizers will help us get in the holiday mood. Please bring your favorite to share with your friends; finger foods are preferred.

The reception will be from 2:00 to 4:00. For information, contact Pat, Shirley or Carolyn.

Good friends, good entertainment, good food!

PRESIDENTS' LETTER from Shirley and Pat

The Ferguson Florissant Branch of AAUW recently celebrated 50 years of service to women and girls in the Ferguson, Florissant, and North County area. For decades, we have met in various churches in Ferguson. The branch board and smaller committees often meet at the Corner Coffee House in Ferguson. Several of our most loyal and active members are long-time residents of Ferguson. Our quest for new members of the branch has resulted in several women who joined over the past couple of years, including African-American women who enhance our diversity. In short, we are firmly committed to Ferguson.

Our projects match the national AAUW priorities and missions. Some have been ongoing, others are new. All have become more important in the aftermath of the shooting of Michael Brown and the continuing needs of the entire community. Once again, we participated in Get Out the Vote, registering new voters and assisting existing voters to update their information with the Board of Election Commissioners in advance of the November 4 election. Our STEM project for the last 2 years has been working with member Toni of PAKT to mentor a girls' Robotics team at Duchesne Elementary School in the Ferguson-Florissant School District. This summer, the same group of our members worked with a summer camp at Duchesne on both robotics and reading tutoring. We are about to begin working with OASIS to add reading tutoring at Duchesne. Any interested member, regardless of whether or not she has worked with robotics, should contact Pat or Toni. Member Mary Ellen has done OASIS tutoring at Vogt School in Ferguson for years and speaks highly of how fulfilling she finds it.

Several members attended the recent PAKT prayer breakfast, which focused on the spiritual needs of the Ferguson community.

We are steadfast in our commitment to help Ferguson and North County heal in the months ahead by working to improve educational opportunities for all young people, especially girls.

PAKT SUPER SATURDAY ROBOTICS EXTRAVAGANZA



PAKT Director and Branch Member Toni



Robotics team members at STEM Extravaganza from the Ferguson-Florissant School District

On Saturday, November 15, PAKT (Community Resource Center) Robotics team members from the Ferguson-Florissant School District met at Duchesne Elementary School. Students from Walnut Grove and Duchesne displayed their work and shared with each other. The coach is Mr. Chu; Branch members mentor the team at Duchesne. They are Lillian, Carolyn, Pat, Lovene, Myra, and Martha.

Robotics will meet twice more in December and resume in January. Mentors will also attend a training for OASIS reading tutors at Walnut Grove School on Tuesday, Dec. 9 from 2-4 pm. **Any member wishing to participate in reading or robotics should contact Carolyn, STEM Co-Chair.**

PUBLIC POLICY REPORT by Shirley

The elections are over; there is a bit of good news from the general distress. For the first time in history, there are 100 women in Congress, 80 in the House and 20 in the Senate. It is a long way from parity, but it is a start. Remember our motto is "50/50 by 2020."

In other positive election news, there were a number of progressive referenda passed in several

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states, including raising the minimum wage (AK, AR, IL*, NE, SD). In MO two terrible Constitutional amendments were defeated, Amendment 3 (Teacher Evaluation) and Amendment 6 (Early Voting). (*non-binding). Voters said no to personhood measures in ND and CO. OR passed a state Equal Rights Amendment.

In early reports, a smaller percentage of women voted than usual, especially among young women and minority women.

Several of our progressive Missouri women office holders won: Margo McNeil, Jeanne Kirkton, Mary Nichols, Sue Merideth, Gina Mitton, Genise Monticello, Michelle Kratky, and Penny Hubbard. Lauren Arthur was elected from District 18. Deb Lavendar won her house seat on the third try. Tracy McCreery was re-elected to the House after an absence of one term. And incumbents Stacey Newman, Rochelle Walton Gray, Karla May, Bonnaye Mims, Sharon Pace, Gail McCann Beatty and Kimberly Gardner were unopposed.

In the Senate, Jill Schupp won her race against a well-funded Republican named John Ashcroft and Maria Chappelle-Nadal won reelection.

Republicans elected 5 new women to the House. In a tentative count of the 2015 Missouri Legislature, there are 24 Republican women and 18 democratic women in the House. There will be 5 women in the Senate, 4 Democrats and 1 Republican. In a strange turn of events, Linda Black (D117) ran as a Democrat and then after the election immediately switched parties.

Nationally, the Democrats lost the Senate. One seat (LA) is still in contention; however, it looks as if the count will be 53 Republican, 46 Democratic. In the House, there are 244 Republicans and 186 Democrats with five races still undecided.

Shirley and Mary

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF) by Elaine

Money is needed to complete the Elaine Richardson Fund #4037.

Toni has donated the use of her home at Buena Vista, Arkansas, for a 4-day, 3-night stay in the beautiful golf community. It is close to the Crystal Bridges Art Gallery.

For each \$20 you donate to the Elaine Richardson Fund (#4037) you will have one ticket entered in the raffle drawing. If you donate \$100, you will have eight tickets entered. The drawing will be held at the state meeting in May.

If you want to enter the raffle, please send you check to Elaine along with your phone number and e-mail address. Elaine has the forms to send in with your check and will send the materials to Ardy.

Make your check payable to AAUW Funds, and put Fund #4037 on the memo line of the check. Elaine needs the checks by December 31.

Note: There is an article about completing LAF Funds in the Fall edition of **Missouri in Motion** that you recently received.

WOMEN'S ISSUES LEGISLATIVE RETREAT

The legislative retreat, "*The State of Politics for Women in Missouri*" will take place Saturday, January 10, 2015 from 9:00 am until 2:30 pm at the Hy-Vee Grocery Conference Room.

The agenda will include a review of the 2014 MO Legislative Session and a preview of the 2015 Session. The 2014 mid-term national and state elections will be analyzed. Legislative priorities for the upcoming session will be determined.

For those wishing to travel to Columbia the night before, the Stony Creek Inn is nearby
To receive for information, email Shirley or Mary.

GIFT WRAPPING

Several members have signed up to staff the gift wrapping table at Barnes & Noble in Ladue. Our dates are December 4 and December 24. Lovene has sent reminders to those who volunteered.

FUN RAISER

Myra recently hosted a Tupperware Party at her home as a FUN Raiser for the branch. Guests included several members of the branch, friends of Myra, and family members. Everybody had a great time and the branch will receive a share of the amount spent.

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Gwen, Shirley and Myra at FUN Raiser



Frances, Karen, and Judy at FUN Raiser

NEW MEMBER PROFILES

This is a continuation of the series introducing our newest members. We are so glad they have not only joined us, but also have quickly become active in many of our programs and events.

Susan is a graduate of Washington University (BA in English) and the University of Missouri (M Ed in Special Education). She has lived and taught in San Diego, CA, Fort Myers, FL, and University City, MO.

Currently, Susan is affiliated with the English Language School at UMSL, busily preparing international students for admission to not only UMSL, but also other schools around the United States. "Working with international students has taught me to appreciate, more than ever, all the advantages I have here in the U.S. It has also taught me to think more carefully about globalization, Immigration reform and how each of us can continue to make a positive difference in our own culture and work, be it paid or volunteer."

Susan lives in Ferguson and serves as a member of the City's Library Board. She is also a member of her Parish Council, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. She is occupied and challenged these days with tending her garden, keeping her dogs happy, and finding a smaller home.

Susan is grateful to Carolyn for encouraging her to join AAUW. She says it has been on her mind for years.

Marveena--Marveena's parents worked for her grandpa's iron working business, and Marveena attended about seventeen schools before graduating early in Quincy IL. She loved traveling and living in new places as she was growing up.

Marveena earned her Bachelor's degree in Political Studies from the University of Illinois in Springfield. After graduation, she worked at the Sangamon County Democratic Headquarters and then with the Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds. With her fill of politics, Marveena switched her career to sales management. She met her future husband the night after she graduated from college and, after six years, they moved to his hometown of St. Louis. Marveena is currently working on a Master's degree in Environmental Policy, while also working at the St. Louis College of Health Careers in Admissions and managing the Ferguson Farmers Market. She would eventually like to do legislative research at the EPA.

A passion of Marveena's is traveling. For her 30th birthday, she went to Ireland with two of her

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girlfriends. For her honeymoon, she and her husband spent a month in Europe. They also visited Romania in 2011 and are planning a trip to Poland, Czech Republic and Slovenia next year.

Marveena loves Halloween and has traveled to Las Vegas and Denver for the holiday. She and her husband plan to visit Sleepy Hollow in New York and Salem, MA, for future Halloweens.

Marveena cares for two rescue cats. She serves on the Youth Initiative Board in Ferguson. She joined AAUW to help further education for girls. After the Ferguson-Florissant branch visited the Ferguson Market earlier this year, and she spoke with the ladies, she knew that this was the group she had been looking for.

\$START \$MART and WORK \$MART

\$start \$mart and Work \$mart are programs that empower college and professional women to negotiate better salaries and benefits. Originally initiated by the Wage Project, these programs were recently purchased by AAUW. AAUW has long participated in them across the country and has had great success.

Started in 2008 with 31 workshops to the current 740 workshops at 336 colleges, community colleges, and universities across the country, educational institutions realize their potential to eliminate the pay gap by equipping women with skills to negotiate for comparable salaries as men's. The program is in all but one state; more than 1000 facilitators have been trained. Locally, UMSL has trained facilitators and presented a number of the workshops on campus.

The Wage Project staff operating these programs have become employees of AAUW in this transfer. Since AAUW was the major promoter of this outstanding project, it is appropriate that these powerful programs are now part of our education and leadership mission.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The International Relations Lecture Series will present programs beginning in January, 2015, through April, 2015. The series is a joint presentation of the Tuesday Women's Association of Ethical Society and AAUW. Meetings take place at the Ethical Society of St. Louis. Meetings begin at 10:45 in the lower meeting room. Free parking is in the rear of the building. The 45-50 minute lecture will be followed by a question and answer period. Attendees may bring lunch and stay to discuss the day's topic.

The lecture for January 13, 2015 is "The End of the Ottoman Empire, the Creation of the Modern Middle East." The speaker is Dr. Tahmineh Entessar, Retired Assistant Director of the Graduate Program in International Relations, Webster University.

Please consult the flyer that accompanies this newsletter.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet at 11:30 on December 9 at Lillian's home for the annual Christmas meeting. Please bring a favorite story, poem, etc. to share with the group. These can be by various authors or a personal recollection by a member. Bring a sandwich with you. Please notify Lillian if you will attend.

FIRST FRIDAY VIDEO

The First Friday video on December 5 will be *The Book Thief*. It stars Geoffrey Rush and Emily Watson. In this thought provoking drama, a young girl moves in with foster parents in Nazi Germany and shares her love of books she's stolen along the way with the Jewish man who has sought refuge in her new home. The video will be shown Friday, December 5 at 1:30 pm at Nancy's home. Please notify Nancy if you plan to attend.

DOWNTOWN LUNCH GROUP

The Downtown Lunch group will meet at 11:45 on December 16. RSVP to Kay Meyer.

JEAN

In the course of her recovery from a serious accident this fall, Jean has moved.

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CALENDAR

December 4--Gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble in Ladue

December 5--First Friday Video

December 9--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

OASIS reading tutoring training

Robotics

December 14--Branch Holiday Celebration

December 24--Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble in Ladue

December 16--Downtown Lunch Group

January 10--Women's Legislative Retreat

January 13--International Relations Lecture Series

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