



Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

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Co- Presidents

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Pat Kelemen, Editor

BOARD MEETING

The board will meet on March 13 at 11:30 at the Corner Coffee House in Ferguson.

FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING

Branch members and a guest met at 10:00 am for an informational presentation on AAUW priorities and programs centering on “AAUW--Changing the Climate for Women and Girls.” Several members spoke briefly on topics such as STEM, post-graduate educational grants, LAF, and Lobby Corps. The program was followed by a potluck lunch and plenty of conversation.

MARCH BRANCH MEETING

“Women of the Dred Scott Decision” will be the program for the March 20 branch meeting. Ruth Ann Hager will make the presentation. Ms. Hager retired from the St. Louis County Library’s History and Genealogy Department. Her writings about the Dred Scott case include the book, *Dred and Harriet Scott: Their Family Story*. In addition to her work with the Dred Scott case, Ms. Hager has worked and made presentations on genealogy.

This presentation is in recognition of March as Women’s History Month. The meeting will be at 7:00 pm in the Educational Building of Immanuel UCC Church at 211 Church Street in Ferguson. The program is open to the public.

There will be a branch business meeting after the program.

PRESIDENTS’ LETTER by Shirley Breeze

Sometimes we forget just how multi-faceted AAUW is. In its resolve to advocate for women, it is active on a great number of fronts.

At the classroom level, it is active in STEM and Title IX. Two of its most popular STEM programs are Tech Trek and Tech Savvy; both of these are aimed at introducing STEM to middle school girls. Title IX applies to any school district that receives federal funds; AAUW has been instrumental in the distribution of Title IX materials to school districts throughout the country and in some area has monitored school districts for compliance.

On college campuses, AAUW has several initiatives. These include NCCWSL, Elect Her, Start Smart, and reducing and eradicating campus sexual assault. NCCWSL is the leadership program each spring for women college students. It promotes opportunities for young women to grow in leadership skills.

Most people are aware of AAUW’s extensive grant program. This year it will distribute almost \$4 million to women and men to pursue a variety of educational and community opportunities.

Work Smart is designed to improve women’s pursuit of an equitable salary in the work place. Training sessions are held in businesses throughout the country. One of AAUW’s major emphases is pay

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equity legislation. For states working on pay equity issues, including Missouri, AAUW provides extensive support materials.

Recently, AAUW started providing to states a program called State Net; this initiative tracks state legislation and provides a report every week or so on what is happening in your state. State policy leaders can then move rapidly to respond to any legislation.

One of the most well-known programs is LAF--Legal Advocacy Fund. AAUW provides monetary support for women and men who are suing over discrimination cases in educational institutions and workplaces.

At the national level, in addition to providing extensive legislative support through its Public Policy office, it activates a lobby corps each session which works the Hill every week to support national legislation advocating for women and to disprove that which does not support women or which might be harmful to women.

Several international programs are in place also. AAUW has Observer Status at the United Nations and has had for several decades. This status gives AAUW access to people working for women throughout the world. Human Trafficking is another one of AAUW's initiatives. This problem is worldwide in nature; our work in this area provides assistance to women who are trafficked around the globe.

These initiatives are just a few of the many areas AAUW advocates for women and girls.

BYLAWS PROPOSAL ACCEPTED BY NATIONAL

The branch Diversity Committee has written and submitted a proposed bylaw amendment. The proposed amendment has been accepted for consideration and voting at the time of the convention. Our proposal and any others can be voted on by any member, whether or not she or he is present at the convention.

The required format is somewhat complex and legalistic. The core of the amendment is to allow interested people without degrees to join AAUW as *advocates* who would have most but not all the rights as degreed members.

This is the key part of the amendment:

Article IV Section 2

C. Advocate

(1) Eligibility. An individual who supports the mission of AAUW but does not meet the eligibility requirements for an individual member shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership as an advocate; such membership shall be granted upon payment of A UW dues.

(2) Rights and Responsibilities. An advocate has all of the rights and responsibilities of an individual member except an advocate shall not be entitled to vote on any item of AAUW business, serve as an officer or director of AAUW, serve on an AAUW committee or serve as the designated contact for administration or finance of an AAUW affiliate.*

*(2) Refers to National AAUW. "Designated contact for administration or finance of an AAUW affiliate" means the president or treasurer of a branch. Individual branches can determine other rights and responsibilities of advocates within the branch, for instance, serving on branch committees, serving as branch officers not named above, voting on branch issues.

MAY LUNCHEON

Plan on attending the annual Branch Luncheon on May 20. Details will be announced soon.

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

The yearly program planning meeting is set for Monday, June 5. Aperia at Hidden Lake has agreed to host a lunch meeting for us again. Thank you, Judy Holmes, for making the arrangements.

**Contact us by e-mailing Gwen Westbrooks at gwestbrooks@hotmail.com
Visit our website at fergusonflorissant-mo.aauw.net.**

Details to follow.

All members are invited. Bring your program ideas.

FAREWELL GATHERING

Our dear friend, Thelmarene Hooper, is moving to North Carolina to be near her daughter and brother in the next few months. We would like to have a friendship party to wish her a fond farewell on Sunday, April 2 at Ferguson Presbyterian Church from 2:00 to 3:30. The church is located at 401 Darst Street, a couple blocks fro the Corner Coffee House on Florissant Road. We will be sharing memories of the good times we have spent together. If you have any questions, call Sylvia Miller at 521-3977.

EQUITY ACTION DAY

This years Equity Action Day in Jefferson City is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4. Contact Karen Francis for more information. karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com or 314-739-4425. Details will follow in out April newsletter.



SPRING FLING

The deadline for making reservations for the IBC Spring Fling on March 25 is nearly here--get your form and check in to Carol Davis McDonald by March 11. The flyer with detailed information and the form to send in will be included once again with this month's newsletter. The branch board has authorized reimbursement of half the registration fees to branch members who request it.

STATE MEETING

The annual State Meeting will be Saturday, May 6 in Columbia, MO. The informational flyer and registration form will be included with this newsletter.

The branch will pay \$30 of the cost of registration (\$60)--after the two people receiving incentive grants (full registration fee) have been determined--to any member wishing to attend the State Conference.

TEA TIME TRIVIA

The St. Charles branch is again hosting "Ladies Tea Time Trivia" on Saturday, April 22. It is a fundraiser for Local Scholarship/Education. The flyer for this event will also be included with this newsletter.



TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet March 14 at 11:30 at Cannoli's in Florissant. Pat Kelemen will review *White Trash: the 400 Year Untold History of Class in America* by Nancy Isenberg.

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The book is quite long, so reader might prefer to choose two or three portions from different parts of the book. Notify Pat if you plan to attend.

Also, on **April 11**, Myra Talkington will review *Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead at her new home.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE

This series is co-sponsored by The Tuesday Women's Association of the Ethical Society and The American Association of University Women. The programs are presented at the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road, St. Louis MO 63117.

Each meeting will begin promptly at 10:45 the 2nd Tuesday of the month, January to April, in the upper auditorium. The public is cordially invited. There is no fee, but all contributions are greatly appreciated. Free parking is available in the rear of the building. The 45-50 minute lecture will be followed by a question and answer period. Attendees are invited to bring lunch and to stay and discuss the day's topic. In case of inclement weather, you may call 314-991-0955, ext. 224.

March 14, 2017--Immigrants and Refugees from a Global Perspective

The speaker is Uma A. Segal, professor and baccalaureate program director in the School of Social Work at UMSL.

ADELANTE BOOK GROUP

The Adelante Book Group will meet at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson at 1:30 pm on Thursday, March 23. Lynn Roney will review *Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World* by Linda Hirshman.

DOWNTOWN LUNCH

The Downtown Lunch group will meet at 11:45 am on Tuesday, March 21, at Peacemaker Lobster and Crab, 1831 Sidney Street, 314-722-8858. RSVP Kay Meyer 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer51@gmail.com.

UMSL DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

In Observance of Women's History Month

Pamela B. Jackson, vice president, Technology at Emerson, will speak on "Women in STEM Careers--Bridging the gender gap to foster innovation and competitiveness."

The program will be Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Program and reception 5:30-7:15 at UMSL's JC Penney Summit Lounge & Lobby. Free and open to the public.

BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD SPEAKER

On Thursday, March 9, 2017, the Ballwin-Chesterfield speaker will be Mary Lee Stephens, Executive Director of Global Learning Exchange Initiative. Her topic will be "Learning (Literacy) is the Key to Opportunity." Her organization is a nonprofit founded in 2012 whose mission is to empower a new generation of people in developing countries to create sustainable opportunity through literacy and continuing education.

The meeting will be at Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road (Clayton and 141). Coffee and socializing at 8:45, Business meeting at 9:30, Program 10:15-11:45.

CALENDAR

March 9--Ballwin-Chesterfield program

March 13--Branch Board meeting

March 14--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

March 14--UMSL Distinguished Speaker Series

March 14--International Lecture Series

March 20--Branch meeting

March 21--Downtown Lunch

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March 23--Adelante Book Group

March 25--Spring Fling

April 2--Friendship party

April 4--Equity Action Day in Jefferson City

April 22--Tea Time Trivia in St. Charles

May 6--State Meeting

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