



Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Shirley Breeze and Pat Kelemen
Co- Presidents

Wilzetta Bell
Program Vice President

Gwen Westbrooks
Membership Vice-President

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Pat Kelemen, Editor

APRIL BRANCH MEETING

At the April meeting, Dr. Gina Frey of Washington University spoke about challenges and barriers faced by women college students in STEM fields. It was a very congenial presentation allowing for audience questions and comments as the program progressed. Dr. Frey detailed some ways women may be discouraged. The competitive class model, calling for fast and always accurate responses to instructor's questions, fosters an atmosphere that may intimidate or stifle women and minority students. Being outnumbered in a mainly white, male classroom or lecture hall can sap the confidence of female and/or minority students. Different learning styles can also be a problem. Many female and minority students regardless of sex learn best in a collaborative setting rather than a competitive one.

Dr. Frey shared the results of a number of studies, several conducted by her department at Washington University, to support her statements. She explicitly referenced AAUW's *Why So Few*.

SPRING FLING PHOTOS

The annual Spring Fling on March 25 was a huge success, as reported in the April newsletter. Thanks to Carolyn Herkstroeter, we have several photos of that event. Present but not pictured were Carolyn herself, Shirley, Lillian, and Tommie.



Wilzetta, Joyce, Pam



Pat, Mable, and Virginia

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



Pat, Karen, and Mable



Gift baskets donated by branches for the raffle.

PUBLIC POLICY

This letter to the editor by branch member Frances Carney was published in the St. Louis Post Dispatch on April 14, 2017.

**Give Public Schools the Support They Need
Regarding Stacy Washington's column "Expanding school choice" (April 7):
I just can't understand the school choice arguments. Why can't we put the
money into our public schools?**

**Families can be much better involved in their neighborhood schools, just a walk
away. Give the teachers and administrators the support needed through counselors,
social workers working with families, and smaller classes, among other things.**

**Why can't we give the resources to our public school teachers to "create,
innovate and replicate great work" to quote Stacy Washington.**

VOTING INFORMATION FOR AAUW NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Members who have a current e-mail address on file with AAUW will receive an important message from **Mark Hopkins, interim CEO of AAUW**. It includes a unique personalized link for voting and a short cut to the ballots. It is for you only. Do not delete.

The membership amendment to national bylaws that was submitted by our branch diversity committee is one of the items all members can vote on.

Candidate profiles, proposed amendments, and other items can be found in the upcoming *Outlooks* or online at aauw.org.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR VOTING IN AAUW NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Members may vote in the AAUW national elections in advance of the national convention June 14-17 using paper ballots or electronically. Online voting continues during the first two days of the convention. The following dates are crucial:

Voting for national offices:

For voting by paper ballot:

- April 3, 2017-- First day to request paper ballots
- May 4, 2017--Deadline for requesting paper ballots
- May 22--Dedline for mailing paper ballots

For voting online:

Contact us by e-mailing Gwen Westbrook at gwestbrooks@hotmail.com

Visit our website at fergusonflorissant-mo.aauw.net.

- April 14--Voting begins online
- June 15--Online voting ends

Every member is eligible to vote and is strongly urged to do so. Information on candidates is available at aauw.org and in the newest edition of *Outlooks*.

MAY LUNCHEON

The Honorable Margo McNeil, former state representative for district 69 and current Hazelwood School Board Member, will be the featured speaker at the May Luncheon.

Ms. McNeil will address the issues surrounding the new federal emphasis on private education. As a long-time classroom teacher and supporter of public education, she will provide background information on the values of public education.

The annual May Luncheon will be held **on May 27, 2017 at Catering to You on New Halls Ferry in Florissant. Note the change of date!** This location will be excellent for us.

Registration will begin at 11:15. After opening announcements, lunch will be served at noon.

This event will include traditional activities such as awards presentations, induction of officers for the 2017-2019 term, plus an excellent luncheon with members and guests.

Guests are welcome, so invite your friends.

Reservations are required for this luncheon. Reservations deadline is May 17. There will be no same day reservations or walk-ins accepted.

The flyer included with this newsletter has details about the buffet offerings and the form for making your reservation(s) and sending payment of \$20 each.

Plan to attend this exciting annual event!

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

The Program Planning Committee will have a luncheon meeting at Aperion Care Hidden Lake at noon on Monday, June 5, 2017.

All members are welcome to participate. The luncheon is complimentary, but reservations are requested by May 27. Please email Judy Holmes at mickey.holmes@att.net or phone 314-355-1125. The luncheon will be in the Independent Living Dining Room.

Hidden Lake is located on Redman Road between 367 and Bellefontaine. If you need directions, call Judy. Please come and bring program ideas for the coming year.

DUES RENEWAL

It is time to renew your membership in AAUW. The cost is \$69 for the upcoming year. If you joined after March 15, 2017, your dues for the upcoming year are already paid. The renewal form will be included with this newsletter. Dues are due to National by June 30, so get them to Pam Meyers well before that date.

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

Afternoon at the Movies will meet Monday, May 22, at 2:00 pm in the theater room at Aperion Care Hidden Lake. Everyone is welcome. The movie has not yet been selected. Email Judy at mickey.holmes@att.net or call 314-355-1125 if you plan to attend.

50 YEAR MEMBER

Note from Shirley:

I am happy to announce that on July 1, 2017, I will become a 50-Year Life AAUW member.

--Congratulations to Shirley!

MEMORIAL DONATION TO AAUW FUNDS

The board authorized a donation to AAUW Funds in memory of Bill Starr, the late husband of Mary Ellen Starr.

**Contact us by e-mailing Gwen Westbrooks at gwestbrooks@hotmail.com
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NEW MEMBER ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER

Please add Joyce Spiller to your directory. Her address is 3475 Greenway Chase Dr., Florissant, 63031. Email joycespiller195@gmail.com. New info since last newsletter is Joyce's phone number, 314-757-5343.

FAREWELL GATHERING FOR THELMARENE

A farewell party for Thelmarene was held April 2 at Ferguson Presbyterian Church. Friends and branch members attended. This photo was taken by her daughter Michelle and forwarded by Carolyn.



Wanda, Martha, Sylvia, Carolyn, Lovene, Lillian, and guest of honor Thelmarene

New address: Thelmarene Hooper, 6498 Ray Road, Apt 304, Raleigh, NC 27613. Cell: 314-413-2163. Home: 919-600-5713. Email: Thelmarene@gmail.com.

CONDOLENCES

We are sad to have to offer our deepest condolences to Mable Davis and her family for the sudden passing of her brother Willie Davis.

REPORT ON EQUITY ACTION DAY

Many women from several organizations traveled to Jefferson City on April 4 to rally and speak with state legislators on the issue of pay equity. Branch members who attended were Shirley Breeze, Karen Francis, Pam Meyers, Joyce Spiller, and Mable Davis.

STATE MEETING MAY 6-- LATE REGISTRATIONS

If you are registering late for the State Meeting, remember to include the late fee. The registration form is included with this newsletter.

TAILGATE SALE June 3

Carolyn has signed up for the tailgate sale at St. Mark's Methodist Church in Florissant. Branch members can include their donations. Also, some items remain from Game Day and will be included. Set up between 7-7:45 am. So far we have one spot. Carolyn requests that people bring their own donations to the church that day and **return at the end to claim any unsold items.**

ADELANTE BOOK GROUP

The Adelante Book Group will meet at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson at 1:30. On April 27, Debbie McWard will discuss *The Sacrifice* by Joyce Carol Oates.

On May 25, Linda Roberson will discuss *Poisoned Table* by Diane Michael Cantor.

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DOWNTOWN LUNCH

The Downtown Lunch group will meet at 11:45 am on Tuesday, May 16, at The Garden on Grand, 2245 South Grand Blvd., 314-898-3788. RSVP Kay Meyer 314-962-7387 or kicmeyer51@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

April 3-June 15--Voting period for AAUW National Elections--check various deadlines in newsletter

April 27--Adelante Book Group

May 6--State meeting

May 16--Downtown Lunch

May 17--Reservations for May Luncheon are due

May 22--Afternoon at the Movies

May 25--Adelante Book Group

May 27--Annual Luncheon

June 3--Tailgate Sale

June 5--Program Planning Meeting

June 14-17--National Convention in Washington, DC

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