



Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Shirley Breeze and Pat Kelemen
Co- Presidents

Wilzetta Bell
Program Vice President

Gwen Westbrooks
Membership Vice-President

Volume 52

April 2017

Pat Kelemen, Editor

BOARD MEETING

The board will meet on April 10 at the Corner Coffee House at 11:30.

MARCH BRANCH MEETING

The March 20 meeting featured a fascinating and informative presentation by Ruth Ann Hager. She spoke about the “Women of the Dred Scott Decision,” sharing the methods and results of her extensive research into the lives of Scott’s wife, children, and several generations of descendants up to the present time. We learned about research methods needed to track down elusive records needed to take reasonable conclusions to the level of provable fact and the sometimes surprising facts she discovered. Ms. Hager also brought copies of her book *Dred and Harriet Scott: Their Family Story*, which several in the audience purchased.

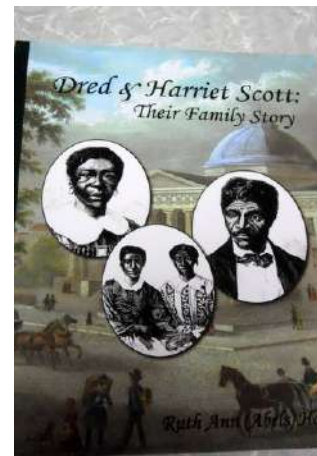
A business meeting was held after a break for refreshments. Key items included a financial report, the introduction of a brand new member, and announcement of the nominees for branch office. Pam Meyers is nominated to continue her position as branch treasurer, and Carolyn Herkstroeter and Carolynn Henning are the nominees for Membership Co-Vice President.. There were no nominations from the floor for either office.



Martha introduces Ruth Ann Hager



Ruth Ann signs books



Cover of Ruth Ann's book

APRIL BRANCH MEETING

Washington University Professor Dr. Gina Frey will be the featured speaker at the April branch

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meeting. Her presentation will center around STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Education as it relates to college students. Dr. Frey is executive director of Washington University's Teaching Center and co-director of its university education-research center. One of Dr. Frey's major interests is increasing the number of women in STEM fields. During her college career she was a recipient of one of AAUW's grants to women scholars.

This meeting will be April 17, 2017, at 7:00 pm at Immanuel UCC, 211 Church Street. It is free and open to the public.

IBC SPRING FLING

The annual Interbranch Council Spring Fling was held Saturday, March 25, at Glen Echo Country Club. Seventy-two AAUW members and guests attended. This event featured luncheon, a fundraising raffle of baskets donated by branches, an enlightening program by Jessica Woolbright, and awards and recognitions.

Jessica Woolbright is Chair of St. Louis Ending Violence Against Women Network. She spoke about her work with battered and abused women who seek shelter for themselves and their children. These women also need assistance with finding safe housing, jobs and other necessities.

Jessica also spoke about Court Watch, where volunteers monitor court hearings, hoping to encourage fairness and eliminate bias toward women such as those seeking orders of protection for themselves and their children.

The Barbara Lackritz Service Award was presented to Kay Meyer by Nancy Hutchins. In her acceptance speech, Kay spoke about her years of being active in AAUW and what AAUW has meant to her.

Julia Triplett presented a Legacy Circle Pin to Nancy Hutchins.

PUBLIC POLICY--Strong laws could close gender pay gap once and for all

This Letter to the Editor by AAUW's Karen Francis, A. Patricia Shores and Mersine Kallaos appeared in the St. Louis Post Dispatch on March 20, 2017.

Where is the justice when two people in the same area of concentration with equal education, employment experience and enthusiasm for productivity on the job receive unequal compensation due to gender? As unfair as it seems, and though this may sound like a policy from long ago where men earned more than their female counterparts, this scenario is still being played out today in our workforce.

Examine the important and lamentable statistics:

- On average, women who work full time earn about 80 cents for every dollar a full-time worker earns.
- Over a lifetime (47 years), the total estimated loss of earnings of women compared to men are \$700,000 for a high school graduate, \$1.2 million for a college graduate, and \$2 million for a professional school graduate.
- 40 percent of households with children include a mother who is either the sole or primary earner for her family.
- Retirement savings and benefits are significantly less due to salary discrepancy.

As members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Missouri Branch, we advocate for strong pay equity legislation, regulation and enforcement to protect employees and assist employers. We also educate the public about this persistent problem and its effect on working families. These efforts are critical elements as we work to close the gender pay gap. Legislation to guarantee and protect pay equity is long overdue.

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:

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

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--Deadline for mailing paper ballots

For voting online:

- 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.

MAY LUNCHEON

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 year planners have had significantly more difficulty than in the past in securing an acceptable venue in the Ferguson-Florissant area. This location will be excellent for us.

Precise menu choices will be sent out soon for this buffet luncheon. Members and guests will pay a set fee (probably \$20) and will be able to choose their food from the buffet.

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

Guests are welcome, so invite your friends.

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING**PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING**

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

All members are invited. Bring your program ideas.

WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER

Joyce Spiller has just joined AAUW and our branch. Joyce's address is 3475 Greenway Chase Dr., Florissant, 63031. Her email address is joycespiller1951@gmail.com. Please add this to your branch directory.

Joyce attended Spring Fling, where several of us were able to get to know her a bit. Welcome!

FAREWELL GATHERING**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**EQUITY ACTION DAY**

This years Equity Action Day in Jefferson City is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4. AAUW is a member of the MO Women's Network and it is important for us to come out to support this event. The AAUW MO Impact Grant is giving \$300 to both St. Louis and Kansas City to help with the cost of busses and to make it easy for out members to participate.

Contact Pat Shores to ride a subsidized bus, and order a box lunch, from St. Louis, at apatriciashores@att.net.

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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 on April 11 at 11:30 at the new home of Myra Talkington. She will review *Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. Notify Myra if you will attend and to get directions if you need them. Her phone number remains the same. Bring a sandwich for lunch.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES

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.

April 11, 2017--International Trade

Dave Robertson, PhD, Professor and chair of the Political Science Department, UMSL, is the speaker.

How familiar are we with American trade agreements? Have our two major political parties clearly articulated positions on American trade policy? How are trade agreements negotiated and how do they impact foreign policy? This presentation will give us a contextual overview of American trade policy, recent trade agreements and seek to explain who the drivers are.

Carolyn Herkstroeter is Assistant Coordinator for this lecture.

ADELANTE BOOK GROUP

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

DOWNTOWN LUNCH

The Downtown Lunch group will meet at 11:45 am on Tuesday, April 18 at The London Tea Room, 3128 Morganford Road, 314-241-6556. RSVP Kay Meyer 314-962-7387 or kicmeyer51@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

April 2--Farewell to Thelmarene

April 4--Equity Action Day

April 10--Board Meeting

April 11--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

April 11--International Lecture Series

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April 17--Branch meeting

April 18--Downtown Lunch

April 22--Tea Time Trivia

April 27--Adelante Book Group

May 6--State Meeting

May 27--May luncheon

June 5--Program Planning Meeting

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