



Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Carolyn Herkstroeter, President

Shirley Breeze and Judy Holmes
Program Committee Co-VPs

Ruth Field and Gwen Westbrooks,
Membership Co-VPs

Volume 49

May 2014

Pat Kelemen, Editor

BOARD MEETING

There will not be a board meeting in May.

REPORT ON APRIL BRANCH MEETING

The program for the April meeting was arranged by Kathy McKemy and was presented by Jennifer Cordia RN, BSN, MBA, who is Vice President of Patient Care and Chief Nursing Officer at Christian Hospital. She spoke about the new Community Health Access Program (CHAP) which recently became operational at Christian Hospital and its satellite Northwest Healthcare. The purpose of CHAP is to improve patient care and reduce “medically unnecessary” use of emergency rooms. It involves using Advanced Practice paramedics and an ED triage nurse, Community Health Resource Centers at both facilities--by referral by paramedics and triage nurses-- and Partnerships with community leaders and organizations. Thank you to Kathy for arranging this excellent program.



Jennifer Cordia speaks to the branch

During the business meeting after the program, the slate of officers proposed for 2-year terms beginning July 1 was elected. Shirley Breeze and Pat Kelemen will be Co-Presidents, Wilzetta Bell will be Program Vice-President assisted by a programming committee of Judy Holmes, Kathy McKemy, and Lillian Boly, and Myra Talkington will be recording secretary.

ANNUAL MAY LUNCHEON

The May Luncheon will be held at Hendel's in Florissant at 11:30 on Saturday May 17. Three women North County leaders will speak. New branch officers will be installed and Named Gift recipients will be

Contact us by e-mailing Gwen at gwenrosenfeld@sbcglobal.net.

honored. Members and guests may order from the restaurant menu. Plan to come and enjoy the afternoon. Please notify Shirley if you will bring a guest.

The program will be **The Future of North County From a Woman's Perspective**. Women often have a different perspective on issues than men. How do three prominent women community leaders view the changes in North County? In the Schools? In the shopping areas? In recreation? How will the well-being of North County citizens be affected by these changes in the next decade? Members of the panel are Rev. Susan Sneed, Executive Director of Metropolitan Congregations United, Dora Gianoulakis, Director of the Spanish Lake Community Association, and Carol Stroker, former Hazelwood School Board member and currently a director on the Hazelwood City Council.

CAROLYN'S CORNER

EQUAL RIGHTS ACTION DAY, April 8th in Jefferson City, was an awesome day! Lillian Boly and I rode down on NARAL chartered bus, to join women from NOW, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, MISSOURI WOMEN'S NETWORK, COALITION OF LABOR WOMEN, MISSOURI WOMEN UNITED and other organizations in a state-wide rally for equality for women. We joined together in a crowd of women and supportive men, four blocks long, in a march to the Capitol where we converged inside the capitol to rally for Equity. In this assembly we heard words of hope from dedicated women leaders, including Shirley Breeze (representing Missouri Women's Network), and Karen Francis (AAUW), moderator.

AAUW state president Linda Berube stated that we much break through the economic barrier for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. She stated that "Equity means even, just and equal." State representative Karla May said that "People who do not believe in equal pay for equal work should not be elected." Representative Charles Norton stressed that "No member of the Missouri government has the right to take care of your health. Women's rights should reign supreme!"

We were also reminded of some alarming statistics: Women make 76-77% of the amount earned by men in the same positions; African American and Latino women make even less than that. A speaker for NARAL stated that 41 of 63 state representatives are pro-choice and that there are only 7 women of 37 state senators. A spokeswoman for labor women said that women in unions make about 13% less than non-union male counterparts. We also heard the statistic that 40% of women are the primary family wage earners and that 32% of those earn only minimum wage.

Equality in many areas is a battle we must continue to fight and it will take woman-power to achieve it. To quote one of the speakers: "Women need to help other women." We have a big job ahead of us and we need to continue to rally for equality for everyone and for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in Missouri. If we (women) speak up, educate, elect and support our cause, we can win.

Carolyn

PUBLIC POLICY by Martha Panetti with Lovene Hartman

Our Ferguson-Florissant AAUW branch was well represented at the Equal Pay Rally in Jefferson City on Tuesday, April 8.

Two of our members were among the presenters. Karen Francis spoke, representing AAUW, and introduced the various speakers. Shirley Breeze, representing the Missouri Women's Network as well as the AAUW Leadership Corps, also spoke, pointing out that the Missouri Senate currently includes over 30 men and only 7 women. Shirley's vision it to add one more woman senator each year.

Our branch President, Carolyn Herkstroeter, and our branch Treasurer, Lillian Boly, also traveled to Jeff City

Contact us by e-mailing Gwen at gwenrosenfeld@sbcglobal.net.

for the event. (See Carolyn's report.)

Of course, there were a number of women's organizations participating in the event. Elaine Blodgett, representing the League of Women Voters, spoke in opposition to proposed photo ID laws, explaining that such a law is not needed, since there has not been a significant amount of voter fraud in Missouri. The Women's Labor Coalition representative spoke in opposition to proposed "Right to Work" laws, explaining that such laws in other states have resulted in lower safety standards as well as lower pay.

Later in the week, public policy co-chairs Lovene Hartman and Martha Panetti conferred as they reviewed information about the many AAUW-related public policy issues currently on the agenda at both the state and the national level.

As you know, AAUW's mission is "advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research." AAUW believes that "true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community," and thus "opposes all forms of discrimination and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals."

Of course, many of you have joined in the current effort to persuade the Missouri Legislature to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Keep sending those emails and making those phone calls!

No doubt you have heard/read comments by some who insist women already receive equal pay for equal work. But AAUW's most recent research on the subject, discussed in its publication, *Graduating to a Pay Gap*, shows that just one year after graduating from college, women are earning significantly less than men with the same degree working in the same industry. The gap increases over time, and affects women throughout their lives, since lower pay results in lower social security and retirement benefits when they retire.

Of course, you know that President Obama has signed an executive order which bans federal contractors from retaliating against employees who discuss salary among their colleagues. Lilly Ledbetter, who many of you met at the Equality brunch here a few years ago, was part of the Equality Day activities in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, the U.S. Senate declined to act on the Paycheck Fairness Act, which is also supported by the President.

AAUW encourages you to contact your U.S. Senators to let them know of your support for the Paycheck Fairness Act, thanking those senators who voted for it and expressing your disappointment in the actions of those who voted against it.

Hundreds of thousands of Missouri residents do not have access to affordable health care, largely because of the failure of the Missouri state legislature to enact legislation that would expand Medicaid. AAUW is among the women's organizations urging you to continue to urge your state reps and senators to act to expand Medicaid. The current situation is wrong from both a moral and an economic standpoint. Simple justice principles support the idea that everyone should be able to obtain health insurance that covers them. And from an economic standpoint, we need to remember that by failing to expand Medicaid and thus receive significant federal tax dollars, we are instead sending incredible amounts of our federal tax dollars to help fund Medicaid programs in other states. Meanwhile, since hospitals are required to provide treatment to patients who show up in emergency rooms, we continue to pay higher premiums to cover some of the cost of uninsured patients.

Of course, these are just some of the issues needing attention. As we end our program year, we encourage you to keep following AAUW news and contact your elected representatives at both state and federal levels.

We hope many of you will attend the Equality Day Brunch in August . . . and you will hear more from us in the September issue of our newsletter.

Have a wonderful summer!

Contact us by e-mailing Gwen at gwenrosenfeld@sbcglobal.net.

MEET AND GREET

The spring Meet and Greet event took place April 22 at Hendel's in Florissant. Members and guests enjoyed a choice of drinks and hors d'oeuvres while getting acquainted. Of the five guests, **3 joined the branch.** Carolyn spoke about the branch history, programs, and activities. Shirley spoke about the national organization and its programs in support of women and girls. Thanks to all the members who attended. This event is clearly an excellent way to meet interested women and gain new members.



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND PAY DUES!

Once again it's time to pay annual dues. With this newsletter you will find the Membership Form for 2014-2015. Fill out the form and give it and your money to Lillian Boly. In addition to mailing them to Lillian, the May luncheon is a good opportunity to simply hand them to her.

Please note that if you receive the newsletter through the U.S. Postal Service, there is a suggested donation of \$5.00 to cover postage. As you know, the cost of stamps has risen--again. It would be very helpful if you were to include money to cover postage with your dues.

MEMBER NEWS

- Long-time branch member and Ferguson resident **Ruth Field** is moving to Denver very soon.
- **Nancy Gerber** is back in the hospital. She has her cell phone with her and expects to be in the hospital for a while.
- Add the names of our 3 new members to your branch yearbook:

Contact us by e-mailing Gwen at gwenrosenfeld@sbcglobal.net.

Fran Johnson

Fran Carney

Linda Ferber

WHY WE NEED THE ERA

We need the ERA because we need a clearer and stricter judicial standard for deciding cases of sex discrimination. Sex discrimination should get the highest level of judicial scrutiny, just as race discrimination does, but currently receives only a heightened level of intermediate scrutiny.

SAVE THE DATE--AAUW MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

This conference will take place June 13-14, 2014 at the Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri. The keynote speaker will be Liza Maatz, AAUW Vice-President of Government Relations. Attendees will be able to choose from 11 different breakout sessions, a public policy panel, an open forum, an opening reception for all attendees, and various other events/activities. Reasonable hotel and meal rates will be available. Enjoy the beautiful Ozarks and Lake area at this outstanding AAUW conference.

See the attached flyer for more information.

SAVE ANOTHER DATE--BRANCH PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

The program planning meeting for 2014-2015 will take place Monday, June 2, 2014. Judy Holmes will hostess the meeting and luncheon at Hidden Lake.

Women in Business

Martha Panetti points out discouraging statistics about St. Louis printed in the April 18 Post-Dispatch.

“When American Express recently ranked 25 large cities by the clout of their women-owned businesses, St. Louis tied for last place (underlining Martha’s emphasis).”

This was in an article “University program seeks to open doors for women faculty,” David Nicklaus’ article headlined “Entrepreneurial gap,” first page of the Business section, Friday, April 18, 2014.

FIRST FRIDAY VIDEO

Nancy Gerber hopes to be home and able to host the May First Friday Video at 1:30 May 2. The film will be “Don Quixote.” She asks that those who attend bring the refreshments. Notify her if you plan to attend.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet at Cannoli’s in Florissant at 11:30 on May 6. Carolyn Herkstroeter is the hostess. Wanda Young will review *Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand* by Helen Simonson. Call **Carolyn** if you will attend.

AAUW CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

In 1971 the AAUW Educational Foundation created the Research and Projects Grant program by voting to set aside \$5,000 in grants for several AAUW states in support of public service projects. Fifty

Contact us by e-mailing Gwen at gwenrosenfeld@sbcglobal.net.

members from 36 states received the first grants in 1972 on a range of topics including women's struggles to balance home and work life, the establishment of women's resource centers on college campuses, and the emergence of women's political involvement in the antinuclear movement.

DOWNTOWN LUNCH GROUP

The Downtown Lunch Group will meet at 11:45 am. Please email or phone Jean Shull to make your reservation. These are the dates and locations for late spring and summer.

May 20 at Element, 1419 Carroll Street (east of Lafayette Square)

June 17 at Tripel, 1801 Park Ave. (in Lafayette Square)

July 15 at The Fountain on Locust, 3037 Locust Street

August 19 at Mama Josephine's, 4000 Shaw Blvd. (3 blocks east of Missouri Botanical Garden)

ADELANTE BOOK GROUP

The Adelante Book Group meets at 1:30 at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson in Chesterfield. On May 22 they will discuss *The Secret Daughter* by Shilpi Somaya Gowda. Julie Triplett will be the reviewer.

In a remote Indian village, Kavita gives birth to a baby girl. But in a culture that favors sons, the only way for Kavita to save her newborn daughter's life is to give her away. Halfway round the globe, Somer, an American doctor, decides to adopt a child after making the wrenching discovery that she will never have one of her own. The novel poignantly explores the emotional terrain of motherhood, loss, identity, and love, as witnessed through the lives of two families and the child that indelibly connects them.

CALENDAR

May 2--First Friday Video

May 6--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

May 17--May Luncheon

May 20--Downtown Lunch Group

May 22--Adelante Book Group

June 2--Program planning meeting

June 13-14--AAUW Midwest Regional Conference

Contact us by e-mailing Gwen at gwenrosenfeld@sbcglobal.net.