

AAUW

Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Shirley and Pat
Co- Presidents

Wilzetta
Program Vice President

Gwen
Membership Vice-President

Volume 50

November 2014

Pat, Editor

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

There will not be a board meeting in November.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

The branch board met on October 6 at the Corner Coffee House at 11:30. Minutes from the Sept. 8 board meeting were read, corrected and approved. Committee reports included the treasurer's report; Gwen, Membership VP, who said we have 9 new members; Lovene and Martha for Public Policy reminding all of the importance of voting Nov. 4 and careful consideration of Amendment 3. Lovene spoke of the cookie sign-ups for refreshments at branch meetings and the sign-ups for gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble in December. Carolyn reported on plans for the Game Day Fund Raiser January 19. The board decided to support donations for the homeless and The Girls at the event. The STEM grant meeting has been postponed. The nominating committee should have the nominees for Treasurer and Membership VP ready to publish in February so that elections can be held in March. **Other items discussed by the board are included in various articles in this newsletter.**

OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING

The branch meeting on October 20 was attended by more than 20 members and guests. The program on the topic of voter suppression was presented by attorney Denise, of the Advancement Project. She works locally and nationally to educate people about the history of voters' rights and the current situations where laws which limit the rights of potential voters are being passed in states such as Texas, Wisconsin, and North Carolina. These laws make it more difficult for minorities, senior citizens, and students to vote. The US Supreme Court has ruled on some of these laws and most recently okayed a restrictive voter ID law in Texas. Denise said that after the 2010 elections, voter suppression efforts have been the most restrictive since the post-Civil War era.



Speaker Denise and Wilzetta

After the program, a brief business meeting was held. Lillian presented the most recent

treasurer's report and the new budget, prepared by the budget committee of Lillian, Nancy, and Linda. The budget was approved. The minutes of the April business meeting were prepared by Virginia and summarized by Shirley. They were approved. Lovene reported that there is only one open slot for gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble in Ladue. Fran J., Sylvia, and Carolyn are working on plans for the Christmas event, and Carolyn is designing the flyer for the Games Day in January. Lillian distributed the 2014-15 directory. The members present voted to have the funds raised from the gift wrapping given to the branch STEM project.



Speaker Denise

More photos of this event will be posted online

NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING NOVEMBER 17, 2014

Recognizing the Contributions of Military Veterans

November is the month we recognize the many contributions our veterans have made to US citizens from their service in the military. The Missouri veterans History Project works to have these many contributions identified and preserved. Audrey, the Executive Director, will provide the details of this extensive, important project at the November 17, 2014, branch meeting. Also presenting will be World War II veteran Lorraine, who served as a Navy Wave.

The November 17 meeting will be held at Immanuel UCC Church Educational Building, 211 Church Street, Ferguson at 7:00 pm. The meeting is open to the public. Invite your friends or prospective members. Shape the Future incentives apply to this meeting.

PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Our democracy works only if the citizenry takes an active part in its operation and improvement. The November elections are one such opportunity.

As AAUW women and active community leaders, we can be models for democratic activism. Our job doesn't stop with voting in elections; we must encourage others to vote. We must run ourselves and assist others in doing so. We must volunteer at the polls and in electoral races. We must be informed and vote from that perspective.

Why don't we each have a goal of doing something extra this election. Vote and then offer to take someone to the polls, offer to hand out literature for a candidate, offer to work at the polls, offer to babysit for someone so she/he can vote. The opportunities are endless.

Special thanks to all our branch members who registered new voters or facilitated a change of address form (see article elsewhere in this newsletter). Also, special thanks to those members who continue to work with the students at Duchesne School. And we so appreciate our loyal, hard-working board members who have taken on responsibility for making this branch one of the best! Thank you.

PUBLIC POLICY by Shirley

Amendment 3, a November ballot issue

Amendment 3 will be on the Missouri ballot at the General Election November 4.

AAUW MO opposes this amendment, as do a number of other community organizations and all

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the major education associations.

The amendment would, among other things:

Take away local control of schools

Mandate standardized tests (approved by the state) for all schools

Require teachers be evaluated by a standards-based performance system

Limit teacher contracts to three years

Prohibit teachers from organizing or collectively bargaining concerning the teacher evaluation system

Increase the cost of running local schools.

Some people contend that this amendment puts an unnecessary amount of emphasis on students' test scores at the expense of teacher input and teaching ability.

Since this is a Constitutional Amendment, upon passage, it would become a permanent part of the Missouri Constitution.

THANK YOU

Thank you to members and friends who registered voters: Carolyn, Shirley, Virginia, Elaine, Wanda, Lillian, Sally, Myra, Sylvia, Lovene, Susan, Joyce, Toni, Eugene. Fran was among those scheduled for the Ferguson Market on October 4, but the Market was cancelled.

Our members registered (new or change of address) 18 people.



Susan and Joyce register voters



Volunteer Eugene and Sylvia

Special thanks to Carolyn for making arrangements and handling staffing!!

Special Thank yous to those working with Robotics and tutoring at Duchesne School: Toni, Carolyn, Pat, Lovene, Lillian, Martha, and Myra.

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Sally and Myra

Lillian has printed and distributed the 2014-15 Branch Directory. Thank you to Lillian for her hard work on this, year after year.

PUT THE “FUN” IN FUND RAISING! By Carolyn Herkstroeter, Fund Raising Chair

Fund-raising can be exciting and fun and your FR committee has proposed the following projects and ideas to help support our branch, send our members to AAUW conventions and other opportunities.

- Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble in December. Contact Lovene to volunteer.
- Game Day January 19, 2015 Silent Auction/Raffle See attached flyer. To join in planning or to volunteer that day, contact Carolyn.
- Books to purchase or check out at \$1.00 from LAF Chair, Virginia Jost.
- 1st Friday Matinees at Nancy’s house RSVP

Plans in progress or proposed: Tupper Ware party; Digital Scrapbooking event’ Mystery party; Trips and Tours; Spring outing to City Garden, lunch and library tour; author fair/book signing.

Previous FUN RAISERS have included trips to Hannibal, Kimswick, Lavender Farm, Frank Lloyd Wright House--any of which can be repeated! The possibilities are infinite. All it takes is one person to make arrangements and organize transportation. The contribution to AAUW, over and above tickets, meals, and personal expenditures is the amount set by the organizer for planning and purchasing tickets, making reservations, etc.--usually from \$2.00-\$5.00. The people who drive the carpools do not have to pay.

So jump in and organize an outing or a spur of the moment trip to a movie, play or concert, or invite members to join you at a restaurant. All for a small donation to AAUW. Let me know if you have questions, talent to share or would like to the FR committee.

Thanks to Lillian and Shirley for organizing great trips, to Nancy for years of hosting Friday movies, to Virginia for initiating the book project and hosting the garage sale in May and SUPER THANKS TO MYRA for using her time and talent to make the beautiful coasters she sold at the October meeting. WOW! \$130.00 in one night, according to Treasurer Lillian.

Please join in funding FUN!

SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES

December 4 and 24: Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble

December 14 at 2 pm: Branch Christmas Event

January 19--Game Day Fun Raiser

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS (NCCWSL)

This annual conference brings together women student leaders from across the country to network, hone skills, gain leadership skills, and create solutions. The recent conference, June 5-7, saw over 900 young women participate in workshops and trips to Capitol Hill, and listen to well know speakers such as Chelsea Clinton. The attendees came from 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and Egypt. One attendee expressed her appreciation by saying . . . “I can now envision what my life will look like if I remain dedicated to my passions. Thank you for giving me the ability to realize that my dreams are possible.”

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CONGRESSIONAL VOTING RECORD 113TH CONGRESS (CVR)

The CVR includes legislators' votes or co-sponsorship on legislation to strengthen our nation's equal pay laws, raise the minimum wage, protect LGBT workers from discrimination, re-open the federal government and other critical issues.

A legislator's rating does not indicate the full extent of his/her support or opposition to AAUW positions. While the voting record is neither an endorsement nor a condemnation of any member of Congress, the CVR can be used as a tool to hold your senators and representative accountable for their positions.

Also, it is a wonderful education tool to help educate your community on the issues and on policy makers' records.

EDUCATIONA PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN

The Lifelong Learning program at UMSL is presenting a Symposium on the Pay Gap on October 31. The flyer was included in the October newsletter and will be included here. **TO REGISTER, CALL JENNIFER.**

MEMBER NEWS

We were sad to learn of the recent passing of Wynona, the 95 year old mother of Program VP Wilzetta. Her funeral will be held on Monday, October 27 at 11 am at Greater Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, 1617 N. Euclid Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63113.

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Frances is one of our newest members. We are pleased to welcome her and to note that she has jumped right in to the branch.

Frances retired in 2007 after working thirty years in child protection. The last sixteen years of her career, Frances served as the manager of the child abuse and neglect investigation unit of the City of St. Louis. Needless to say, it was a very difficult, but rewarding experience.

Frances grew up in Ferguson and lived most of her life in North County. She graduated from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and also earned a graduate degree from Webster University.

Frances and her husband are the grandparents of two granddaughters and four grandsons. She has been active with the Boy Scouts of America for twenty years.

Reading, working in her garden, and scrap booking are some of Frances' hobbies. She loves to hike and ski and volunteers at her church. She says she is enjoying her retirement, but she is busier now than ever.

A current project for Frances is working on writing a memoir about her mother. She says her mother told her years ago that she should join AAUW. Although it took a number of years for her to do so, she is glad she did.

So are we!

FIRST FRIDAY VIDEO RESUMES

The movie for the first Friday of November, November 7, is MONUMENTS MEN starring George Clooney and Matt Damon. In this stunning thriller based on actual events, Allied World War II era art experts go behind enemy lines in Germany to recover works of art stolen by the Nazis, which are slated for destruction if the Third Reich falls.

The afternoon begins at 1:30 pm at Nancy's apartment. It is across the parking lot from her old apartment. Beware that the building has 2 entrances. Her apartment is on the lowest level. Tap on the patio window to let her know that you are there.

The first person to arrive will be in charge of carrying the refreshments to the table. The last person to leave will carry the plates to the kitchen.

Please call Nancy if you plan to come

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet at Cannoli's on November 11 at 11:30 am. Hostess and reviewer Myra will lead the discussion of [A Shopkeeper's Daughter](#) by Rachel Wisdom. Ms. Wisdom is a former student of Myra's and will join us for the discussion. Notify Myra if you will attend.

Contact us by e-mailing Gwen at gwenrosenfeld@sbcglobal.net. Visit our website at fergusonflorissant-mo.aauw.net.

DOWNTOWN LUNCH GROUP

The Downtown Lunch Group will meet at O'Connell's, 4652 Shaw, at 11:45 am on November 18. Notify Shirley to make a reservation.

CALENDAR

October 31--Lifelong Learning at UMSL

November 4--Election Day

November 7--First Friday Video

November 11--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

November 17--Branch Meeting

November 18--Downtown Lunch Group

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