



## Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Carolyn Herkstroeter, President    Shirley Breeze and Judy Holmes    Ruth Field, Membership VP  
Program Committee Co-Chairs

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Pat Kelemen, Editor

### **MAY LUNCHEON**

The annual May Luncheon was held on May 18, at Hendel's Café in Florissant. Guests who attended included Toni Garrett, a past president, Thelmarene Hopper, a former member, Joan Williams, Frances Carney.

Anne Boxberger Flaherty, the Spring Luncheon speaker, was the proud recipient of an AAUW American Fellowship in 2008-2009. It provided her with the support she needed to complete her dissertation; her research centered around the claims of indigenous Indians to land they held at the time of the colonization of America. Its title was "Whose Father? The Politics of American Indian Land Claims Settlements." Dr. Flaherty provided the group with an analysis of the background concerning these claims and the complexities both sides presented.

Her research has taken her to a number of countries. She has degrees from the University of Richmond and the University of Sydney in Australia. Her PhD is from Duke University. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor at SIU/Edwardsville; the classes she teaches are in the area of racial and ethnic politics.

Another recent research interest of Dr. Flaherty has been the history and ramifications surrounding AAUW's policy change in the 50s which opened membership to all qualified women regardless of race. This research has been finalized and is expected to be published in the near future.

---Shirley Breeze

At the luncheon, newly elected or reelected officers were installed. They included Lillian Boly, Treasurer; Ruth Field, Membership VP; and Shirley Breeze and Judy Holmes, Program Committee Co-Chairs.

Linda Ferber, representing The Girls, accepted our donation to their scholarship program and offered a large display of jewelry made by The Girls for sale. In addition, one of the young ladies who has graduated from the program spoke very movingly of her situation and how the program has helped her.

### ***Carolyn's Corner***

Welcome back as we enter a new AAUW season. I hope everyone had a relaxing summer. I am looking forward to the coming year with renewed energy and excitement. We have some great programs planned, thanks to Shirley Breeze and Judy Holmes and everyone who contributed ideas at the planning lunch in June. We can look forward to meeting new members, the possibility of mentoring a girls' Robotics team, and perhaps a few "fun raisers" to support our causes.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered for the summer Robots, to our new membership team: Ruth Field, Kathy McKemy, Gwen Westbrook and Lovene Hartman, and to Ruth for organizing a time for us at the Ferguson Farmers' Market, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to mark your calendar for our opening reception at Shirley's home on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Looking forward to an interesting and productive year,

*Carolyn*

### **BOARD MEETING**

The Board will meet at Carolyn's home on August 26 at 1:00 pm. All members are welcome to attend.

### **SEPTEMBER RECEPTION**

This year, as in previous years, the opening event of the Ferguson-Florissant Branch program year will be a reception for members and guests. Members of St. Louis and Creve Coeur branches are also being invited.

The reception will be held on September 22 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the home of Shirley Breeze. Information about the recent AAUW national convention, the new Public Policy program, the recently released research report *Women in Community Colleges Access to Success* and other recent publications and materials will be available. Also available will be the 2013-2014 branch programs for the year and information on some exciting branch initiatives.

The afternoon's activities will include comments from a state officer. Other national and state officers will be invited.

Guests are especially welcome. This is your chance to invite a prospective member and acquaint her with AAUW and the local branches and AAUW's mission of equity for women.

Any individuals you would like to invite will be sent an invitation if you e-mail Shirley Breeze at least one week in advance of the event. If you would prefer to send the invitation yourself, let Shirley know; she can provide the invitations. For information and driving instructions, call or e-mail Shirley.

### **IL-MO JOINT STATE CONVENTION REPORT**

Ruth Field was among branch members who attended the convention which was held in St. Louis May 3-5. Here are her reports of two workshops she attended.

#### **Women's Health: "Life in the New Healthcare Era"**

Judith Parker of Missouri Alliance for Retired Americans spoke on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

It is going to happen. Medicare and Social Security were not completely popular when they began either. It is not a perfect law, fixes and changes will probably be needed.

Starting in 2014, women cannot be charged more. Domestic violence will be covered. (Most insurance did not cover it before.) There will be no lifetime or annual coverage limits on healthcare.

Missouri will leave about \$1 billion on the table by not approving the federal Medicaid funds. It is estimated that 1500 Missourians (70% women) will die next year because the Missouri legislature did not include the Medicaid expansion funds offered.

Some sites for more information: Medicare.gov, Kff.org, and Judith's organization, [moara@ymail.com](mailto:moara@ymail.com), [www.retiredamericans.org](http://www.retiredamericans.org), [consumerreportshealth.org/free\\_guides](http://consumerreportshealth.org/free_guides).

#### **Illuminating Educational Gender Inequality in the Developing World, Speaker Jennifer Roberts, PhD.**

Jennifer is very enthusiastic about what she does. She has recently received her PhD and will do research

and teach at St. Louis University next year. Jennifer spent time in northeast India, doing her research in the field in a small village.

Educating girls is a right: Article 26 in Universal Human Rights.

Limiting factors include access, sustainability and equality. There are fewer female teachers in third world schools. Safety going to and from school can be difficult. Very often there is one teacher at a school. If the teacher is sick or absent, there will not be a substitute when the children arrive and there is little or no communication available.

Presently Jennifer has been teaching at Belleville West High School. She started a Girls Learn International Chapter as an after school activity at the high school. Girls and boys enjoyed learning and doing projects about the subject.

Some references on the subject include the book End of Poverty and Putting Education to Work, a UNESCO publication.

### **REPORT ON THE AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION, JUNE 8-12**

Shirley Breeze contributes this report on the national convention.

AAUW conventions are exciting on many levels. First, there is the excitement of electing a new board; then, there are always announcements about new programs and initiatives. And there are the many workshops, speakers and other educational features which provide background for our work on AAUW's mission and action.

Patricia Fae Ho was elected president and Julia Brown vice-president. They will be a formidable team as they lead AAUW for the next two years. AAUW is fortunate to have so many qualified women to serve in all leadership capacities. Directors were elected (10) and three additional ones were appointed. Missouri's Sandy Camillo was re-elected a director. (5.765% of the members voted in the elections.)

It was announced that AAUW has been awarded the highest ranking (excellent) from the top five charity rating organizations. It currently has the highest number of college/university partners, 813. The recent NCCWSL conference for young women had the highest attendance ever, over 700 attendees. Many of these attendees were supported by branches and states across the US. A total of 278 fellowships and grants worth \$4.3 million were awarded this past year. There are 10 new branches; currently, there are 165,000 members and supporters and the totals are rising. In the survey of membership chairs conducted recently, 84% reported using mission-based programming. Tech Trek applications will be solicited for 2014. A grant of \$105,000 from Praxair will support AAUW's Tech Savvy program. Full-time, experienced state organizers will be hired. MO-IL combined Impact Grant was awarded.

Lilly Ledbetter's book is in the planning stages for a movie.



Work continues on passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act (currently there are 46 Senate sponsors and 197 House sponsors).

The annual Starter Kit (white binder) and Public Policy brochure will be available shortly. Again this year, an Every Member Survey will be distributed to elicit input from members for direction on issues and programs. It was also announced that there will be two new research reports in the coming years; topics of these reports were not revealed.

The 2015 national convention will be in San Diego.

### **EQUALITY DAY**

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Equality Day Brunch, which celebrates the 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of women getting the vote, will take place on Saturday, August 24, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7750 Carondelet, Clayton, MO.

The brunch and program cost is \$37.00 and is sponsored by the Missouri women's Network. Bettina Hager, chief officer of the National Women's Political Caucus, will be the featured speaker. Ms. Hager, whose official title is Program Director, co-chairs the Equal Rights Amendment Task Force of the National Council of Women's Organizations. In this role she has spoken at national rallies, congressional briefings and conducted focused lobby training workshops to raise awareness on the issue of Constitutional equality. During the 2012 election cycle Ms. Hager oversaw the endorsement process of over 70 women for national office.

The brunch will also feature presentations about election, legislative and equity issues of interest to women and awards to three special Missouri women, Pat Rich, Jeannette Mott Oxford and Margo McMillan.

Patricia Rich is a longtime fundraiser for women's issues. She was the founding president of the Women's Foundation of Greater Saint Louis. She has written extensively on fundraising, including the book Membership Development: An Action Plan for Results.

Margot McMillan has written several books, including The Golden Lane, Called to Courage, and Paris, Tightwad and Peculiar: MO Place Names. She is active in the Missouri conservation movement; she owns and operates a "natural" farm in mid-Missouri. She teaches part-time at Westminster and lobbies for women and farm issues in Jefferson City.

Hon. Jeannette Mott Oxford is a longtime advocate for the disenfranchised in Missouri. She served in the Missouri House from 2005 to 2012. She is an expert on children's issues and poverty issues. She was executive director of ROWEL and is currently executive director of the Missouri Association of Social Welfare.

### **TREASURY**

Treasurer Lillian Boly reports that the profits from the tailgate sale on Saturday, July 6 at Northside Christian Church earned \$27.75. This was unexpectedly low because the bank told her that someone passed us a counterfeit \$20.

On July 8, Lillian deposited \$462.25 in the branch account.

### **ANNUAL DUES**

If you have not paid 2013-2014 dues before July 1, you still can pay them and be added to our members list. Dues are \$69, (\$49 national, \$10 state, and \$10 branch). Send checks to Lillian.

### **FIRST FRIDAY VIDEO**

The First Friday Video for September will be "Gosford Park," starring Michael Gambon, Kristin Scott Thomas, Maggie Smith and Helen Mirren. It is about a house party where a wry murder occurs.

The movie will be shown on September 6 at 1:30 pm at Nancy Gerber's apartment. Call Nancy's cell if you plan to attend.

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet on September 3. Nancy Gerber will review Jane and the Unpleasantness at Scargrave Manor by Stephanie Barron.

Meet for lunch at Cannoli's in Florissant at 11:30. Nancy is also the hostess, so call her if you plan to attend.

**DOWNTOWN LUNCH GROUP**

The Downtown Lunch Group will meet at 11:45 on September 17 at the Boathouse in Forest Park, 6101 Government Drive. Please email or phone Jean Shull to make your reservation.

**CALENDAR**

August 24--Equality Day Gala

**August 26--Board meeting at Carolyn's**

August 27--Interbranch Council

**September 6--First Friday Video**

**September 14--Ferguson Market**

**September 22, Branch Opening reception at Shirley's**

**2014**

March 1--Spring Fling

April 8--Equality Pay Day Rally, Jefferson City