



Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Shirley Breeze and
Pat Kelemen
Co- Presidents

Wilzetta Bell
Program Vice President

Carolyn Herkstroeter and
Carolynn Henning
Membership Co-Vice-Presidents

Volume 53

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Pat Kelemen, Editor

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

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

MAY LUNCHEON

The 2016-2017 Branch year was celebrated with the May Luncheon on May 27, 2017, At Catering to You. Branch members and their guests enjoyed a buffet lunch and program at this finale event. Several awards and recognitions were presented. Pam Meyers received this year's Named Gift honor. The branch was presented with the Star Award and recognized for being in the top ten branches statewide in per capita giving to AAUW.

The program was presented by the Hon. Margo McNeil, former state representative and current member of the Hazelwood School District Board of Education. She spoke about the challenges faced by public education in the age of vouchers and other issues challenging educators.

Newly elected officers were installed. Carolyn Herkstroeter and Carolynn Henning will now serve at Membership Co-Vice Presidents. Pam Meyers continues as Treasurer.



Shirley, Pat and Pam



Pat and Dorothy

Contact us by e-mailing Membership Co-Vice Presidents Carolyn Herkstroeter at herkcmw@att.net or Carolynn Henning at carhenning@att.net
Visit our website at fergusonflorissant-mo.aauw.net.



Lillian and Myra



Hon. Margo McNeil

OPENING RECEPTION September 17, 2017

The branch opens its program year with a reception on Sunday afternoon, September 17, 2017, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the home of Shirley Breeze. All individuals interested in women's equity are invited to attend. National Board member Sue Barley will make short remarks on the current initiatives and activities of the national organization. An overview of AAUW's mission, programs, and activities will be featured at the event, including a review of AAUW's 135 plus years of advocacy for women and girls. Attendees will learn more about the long-standing advocacy mission of the organization. The latest research report underwritten by the organization dealing with higher education debt incurred by women in obtaining college degrees and what can be done to curtail this will be discussed. An executive summary of the report will be available to all attendees.

Refreshments will be served.

For additional information or directions to Shirley's, call 314-831-5359 or 314-831-6884 or e-mail sbreeze@mindspring.com or pkelemen@hotmail.com.

STATE CONVENTION

The State Convention was held May 6, 2017, in Columbia. Janet Bunger, a member of the AAUW national board, presented an update on the national organization. Jan Scott, State president, conducted the business meeting and presented the annual awards, Ferguson Florissant branch received a Star Award and branch member Pam Meyers received a Named Gift Award.

After the lunch break, LAF speaker Aileen Rizo spoke eloquently. She is the plaintiff in a lawsuit, *Rizo v. Fresno*. A Hispanic woman, she was discriminated against in her workplace due to racial bias. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund supported her in her suit. Just days before speaking in Missouri, she learned that she had lost the case.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The AAUW National Convention was held June 14-17, 2017 in Washington, DC. Events and programs included election or appointment of the Board of Directors, including Sue Barley of St. Louis. The highest number of members, 11.49%, voted in this election since voting was changed to one-person-one-vote. Public policy changes and two resolutions were approved. All bylaw proposals were approved except the two on membership changes and the one reducing the quorum. Bylaw proposals need a two-

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thirds positive vote for approval. (The two proposals on membership each had more than 50% approval.)

The new CEO, Kim Churches, was present. Notable speakers were Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, NPR Co-anchor Judy Woodruff, and research authority Celinda Lake.

Several hundred attendees “stormed” the hill to lobby for Title IX and college debt reduction. They met with all the senators (or their staff) and a great number of the House members,

Attendees also had the opportunity to visit the new AAUW offices, which have the latest in communication technology and bright, airy work spaces.



Rep. Lacy Clay with Sue Barley and Shirley Breeze



Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

CONGRATULATIONS TO US!

The Ferguson Florissant Branch was the branch with the highest percentage voting in the state in the recent National election, with 46.88 of our members voting.

Way to go members!

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

The bylaws proposal submitted by the Ferguson Florissant Branch, as most of us know, did not pass. (See above convention summary) However, it lacked so few votes that it warrants being re-submitted in the next round of bylaws proposals. At this time, National has not decided when and how the next voting will be handled. The Branch Board discussed the re-submission and agreed that the Branch should be prepared for this possibility when National makes a decision.

EQUALITY DAY BRUNCH

The annual Equality Day Brunch organized by the Missouri Women’s Network will be held August 26, 2017, at the Clayton Plaza Hotel in Clayton. Two outstanding women will be honored. They are **Kathleen Farrell**, the immediate past Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis, and **Susan Kidder**, the executive director of St. Louis Safe Connections, an organization working to prevent and end domestic and sexual violence.

A few members have not yet renewed their membership. Please send \$69 to Pam Meyers soon.

We value your participation.

The featured speaker will be **Janette Dean**, who coordinated the passage of the ERA in Nevada. The amendment is just 2 states short of ratification.

The informational flyer and registration form will be included with this newsletter. Shirley Breeze will also accept checks (\$40) from members wishing to register.

FERGUSON FARMERS’ MARKET

The branch will have an informational table at the Ferguson Farmers’ Market from 8:00 until noon on August 12, August 26,

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September 16, and September 30. Membership Co-Vice Presidents Carolyn Herkstroeter andCarolynn Henning have e-mailed sign-up sheets. Please sign up and help increase our community visibility.

TAILGATE SALE

The Tailgate Sale June 3 earned the branch just under \$50.

Permanent name tags are available from national. Tags with pins cost \$8.50. Tags with magnets, gentle on clothes, cost \$10.

Pam Meyer will send a group order. Contact her if you want her to order one for you.

DIVERSITY AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Two committees, Diversity and Public Policy, are being combined. There is significant overlap in the concerns and membership of the two. Chair Judy Holmes says the “new” committee will probably meet in late September, exact date TBA. Any member is welcome.

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

The Movie Group will meet at the Hidden Lake Theater Room on **Monday, August 28** at 2:00 pm. The movie is “Emma” with Gwyneth Paltrow and Alan Cumming. Please let Judy Holmes know you are coming at mickey.holmes@att.net or 314-355-1125.

In **September**, the Movie Group will meet on **Monday, September 25**, at 2:00 pm. The movie for that date is to be determined. The list of movies selected for future viewing is, not necessarily in order: The Queen of Katwe, Sophie and the Rising Sun, The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, How to Make an American Quilt, A Street Cat Named Bob, Sunset Song, Laura, and Desk Set.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Mary Ellen Starr will hold the first fall book review on Tuesday, September 12 at 11:30 at her home. There will be a brief planning session preceding the review in order to develop a schedule for the remainder of the 2017-2018 reviews. She will review “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” by Rebecca Skloot. All are welcome. Bring a sandwich. Call Mary Ellen at 314-521-9232 if you plan to attend.

Outlook is going digital!

Starting with the summer 2017 issue, *AAUW Outlook* will be going digital. You’ll still get the same insight about issues that affect women and girls the most, but with more content. Make sure national has your preferred email address on file, and look out for this issue in your inbox.

ADELANTE BOOK GROUP

Adelante Book Group will meet at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson on September 8 at 1:30. Betty Takahashi will review “*Flo*” *Kennedy: The Life of a Black Feminist Radical* by Sherie M. Randolph.

DOWNTOWN LUNCH

On Tuesday, September 19, the Downtown Lunch Group will go to Guerrilla Street Food, 3559 Arsenal Street (Tower Grove area), 63118; 314-529-1328. They started out s a food truck serving Filipino food and now have a sit down restaurant.

RSVP Kay Meyer 314-962-7387 or kicmeyer51@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

August 12--Ferguson Farmers’ Market table

August 26--Ferguson Farmers’ Market table

August 26--Equality Day Brunch

August 28--Afternoon at the Movies

September 8--Adelante Book Group

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September 11--Branch Board Meeting
September 12--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group
September 17--Opening Reception
September 19--Downtown Lunch
September 25--Afternoon at the Movies

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