



## Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Shirley and Pat  
Co- Presidents  
President  
Volume 50

Wilzetta  
Program Vice President  
September 2014

Gwen  
Membership Vice-  
Pat, Editor

### **BOARD MEETING**

The branch board will meet on September 8 at the Corner Coffee House, 11:30.

### **ANNUAL MAY LUNCHEON**

The annual Spring Luncheon was held May 17 at Hendel's Café in Florissant. Sylvia announced this year's Named Gift recipients, Nancy and Pat summarized the contributions of each to the branch over the years. Carolyn announced that Ferguson-Florissant Branch received a 10-Star award and displayed the framed certificate.

After lunch, Shirley introduced panelists who discussed "The Future of North County from a Woman's Perspective." They were Dora, Director of Spanish Lake Community Association; Rev. Susan, Executive Director of Metropolitan Churches United; and Carol, member of the Hazelwood City council and former Hazelwood School Board member.

Retiring branch officers were Carolyn, President; Shirley and Judy, Co-Vice Presidents for program; and Virginia, Secretary. We are all indebted to their service to the branch. New officers were installed by outgoing President Carolyn. They are Co-Presidents Shirley and Pat, Vice President for Program Wilzetta, and Secretary Myra.

Thanks to Myra for the vases of flowers for the long table.

Photo from the May Luncheon: new officers Pat, Co-President, Myra, Secretary, and Shirley, Co-President.





May Luncheon photos: Judy, Named Gift Honoree Nancy, and guests.

### **CAROLYN'S EX-CORNER!**

Dear Ferguson Florissant Branch Members,

I want to thank you for the lovely flowers presented to me at the May luncheon and for all the support you have given me as president. I have really enjoyed the honor and job of serving the last four years--I think I was beginning to get the hang of it--and could not have carried on without a dedicated board of directors. Thank you to all members for planning and implementing great programs, providing refreshments, greeting guests, planning and participating in special events and volunteering for projects and fund-raisers. It has been an honor to serve as president and I look forward to continued growth and accomplishments with new leaders and enthusiastic members. We are a fantastic branch and can be proud of our achievements and our Ten-Star status.

*Carolyn*

### **FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS**

An exciting AAUW branch year awaits us. Ferguson-Florissant Branch has certainly been busy all summer--the Ferguson Yard Sale, the Program Planning, Robotics/tutoring, the Ferguson Farmers Market Booth. Let's keep up the good work.

We very much appreciate those of you who have agreed to accept board positions. This willingness to help reflects the positive influence and dedication of our predecessor, Carolyn.

This newsletter is filled with activities and upcoming events. Especially exciting are two upcoming events: Equality Day and the Branch Opening reception (see information elsewhere in this newsletter). A variety of monthly programs is also planned; every month will have a program that will inform you and provide food for thought.

We are anticipating a rewarding AAUW year, as we hope you are.

Pat and Shirley

### **OPENING RECEPTION SEPTEMBER 21**

Again this year, the opening event of the Ferguson-Florissant Branch program year will be a reception for members and guests.

The reception will be held on September 21 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the home of Shirley. Information on recent AAUW initiatives and upcoming programs and plans will be discussed; copies will be distributed to all attendees.

The afternoon's activities will include a short presentation on the 130 Plus Years of AAUW Advocacy. This presentation will be given by Karen, president of the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch and a Ferguson-Florissant Branch member. Facts on the first grant given to a women for research, the first research publication, and the first advocacy efforts will be addressed.

You are encouraged to invite a guest. This is a chance to invite a prospective member and acquaint her with AAUW and AAUW's mission of equity for women.

Those individuals you would like to invite will be sent an invitation if you e-mail her information to Shirley at least one week prior to the reception. If you would prefer to send the invitation yourself, let Shirley know; she can provide the invitations. For information and driving instructions, contact Shirley.

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## THANK YOU

- Special thanks to Virginia for hosting and organizing the Yard Sale on May 21. And special thanks to those members who worked and/or donated items: Carolyn, Lillian, Gwen, Shirley, Wilzetta, Elaine, Lovene, Martha, Sylvia, Myra.
- Thanks to those who attended and contributed to the Program Planning Meeting June 2 and especially to Judy for making the arrangements. Carolyn, Lillian, Judy, Elaine, Karen, Kathy, B. J., Virginia, Wilzetta, Carletta, Fran, Myra, Dorothy, Sylvia, Wanda.
- Also, thanks to Gwen who made all the arrangements for our booth at the Ferguson Framers Market on August 2. Appreciation is also expressed to those who “manned” the booth: Pat, Carolyn, Lillian, Shirley, Lovene.



This photo is from an earlier Ferguson Farmer’s Market and shows Sylvia, Virginia and Ruth staffing our informational table.

## LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund was established in 1981 to support litigation against sex discrimination that affects women in education. This mission was later broadened to include all workplaces. Sex discrimination today takes a variety of forms: unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX. LAF addresses these barriers by informing people of their rights and using the legal system to seek justice and change. The Legal Advocacy Fund empowers women in their fight for justice.

## PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

### **Shirley on the AAUW conference call regarding recent Supreme Court decisions**

The United States Supreme Court has just completed its session. Several decisions were made that radically affect women and children. (Note: Although many of the Supreme Court decisions were made on a court case for a particular jurisdiction, almost always this decision will apply to jurisdictions across the United States.)

The *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* decision will allow some corporations to restrict their employees’ contraceptive insurance coverage. A movement began almost immediately to pass legislation to counter this decision.

In *McCullen v. Coakley*, the Court ruled that the buffer zones near clinics that the state of Massachusetts has established are illegal, thus, in effect, making that the governing rule for other states.

The decision in *Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action* ruled that a Michigan state constitutional amendment prohibiting consideration of race in state university admissions may stand.

The case *Town of Greece v. Galloway* established that the town’s practice of legislative prayer was constitutional.

## PUBLIC POLICY STRATEGY CHANGES

### **Martha**

“Embrace change,” my college-student grandson insists.

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Change is constant. Whether we like it or not, we live in a world that is constantly changing. The atmosphere of change is reflected in AAUW public policy positions, as you no doubt have noticed. Core principles stay the same: our priorities for action change as legislative and judicial actions affect our lives.

Traditionally, one person has written a “public policy” article for our newsletter in an attempt to keep our members informed about AAUW policy and action. As I phase out as public policy chair, we are trying to expand our branch participation in these efforts by forming a public policy committee.

Our first meeting on July 22 resulted in a wide-ranging discussion of the many public policy issues in the news. It was exciting to witness the “wisdom of the group” leading us forward.

Starting with this issue, you will see articles in the newsletter written by various branch members, in order to provide more in-depth information on public policy. Shirley and Karen both participated in the recent conference call in which national AAUW members reported on the U.S. Supreme Court session which just ended. Shirley’s report is in this newsletter. Lovene is researching current efforts to address the prevalence of sexual assault on campuses and at military installations. She plans to write an article on this subject for our October newsletter. Karen will be updating us on the issue of pay equity, especially as our annual April pay equity rally in Jefferson City approaches. This month’s newsletter will have more information on the annual August Equality Day brunch which Shirley is facilitating.

We hope many of you will join our efforts to help all of us become better informed and participate more actively as citizens during this important election season.

### **AAUW MISSOURI 2014 STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

The state leadership conference was held in Columbia, MO, on May 3. Branch members present were Shirley, Myra, and Pat. State and national officers and officials attended and some made presentations. The national anthem was sung by Charlotte of Jefferson City Branch; Charlotte is a former member of Ferguson-Florissant Branch.

The opening session included an ERA update by Public Policy chair Jane and recognition of Legacy Circle members, including our own Nancy, by Sue.

National President Patricia presented a dynamic AAUW update. Mindy of Groundswell Public Strategies offered leadership training with the title “Words of Wisdom and Office Supplies . . . Tools You Can Use to Help you Better Lead Your Workplace, Your Projects and Your Life.” It was an interactive session about how to affect change through leadership, avoid pitfalls and have fun while doing it.

After lunch, Kelsey, an MU student and Student Advisory Council Member, updated the group about the AAUW student advisory council. Next, Mollie, LAF program manager, and Daniele, an LAF plaintiff, discussed sexual assaults in the military and the lengthy processes involved in seeking justice for victims.

After a break and an unexpected fire-drill evacuation of the entire hotel, the AAUW MO state assembly meeting occurred. State officers elected include President Diane, Membership VP Sue, and Finance Officer Ellen. Newly elected officers were sworn in by National President Patricia. The assembly meeting, besides being a basic business meeting, including announcing state awards such as the MO Outstanding Member Award, Branch Galaxy and Star Awards (Ferguson-Florissant Branch received a 10 Star Award!) and AAUW Funds Awards

### **AAUW MID-WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

#### **“AAUW Advocacy and You”**

The Lodge of the Four Seasons at Missouri’s Lake of the Ozarks was the venue for the 44<sup>th</sup> Biennial AAUW Mid-West Regional Conference. The Conference was held on June 13 and 14 with the theme of “AAUW Advocacy and You.”

Women from seven mid-west states attended and heard Liza, AAUW VP for Government Relations, keynote the Conference and Cordy, AAUW VP for Marketing and Development, discuss re-energizing your branch brand.

Director Malinda participated, as did National Committee chairs Diane (Fundraising) and Jane (College/University Relations).

The Conference started on Friday evening with a portrayal of Betsy Ross by Barbara. Also included in the Friday evening program was a showing of the powerful film “Pray the Devil Back to Hell,” which told the story of how women activists in Liberia were able to bring a cessation to war in their land.

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A special presentation on Women and Poverty in the US by Jayna was part of the Saturday morning programming.

The nine breakout sessions included “Sexual Harassment and Title IX Litigation,” Oklahoma’s STEM Tech Trek Camp, Common Core Controversies, “Sharing Leadership Across the Generations,” the new AAUW fundraising guidelines, the best procedures for keeping your AAUW records, how your rights are in jeopardy, and the new Get Out the Vote materials.

The Conference ended with an Open Forum/Town Hall session where participants could receive information about AAUW procedures, initiatives, and future plans.

--Adapted from material prepared by  
Joyce, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Branch treasurer Lillian reports that there are just a few members who have not yet paid their dues for 2014-15. If you have not already paid, the dues for branch, state, and national are \$69.00. You might like to know that \$43 are tax-deductible. If you know of a prospective member who would like a membership form, let Lillian know.

### **A GLIMPSE OF OUR NEWEST MEMBERS by Gwen, Membership VP**

The Ferguson-Florissant branch of AAUW welcomed four new members this spring: Frances, Linda, Frances and Susan. Short biographies will be featured in this and future newsletters. Look for the new members at upcoming meetings and events.

#### **Frances**

Frances grew up in southern Oklahoma near Lawton. She graduated from Central State University in Edmond, Oklahoma, with a BS in Speech and Hearing Therapy. She married and moved to Rockport, Texas, with her husband and two daughters, Lara and Autumn. Frances worked for a total of twenty-five years in Texas as a speech-language pathologist and a Life Skills teacher for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

Her daughters moved to Hazelwood, and when Frances retired in 2010, she came to the St. Louis area to be near them and their families. She became a full-time “granny,” caring for her three grandchildren, two boys and a girl. Her older daughter now lives in Poplar Bluff, and her younger daughter is a teacher at Wedgewood Elementary School in the Ferguson-Florissant School District.

Frances loves spending time with her grandchildren and daughters. She also enjoys reading and biking, and works on sewing projects. She plays the piano for her own enjoyment (“Not anyone else’s,” she says). She volunteers at her church, St. Mark’s United Methodist, and is active in select political causes and candidates. Frances is an avid member of Cardinal Nation and enjoys going to Cardinals games.

Carolyn invited Frances to AAUW events, and she always enjoyed herself and was impressed with the programs she attended. She feels it’s an honor to be a member of such a great organization with its wonderful legacy. Frances likes the idea of being involved in an organization that is involved in important issues, and can even influence legislation of current issues. She is particularly interested in education and healthcare. She looks forward to becoming more involved as her childcare responsibilities decrease.

### **FRANCES, LINDA, FRANCES, and SUSAN--WELCOME TO AAUW!**

### **WANTED: CREATIVE, FUN WAYS TO RAISE MONEY TO HELP SUPPORT LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND--AAUW EDUCATIONAL FUNDS--LOCAL PROJECT PROGRAMS--SPONSORSHIPS FOR MEMBERS TO ATTEND SPECIAL EVENTS AND CONFERENCES--CONTRIBUTIONS--MEMBERSHIP--PR**

If you enjoy raising money, have ideas for Fund or “Fun” Raising events, or would like to organize an event, please join us for a fund-raising meeting or send us your thoughts and ideas. There will be a Fund Raising meeting in late August/early September. Lillian Boly is currently planning a FUN RAISER to Hannibal. Contact Lillian.

Carolyn, Fundraising Chair.

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**TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

**Beginning this month, Book Group will be meeting on the SECOND TUESDAY of each month.**

Tuesday Afternoon Book group will meet at 11:30 on September 9 at the home of Lillian. Lillian will discuss Enterprise by Barrett Tillman. Bring a sandwich with you. Notify Lillian if you plan to attend.

Book List for 2014-15

<u>Month</u>	<u>Reviewer and Book</u>	<u>Hostess</u>
Sept. 9, 2014	Lillian <u>Enterprise</u> by Barrett Tillman	Lillian
Oct. 14	Elaine <u>A Fighting Chance</u> by Elizabeth Warren	Elaine
Nov. 11	Myra <u>A Shopkeeper's Daughter</u> by Rachel Wisdom	Myra
Dec. 9	Christmas Readings by members	Lillian
Jan. 13, 2015	Carolyn <u>The Invention of Wings</u> by Sue Monk Kidd	Carolyn
Feb. 10	Pat <u>Between Shades of Gray</u> by Ruta Sepetys	Pat
Mar. 10	Wanda <u>Breaking Point</u> by Lindsay McKenna	Wanda
Apr. 14	Mary Ellen <u>Motherhood Rescheduled</u> by Sarah Elizabeth Richards	Mary Ellen

**Book Group Chairperson is Mary Ellen.**

*All branch members are welcome to attend any Book Group Session.*

**DOWNTOWN LUNCH GROUP**

The Downtown Lunch group will meet on September 16 at 11:45 at The Salted Pig, 731 South Lindbergh. Please email Jean for reservations.

**ADELANTE BOOK GROUP**

The Adelante Book Group will meet on September 25 at 1:30 at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson in Chesterfield. Phyllis will lead the discussion of *In the Shadow of the Banyan* by Vaddey Ratner, in keeping with Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month.

In addition, the group will be discussing which books to read and discuss for the upcoming year.

**CALENDAR**

**September 8--Branch Board Meeting**

**September 9--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group**

September 16--Downtown Lunch Group

**September 21--Opening reception**

September 25--Adelante Book Group

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