



## Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Shirley and Pat  
Co- Presidents

Wilzetta  
Program Vice President

Gwen  
Membership Vice-President

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Pat, Editor

### **APRIL BOARD MEETING**

The board will meet on Monday, April 6, at 11:30 at the Corner Coffee House.

### **MARCH BRANCH MEETING**

Members and several guests attended the March Branch meeting at the Florissant Public Library at 7:00 pm on March 16. Pam Ross, a national officer of the Veteran Feminists of America, presented the film "Feminist: Stories from Women's Liberation." Thanks to Kathy for making the arrangements and Lovene for organizing the refreshments.



Pam Ross speaks about veteran feminists



Karen, Speaker Pam, Kathy and Shirley, all recognized by Veteran Feminists of America at their fall conference

## **APRIL BRANCH MEETING**

### **Exploring the Web of Cruelty**

Individuals who are cruel to animals are also cruel to people. Information from the Humane Society of Missouri indicates that 70 percent of animal abusers had committed at least one other criminal offense, and almost 40 percent had committed violent crimes against people. One-third of residents with animal abuse complaints also had domestic violence complaints.

These statistics are startling and very disturbing. Sue Gassner, Director of Education at the Humane Society of Missouri, will speak about the link between cruelty to animals, children, and domestic violence on Monday, April 20, at 7:00 pm in the Educational Building of the Immanuel UCC Church, 211 Church Street, Ferguson. This branch meeting is open to the public.

## **INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO THIS MEET AND GREET**

How do the inequities in the state legislature, the workplace, and society affect women and families? What can advocates do to change this negativity? What do statistics and the experts say about the status of women today? These issues and others related to women in Missouri will be addressed at this Spring Happy Hour.

Join other women interested in changing the current climate for women's issues in Missouri at a casual Women's Happy Hour sponsored by the Ferguson-Florissant (North County) Branch of the American Association of University Women. The event will be held on April 9, 2015, from 4 to 6 pm at Hendl's Café (on the porch), 599 St. Denis, in Florissant. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded. This event is open to the public. For more information, call 314-831-5359, 314-831-6884, or 314-921-4138.

## **PRESIDENTS' LETTER by Pat**

Women join AAUW for a variety of reasons, for instance, some for specific activities a branch offers, some for the chance to meet and socialize with others, others for the state and national initiatives supporting women and girls. This organization is structured to meet the needs of women who joined for all kinds of reasons. It also allows women to become involved in ways and at levels they may not have considered at first.

For many members, the local branch is the key to membership. Each branch plans programs that reflect the local issues and interests, as well as incorporating state and national priorities. Local speakers enrich our knowledge of home and often how "home" reflects state and national issues. Certainly, the Ferguson Florissant Branch has responded to the recent events in Ferguson and the realization that our values and priorities call for a response to the issues those events have revealed. We have helped register voters, worked to get free publicity for women-owned business impacted by demonstrations and violence, continued our Robotics/STEM mentoring, added OASIS tutoring, and continued supporting Ferguson businesses by holding meetings in a downtown restaurant.

In addition, the local branch members aren't always serious or issue-based in events we plan and enjoy. Book group, "fun-raisers," garage sales, and luncheons are just some of the ways we gather to enjoy each other's company.

The umbrella of Interbranch Council (IBC) links six local branches. IBC sponsors NCCWSL students to attend the national conference of young women leaders, links the individual branches, and sponsors the annual Spring Fling. All of these are excellent opportunities for women to network.

AAUW MO, our state organization links members from all over the state of Missouri. *Missouri in Motion*, the state newsletter, highlights activities statewide. The annual state meeting allows members from across Missouri to meet face to face and to hear speakers from national.

The national AAUW is a powerhouse of resources for state and local organizations and the engine that drives AAUW public policy in support of women and girls, the research and publishing of data supporting our policy stands, and the face of AAUW (and therefore, many American women and girls) in our nation's capital. Online postings and the quarterly print *Outlook* inform members of AAUW's response to national issues. Scholarships, fellowships, and other academic opportunities are also funded through various programs at the national level.

All members benefit from the multi-layered structure of AAUW. A member may become active at as many levels as she wishes. As an example, a member from a local branch is currently running for a national office. And all members nationwide are eligible to vote in AAUW national elections this spring and attend the national convention in San Diego. From the local branch to Washington, DC, AAUW

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represents programs supporting the advancement of women and girls.

### **PUBLIC POLICY by Shirley**

#### **One Person One Vote!**

The AAUW national elections begin this month. This is your opportunity to make your voice heard on the new officers, changes to the by-laws, and additions/subtractions to the National Public Policy Program. Information is available on the AAUW website or in the upcoming *Outlook*.

It is easy to vote! You may choose the method you want, either paper ballot or electronic ballot. You will need your membership number to vote; it is available on the label of your *Outlook*. Paper ballots may be requested through May 8. Electronic voting begins April 15 and ends June 19.

The candidates for office are Patricia Fae Ho, president, Alicia Hetman, vice president; candidates for board of directors are Sue Barley, Maria Ellis, Malinda Gaul, Sally Goodson, Eileen Hartmen, Rebecca Norlander, Judith Pfeil, Glenda Price, Ellie Hill, Traci Jensen, Melissa Johnsen, Martha Reeder, Pam Thiel, Dot McLane, and Eileen Menton. You may vote for up to 10 directors.

Changes in the by-laws are the following:

- Elimination of the degree requirement for membership
- Process for filling vacancies occurring after voting has begun
- Changing the titles of AAUW's leadership
- Changing requirements for vice president in certain circumstances

For a complete review of the Public Policy Program changes, check the March issue of the Ferguson-Florissant newsletter.

### **WOMEN HELPING WOMEN by Carolyn**

Jan Scott, editor of WOMEN'S YELLOW PAGES online advertising for women owned/run businesses, has offered to give Ferguson business women, most of whom have been impacted physically or economically by the Ferguson riots, free WYP listing for 2015. She has asked our branch to help support these women through conversations and offering this opportunity. The businesses have all been contacted by Ferguson City Hall and so far five of the respondents we interviewed have sent in their listings.

At the March board meeting we agreed to support this project and invite you, especially our Ferguson members, to volunteer. We will have a planning meeting early in April, probably at the Coffee House, and continue to gather business listings for the May edition of WYP. Perhaps we can organize a lunch meeting with the women later on.

So far, we have interviewed some amazing women who wish to continue to do business in our community. Their stories are heartbreaking, but they are strong and wish to carry on. I think we will all be inspired by their courage. If you can participate, please contact me, [herkcmw@att.net](mailto:herkcmw@att.net).

Thank you, Carolyn

Thank you, Jan Scott, for this opportunity

### **THE STATE MEETING CONNECTS TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION from Julie, AAUW MO Program Vice President**

So you can't go to San Diego--AAUW MO is bringing a piece of National to you on May 2-- Linda Hallman, AAUW CEO, will be with us as will Erica Stout, AAUW Training and Program Manager. Linda will be updating us on what is happening at National and giving us information about the new research. Erica Stout will present two sessions, "How to Market Your Branch," and "Designing Engaging Meetings." We are so fortunate to have been selected as one of the states chosen to have Erica as a presenter.

The Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia was selected as the site for the State Meeting. It proved to be a great facility for us last year and we have been promised no fire alarms this year!

The registration form was included as an attachment to the March newsletter and will be included this month. It can also be downloaded from the website <http://aauwmo.org>. Registration without a late fee ends April 15. **Don't wait! Sign up today.**

### **SPRING FLING**

On a beautiful Saturday, March 21, AAUW members from Interbranch Council celebrated the

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annual Spring Fling at The Highlands in Forest Park. They were entertained by Dianne Moran, portraying environmentalist pioneer Rachel Carson. The traditional basket raffle featured 12 baskets donated by individual branches of IBC and raised over \$400 for the council. About a dozen Ferguson Florissant members attended.

#### PHOTO CREDIT

Thanks to Carolyn who took the photographs of the March branch meeting and Spring Fling.



We donated 2 baskets to the raffle.  
This was created by Carolyn and Virginia.



Most of the branch members who attended Spring Fling

#### EQUAL RIGHTS ACTION DAY

The annual Equal Rights Action Day is set for Tuesday, April 14, at the State Capitol in Jefferson City. Events will include a legislative briefing, a March for Women's Rights, an equity rally under the capitol dome, and a chance to lobby your state senator and representative. Please see the flyer included with this newsletter.

#### HEARING ON PAY EQUITY

Co-President Shirley testified at the hearing on pay equity March 9 in Jefferson City. Of course, pay equity is an important issue for AAUW on the local, state, and national levels. (Photo contributed by Shirley.)

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### **LEGACY CIRCLE by Sue, National Legacy Circle Team Member**

Missouri now has 15 Legacy Circle members.

The AAUW Legacy Circle is how AAUW recognizes and honors those members and individuals who have provided for AAUW in their estate plans. Members choose to do this in many ways--naming AAUW as a beneficiary of an insurance policy or IRA, providing for a set amount or a percentage in their will, or setting up a gift annuity. Missouri is thrilled to have 15 members. Complete information is on [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) or by calling Sue, National Legacy Circle Team member [barley702@gmail.com](mailto:barley702@gmail.com). If you are attending the convention in San Diego, now is the time to join the Legacy Circle, so that you can be included in the special luncheon being planned for Legacy Circle members.

Information about the Legacy Circle and the Missouri members are on the state website <http://aauw-mo.aauw.net/>

### **SAVE THE DAY FOR THE ANNUAL MAY LUNCHEON**

The Ferguson Florissant Branch May Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, at Rizzo's on Dunn Road at 11:30. We will meet in the private banquet room, where members and guests can order from the menu and will receive separate checks. A count of how many are coming will be needed by the restaurant 4-5 days in advance. Watch for more information, such as program details, in coming newsletters.

### **TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet on April 14 at 11:30 at the home of Joyce Wolf. Joyce will lead the discussion of *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon. Joyce has copies of the book for anyone who wants one. Contact Joyce about getting a book. Please notify Joyce if you plan to attend. Bring a sandwich for yourself.

### **COMING SOON--A DIGITAL SCRAPBOOKING PARTY**

On April 29, Carolyn will host a digital scrapbooking party from 1-3 pm at her home. Member Fran will demonstrate how to create digital scrapbooks of your own. This is to be a fundraiser for LAF. More details from Carolyn soon. Mark your calendar!

### **ADELANTE BOOK GROUP**

The Adelante Book Group will meet on April 23 at 1:30 at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson in Chesterfield. Phyllis will review *Calla Lilies: A True Story of Four Sisters and Their Struggle to Survive Abuse, Addiction, and Poverty in America* by Kay Corbett (AAUW member).

### **DOWNTOWN LUNCH GROUP**

The Downtown Lunch group will meet at Three Flags Tavern, 4940 Southwest Avenue 63110 on April 21 at 11:45 am. RSVP to Kay [kicmeyer51@gmail.com](mailto:kicmeyer51@gmail.com).

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES**

The 2015 International Relations Lecture Series, presented by The Tuesday Women's Association

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of Ethical Society and AAUW meets promptly at 10:45 in the lower meeting room of the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117. Free parking is available in the rear of the building. The 45-50 minute lecture will be followed by a question and answer period. Attendees are invited to bring lunch and to stay and discuss the day's topic. In case of inclement weather, you may call 314-991-0955, ext. 224.

The topic for April 14, 2015 is "Will 3-D Printing Change the World?" The speaker will be Warren Doherty, Market Wide Format Specialist at Konica Minolta. Mr. Doherty, from a background of 23 years in the printing and copying field, will explain how this revolutionary technology works, what it has produced in the past, and how it could affect our world in the future.

**Note: This program has been rescheduled to this month; it was not presented in March.**

#### **LADIES TEA TIME TRIVIA**

The St. Charles branch is planning its Ladies Tea Time Trivia for Saturday, April 25, starting at 1:00 pm. This is their annual fundraiser for local scholarships/education. The flyer with all the details will be included with this newsletter.

#### **BALLWIN CHESTERFIELD SPEAKER**

The Ballwin Chesterfield branch will meet at Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road, Chesterfield, MO 63017, on April 9, 2015. Coffee and socializing begins at 8:45, the business meeting follows at 9:30, and the program begins at 10:15.

"Chasing the Dream: Understanding What Shapes Our Fortunes," will be presented by Mark R. Rank, Ph.D. He is widely recognized as one of the foremost experts and speakers in the country on issues of poverty, inequality and social justice. He has written *Living on the Edge: The Realities of Welfare in America* and *One Nation, Underprivileged: Why American Poverty Affects Us All*, and will be talking about the subject of his most recent release, *Chasing the Dream: Understanding What Shapes Our Fortunes*.

#### **CALENDAR**

##### **April 9--Spring Meet and Greet**

April 9--Ballwin Chesterfield meeting and speaker

April 14--Equal Rights Action Day in Jefferson City

##### **April 14--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group**

April 14--International Relations Lecture Series

April 15--Electronic voting in national AAUW elections begins

##### **April 20--Branch meeting**

April 21--Downtown Lunch Group

April 23--Adelante Book Group

April 25--Ladies Tea Time Trivia

##### **April 29--Digital scrap booking party**

May 16--Annual Branch Luncheon

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