



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

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Pat Kelemen, Editor

LEGISLATIVE FORUM

The Legislative Forum on Saturday, October 21, featured three women state legislators, State Senator Jill Schupp, Representative Cora Faith Walker, and Representative Deb Lavender. Each spoke for about 10 minutes and then the three responded to questions from the audience of branch members and guests.

Rep. Lavender spoke about her research into how the state budget and department accounts work. Money is deposited in restricted accounts, and those funds can only be used for the purposes of the particular account. In some instances, millions of dollars remain unused while other areas are short of money.

Rep. Walker focused on cuts to health care programs on both the state and federal levels. The main concern is programs to provide services for low income Missourians, such as MORx and CHP. MORx is a state program that provides money to cover the donut hole in prescription insurance for low income citizens. CHP is a federal program that provides medical insurance to low income children.

Sen. Schupp began by talking about the numbers of Republican and Democrat legislators in Missouri: In the Senate there are 34 seats, 9 held by Democrats. In the House, 45 of the 163 are held by Democrats.

She spoke at length of the upcoming Carefair she is sponsoring. This event will provide all sorts of health screenings and access to community resources. It is free and open to the public. It will take place November 4 from 10 am to noon at the Overland Community Center.

Our thanks to Lovene Hartman for making the arrangements and providing the refreshments.



L to R: Jill Schupp, Cora Faith Walker, and Deb Lavender



Rep. Walker speaks

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.



Rep. Lavender speaks



Food, glorious food! Jan Scott, Lovene, and guest

PRESIDENTS' LETTER by Pat Kelemen

The new branch year is well underway. We have done four informational tabling events at the Ferguson Farmers' Market, enjoyed the annual September reception, and presented the October Legislative Forum. The new Membership Co-Vice Presidents have hit the ground running, with exciting plans to attract new members.

Yet, along with this good news there are unfilled positions on the branch board and program planning that is only sketched out so far. Some of this is due to members who have moved from one position to another with the "original" spot still open. Filling these positions with willing members is vital to the success of our branch. Members who are newer to the branch are very welcome to step up. With few exceptions, there is no requirement regarding length of membership for someone to serve on the board or work on developing a program. Longer-time members are also invited to consider trying a new responsibility. Maybe a team of a newer member and a "veteran" member could work together on some tasks.

Please consider taking an active role in the branch. The current open positions are not elected ones. The time commitment for these positions varies. Don't hesitate to contact Shirley or Pat to volunteer.

PUBLIC POLICY--Shirley Breeze

TITLE IX

In September Rep Louise Slaughter introduced legislation to help schools implement Title IX. The Patsy Mink Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) would provide Title IX coordinators with annual training, offer grants to institutions that improve gender equity, and establish the Office of Gender Equity in the Department of Education.

Even as this was being introduced, the Department of Education was reducing the effectiveness of Title IX by, among other things, revamping Title IX rules on campus sexual assault by introducing "a workable, effective and fair system" that takes into account the rights of the accused. Some Title IX administrators and advocates are afraid that this weakening of rules will give universities the opportunity to reduce their attention to this issue.

The year 2017 is the 45th anniversary of the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This ground-breaking legislation for the first time mandated equal opportunity for females and males in all fields of federally-funded public education. The passage of Title IX changed American education more than any other legislation. Although Title IX had a tremendous impact on high school and collegiate athletic programs, the original statute made no explicit mention of sports. The legislation reads:

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program

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or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

In 2002, Title IX was renamed the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act, in honor of its principal author, the late Democratic Congresswoman from Hawaii.

--Source: *AAUW Quick Facts*; *Women's History Gazette*, National Women's History Project; *St. Louis Post Dispatch*; *USA Today*.

FARMERS' MARKET UPDATE

Special thanks to all members who worked the tabling at the Ferguson Farmers' Market over four Saturdays in August and September: Sylvia Miller, Virginia Jost, Carolyn Henning, Carolyn Herkstroeter, Joyce Wolf, Pam Meyers, Gwen Westbrook, Wilzetta Bell, Lillian Boly, Mary Ellen Starr, Judy Holmes, Fran Carney, Lovene Hartman, Pat Kelemen, and Shirley Breeze.

AAUW FUNDRAISING

The major fundraising activity by AAUW's National organization centers around AAUW Fund; Legal Advocacy Fund is also a primary focus of funding. AAUW Fund is primarily used for operations at the National level; i.e., printing, travel, salaries. These are activities that keep the organization moving and keep it vibrant and relevant.

The fundraising activities are on a calendar year basis; therefore, on December 31 of each year, each branch's contributions are calculated. Branch donations to National are important in two vital ways; for the STAR Award recognition and for the Named Gift Recipient designation. The STAR Award is a yearly recognition by the state AAUW. One of the determining categories is the branch's financial contributions. Another important recognition is the ability to honor a branch member by having her be a Named Gift Recipient; this year's award went to Pam Meyers. Each branch is allowed one recipient for each \$500.00 of financial contributions to National.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In preparation for the upcoming officer elections, a nominating committee has been formed. The members are Wilzetta Bell, Lillian Boly, and Tommie Turner.

BARNES & NOBLE GIFT WRAPPING

Lovene Hartman is organizing the schedule of members who will volunteer to wrap books and other gifts at Barnes & Noble at Ladue Crossing. This is a fundraiser for the branch and is quite easy to do.

This is the list of openings Lovene had before the Legislative Forum October 21.

- November 25, Saturday:
 - 10 am-2 pm--2 persons
 - 5 pm-8 pm--1 person
- December 21, Thursday
 - 2 pm-5 pm--1 person
 - 5 pm-8 pm--1 person
- December 22, Friday
 - 10 am-2 pm--2 persons
 - 2 pm-5 pm--1 person
 - 5 pm-8 pm--1 person

To sign up, call Lovene at 314-921-5062 or e-mail her at lovenehartman@att.net.

DIVERSITY/PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Public Policy Diversity Committee will be Wednesday, November 8, at

**Contact us by e-mailing Membership Co-Vice Presidents Carolyn Herkstroeter at herkcmw@att.net or Carolyn Henning at carhenning@att.net
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7:00 pm at Lutheran Church of the Living Christ at 2725 Concord Dr. (corner of Concord and New Halls Ferry). Enter at the upper parking lot nearest New Halls Ferry. **Note this is an evening meeting.**

Among other items on the agenda, the committee members are asked to bring information on Executive Orders, what they mean and what they do. Each member was asked to pick one executive order to explore.

Persons not on the committee are welcome to attend whether interested in being on the committee or just to sit in on this session. Contact Judy Holmes, Chair, if you have questions: mickey.holmes@att.net or 314-355-1125.

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

November Afternoon at the Movies will be "Sophie and the Rising Sun" with Julianne Nicholson and Tahashi Yamagushi. The movie was made in 2016, based on a novel by Augusta Trobaugh.

The movie will be shown on Monday, November 20 at 2:00 pm at the Hidden Lake Theater Room. Please call or email Judy Holmes at 314-355-1125 or mickey.holmes@att.net if you are planning to come or if you have any questions.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP--IMPORTANT CORRECTIONS

Book Group will not meet in November

The dates for Book Group printed in the October newsletter are incorrect. These are the correct meeting dates.

- **December 12**--*Hothouse Orchid* by Stuart Woods. Reviewer and Hostess Lillian Boly at her home
- January 2018--No review
- February 13--*Precious & Grace* by Alexander McCall Smith. Reviewer and Hostess Joyce Wolf at her home
- **March 13**--Film of *Hidden Figures*. Book by Margot Lee Shetterly. Hostess Myra Talkington. Lunch out, followed by dessert and film at Myra's
- **April 10**--*The Vanishing American Adult* by Ben Sasse. Reviewer Mary Ellen Starr at Cannolis
- **May 8**--Discussion on the topic "Breaking Through Barriers" led by Carolyn Herkstroeter at her home

Carolyn suggests reading one or more of the following before the meeting:

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly: Black women computer experts who helped win the space race

Alice by Stacy A. Cordery: Alice Roosevelt Longworth--From White House Princess to Washington Power Broker

The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict: Einstein's wife Mileva strived to find her place in a scientific world dominated by men

Undaunted by Tanya Blank: The real story of American service women

ADELANTE BOOK GROUP

The Adelante Book Group will meet at 1:30 on October 26 at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson. Teri Brecht will review *Quiet Until the Thaw* by Alexandra Fuller.

The next meeting will be January 25.

MEET AND EAT GROUP

The Meet and Eat Group will be at Baida Moroccan Restaurant, 3191 S. Grand Blvd., 63118 (314-932-7950) on November 21 at 11:45. RSVP Kay Meyer 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer51@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

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October 26--Adelante Book Group

November 8--Diversity/Public Policy meeting

November 20--Afternoon at the Movies

November 21--Meet and Eat Group

November 25, December 21 and 22--Gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble

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