



Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Shirley Breeze and
Pat Kelemen
Co- Presidents
Volume 53

Wilzetta Bell
Program Vice President
March 2018

Carolyn Herkstroeter and
Carolynn Henning
Membership Co-Vice-Presidents
Pat Kelemen, Editor

BOARD MEETING

The Board will meet on March 5 at McAlisters in Florissant at 11:30.

MARCH MEETING

The March branch meeting will be on March 19 at 7:00 pm at Immanuel UCC. It will be the annual business meeting plus an overview of some of AAUW's recent initiatives.

During the business meeting, those present will vote on the slate of nominees for the branch offices that are up for election. The nominees are Pam Meyers and Wilzetta Bell for Co-President, Shirley Breeze for Program Vice President, and Joyce Bluett for secretary. Joyce Wolf will become treasurer to complete Pam's term.

Thanks to the nominating committee and all the others who helped with the new slate of officers for 2018-2020 and especially to those who agreed to hold office. Many members offered suggestions as to who might serve in these offices. Those suggestions were followed up.

REPORT ON THE FEBRUARY MEETING

On February 19 guest speakers Mrytis Spencer, Community Outreach Coordinator, and Andrea Denny, JD, MSSW, who work for the Knight Alzheimer Researach Center of Washington University, presented a program "Alzheimers, a Family Challenge." They also responded to questions and comments from the audience.

After the presentation, there was a potluck lunch.

PRESIDENTS' LETTER by Pat Kelemen

As we look forward to spring, several events come to mind. First, AAUW was well represented at the ERA hearings in Jefferson City on February 20. Karen Francis says 5 members statewide spoke, including Karen and Shirley Breeze. With approval from only 2 states lacking, it is important for women's voices to be heard.

Election of Branch officers is essential to the functioning of our branch. We are lucky to have such capable women willing to keep the branch vital and active.

Interbranch Council is planning this year's Spring Fling, to be held once more at Glen Echo Country Club in North County. This year's event will be April 21 when spring should surely be here. A flyer will be included with this newsletter. Save the date and make your reservation. Branch members who have paid for their reservation can request a reimbursement of half the cost from Pam Meyers.

The branch May Luncheon will be May 19 at Catering to You in Florissant. The featured

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speaker will be author George Hodgman. He will speak about his memoir *Bettyville*. Save the date and plan to invite friends to join us. Expect a detailed flyer in the April newsletter.

PUBLIC POLICY/DIVERSITY by Karen Francis

AAUW MO opposes HJR 47 and SJR 28 regarding selection of judges because they are contrary to our Public Policy Priorities 2017-2019, Public Policy Priorities for Action “. . . we support a fair, balanced and independent judiciary.” The Missouri Plan, originally the Missouri Non-partisan Court Plan, is also known as the merit plan. Under the plan, a non-partisan commission reviews candidates for judicial vacancy. The commission then sends to the governor a list of candidates considered to be the best qualified.. Support for the merit selections was to reduce the role of politics in the election of judges. The Missouri Plan serves as a model for thirty four states that use the merit selection to fill some or all judicial vacancies. The proposed legislation would change the way judges are selected--eliminating the Judicial Commission and allowing the Governor to appoint the judges.

PUBLIC POLICY/DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee met on February 10, 2018. Discussion centered on plans for the October 2018 Community Outreach Event. A panel presentation and discussion by three culturally diverse women is being developed. The favored site, the Florissant County Library, cannot be reserved until April and the exact date is to be determined. Possible panelists will not be invited until a time and place are set.

Committee members will continue to write articles for the newsletter similar to the one shown above.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 27, 2018, at 10 am at Aperion Hidden Lake.

SPRING FLING

The annual Spring Fling presented by Interbranch Council will be held on April 21 at Glen Echo Country Club. The program will be soloist Valerie Kirchoff and her pianist Ethan Leinwand. They will present Hot Jazz, Hokum and Low-Down Blues from the 1920s and 30s,

Spring Fling will begin with Registration and a Pazzazy Purse Raffle. The Luncheon includes a choice of Chicken Piccata or Pasta Con Broccoli. The event concludes with the presentation of the Barbara Lackritz Award.

The cost is \$35 and the registration deadline is April 2. A flyer with more details and the registration form is included with this newsletter.

ANNUAL STATE MEETING

The AAUW Missouri state meeting, Taking the LEAD, will be held May 4 and 5, 2018, in Columbia, Missouri. New AAUW CEO will attend Friday night and Saturday morning. The cost is \$60 for early bird registration, with several ways to get reimbursement. Ferguson Florissant Branch will reimburse \$30 to members who have paid the registration fee and then ask for the reimbursement. See the flyers for information about other ways to be reimbursed,

Members who wish to attend only the Saturday events can leave St. Louis by car at 6:30 am and arrive at the conference in time for the continental breakfast. Expect to return to St. Louis by around 6:00 pm. See the flyers included here for details.

BRANCH MAY LUNCHEON

The Ferguson Florissant May Luncheon will be May 19 at Catering to You. The featured speaker will be George Hodgman, author of *Bettyville*.. Save the date and plan to invite friends. A detailed flyer will come out in the April newsletter.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES

This series is co-sponsored by The Tuesday Women's Association of the Ethical Society and The

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American Association of University Women. The programs are presented at the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road, St. Louis MO 63117.

Each meeting will begin promptly at 10:45 the 2nd Tuesday of the month, January to April, in the upper auditorium. The public is cordially invited. There is no fee, but all contributions are greatly appreciated. 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 the March 13, 2018 program is "Human Trafficking, an International Problem." The presenter is Whitney Howland, who has worked at the Human Trafficking Victim Services Social Worker at the International Institute of St. Louis since 2016, In this role she provides technical assistance and training to service providers. Currently she acts as the agency's liaison to the Federal District of Eastern Missouri's Human Trafficking Task Force and she organizes the St. Louis Rescue and Restore Coalition.

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

Afternoon at the Movies will meet Monday, March 26 at 2:00 pm. They will be viewing "How to Make an American Quilt" with Winona Ryder and Anne Bancroft. The movie will be shown in the Theater Room at Aperion Hidden Lake. If you are planning to come, please let Judy Holmes know at 314-355-1125 or mickey.holmes@att.net.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet on March 13 at **12:45** at the home of Myra Talkington. The movie "Hidden Figures" will be shown and discussed. The group will order pizza from Marco's across the street from Myra's. Myra will provide drinks and dessert. Please call Myra if you plan to attend.

ADELANTE BOOK GROUP

The Adelante Book Group will meet at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson at 1:30 on March 22, 2018. Lorna Anderson will lead the discussion of *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng.

ST. CHARLES LADIES TEA TIME TRIVIA

St. Charles AAUW is holding Ladies Tea Time Trivia on April 7 from 1:00-3:30 pm at Faith United Methodist Church in St. Charles. A flyer with details and a registration form is included with this newsletter.

MEET AND EAT LUNCH GROUP

The Meet and Eat Lunch Group will Meet March 20 at 11:30 am at Mango, 1001 Washington Ave, 63101, 314-621-9993. They serve Peruvian/Latin food. Please RSVP to Kay Meyer 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer51@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

Marcj 5--Board meeting

March 13--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

March 13--International Relations Lecture Series

March 19--Branch meeting

March 20--Meet and Eat Lunch Group

March 22--Adelante Book Group

March 26--Afternoon at the Movies

April 7--St. Charles Ladies Tea Time Trivia

April 21--Spring Fling

April 27--Public Policy/Diversity Committee Meeting

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May 4-5--State Meeting

May 19--Branch May Luncheon

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