



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

April 2018

Pat Kelemen, Editor

BOARD MEETING

The board will meet April 9 at 11:30 at McAlisters in Florissant.

PHOTOS FROM THE MARCH BOARD MEETING

These pictures were taken by Carolyn Herkstroeter at the March 5 Board Meeting at McAlisters.



APRIL MEETING

The April branch meeting will take place on April 16 at 7:00 pm at Immanuel UCC in Ferguson. The officers elected at the March Meeting (see below) will be installed.

At this time, the program for the meeting is pending because of unexpected circumstances. More information will follow.

REPORT ON THE MARCH MEETING

The annual business meeting of the branch was Monday, March 19. This important meeting was well attended. In addition to reports by officers and committee chairs and summaries of ongoing and upcoming activities, the slate of nominees for officers who will serve from July 1, 2018 until June 30, 2020 was presented. Since there were no nominations from the members present, the nominees were elected. They are Pam Meyers and Wilzetta Bell, Co-Presidents; Shirley Breeze, Program Vice President; Joyce Bluett, Secretary; and Joyce Wolf to complete Pam Meyers' term as treasurer.

After a short break for refreshments, Karen Francis and Shirley Breeze discussed national AAUW programs and priorities and changes in personnel at the national level. Karen focused on Public Policy, explaining that it is member-driven. Public Policy determines the activities and initiatives of

**Contact us by e-mailing Membership Co-Vice Presidents Carolyn Herkstroeter at herkcmw@att.net or Carolynn Henning at carhenning@att.net
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AAUW. In many ways it defines who we are and what we stand for as we advocate for women and girls.

Shirley discussed the bylaws amendments and the procedure for voting, emphasizing the dates for applying for and submitting paper ballots and the dates for voting electronically. There are three proposed amendments. Two deal with the national nominating committee and the national board of directors. The third would eliminate the degree requirement for membership.

Dates for obtaining and submitting paper ballots and the dates for online voting are listed in the calendar at the end of this newsletter.

It is essential that as many members as possible vote on these amendments. In the last election, the Ferguson Florissant Branch had the highest percentage of members who voted in the state of Missouri.

PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Voting is Important

In the next few months, we have several opportunities to express ourselves at the ballot box--both for AAUW and for the National political scene. It is really important we exercise this great privilege.

AAUW has proposed three bylaw amendments in an unusual decision by the National board to put these issues before the membership in a year when there is no National meeting. Briefly, one proposal deals with dropping the degree requirement for membership; a second proposes three-year staggered terms on the National board; and a third opens National board service to non-members (there would be a limited number of these seats). Two of these issues have been debated for years within the organization--and have highly vocal proponents on both sides. More on these issues can be found on the National AAUW website. For this information, go to AAUW.org, log in, and enter "Bylaw proposals" in the search box in the upper right corner.

It is important that members adhere to the deadlines for all aspects of this voting, particularly in dealing with paper ballots. April 16 to May 7 is the window to request a paper ballot. Online voting begins April 25 and ends June 9.

On the National scene, several important issues hang in the balance. All the seats in the National House of Representatives are up for election. In the Senate, the conservative/liberal balance will be determined. A record number of people have filed to run in both these houses. Locally, the League of Women Voters and the St. Louis Post Dispatch have published their voters' guide. It is available on-line or in the Post.

These elections give us opportunities to express our beliefs and determine the future of our country. Don't let the opportunity pass!!!

--Shirley and Pat

PUBLIC POLICY/DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

THE BULLY ROAD by Carolyn Herkstroeter and Carol Kuhlengel

Carol and Joann run a no-bullying program in a local school district. Joann is a retired elementary teacher and Carol a retired district employee/volunteer tutor. Four years ago, as Carol walked out of a tutoring session, she witnessed a bully in action--a mother dragging a little boy out of school,, slapping and yelling how bad he was, "You will get more of this at home!" she shouted.

Deeply troubled by this scenario and wondering what to do about it, Carol went home and wrote "TURN AROUND, HANDS DOWN!--a poem to teach children to stop and think before hitting, shoving or beating someone--and took her poem back to the school. Carol's Hands Down--"Treat others as you like to be treated"--program is now in its fourth year in two local elementary schools. Carol and Joan instruct 2nd and 5th graders through poetry, song, games and stories--listening and sharing--that it is not cool to be a bully. To think before you strike out--to put your hands down and de-escalate the situation.

"Bullying is a road to trouble," Carol said. "It escalates into serious fights, injuries, and punishment to the bully or the bullied." Parents who physically abuse children with harsh physical punishment teach that it is ok to hurt people. Spouses who verbally, mentally and physically abuse each other model that it is ok to abuse others. That it is ok to use mental and physical force to achieve goals and respect out of fear. A lesson that filters down from generation to generation.

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The behavior modeled by bullies and their followers can put pain and fear into individuals and escalate into entire populations. It is a disease that spreads and has been used by world leaders and dictators--a disease which promotes misunderstanding, walking over the weaker, and escalates into violence and war. Entire populations are victimized. It is a disease that can inspire a young man to shoot up a room full of students or a government to trample over its people. At an individual level, it is a disease that exerts power over a spouse, a co-worker, a person of different color, belief, sexuality, nationality, neighborhood or financial status and affects the diverse world we live in.

On a positive note, many local school districts and some work environments are implementing anti-bullying programs. Middle school students have approached Carol and said, "I wanted to hit her" or "I was going to punch him, but I thought about Hands Down and I turned it around."

Teaching children that all lives matter and to reach out to, instead of at, someone. Giving them the tools to "treat others as you want to be treated" is start in stopping the road to bullies. The need to focus on positive ways to stop the repercussions of the bully road is everyone's responsibility.

--The next committee meeting will be Friday, April 27, 2018, at Aperia Hidden Lake.

EQUAL PAY DAY RALLY

The Equal Pay Day Rally will be held at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City on April 10, There will not be a bus going from St. Louis this year. Contact Pat Shores to order a box lunch at 3636-938-3958 or apatriciashores@att.net.

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 annual Ferguson Florissant May Luncheon will be held at Catering to You on New Halls Ferry in Florissant on Saturday, May 19, 2018. The buffet luncheon will be served at 12 noon; doors will open at 11:30. The cost is \$22.00 each and **reservations are required**. The deadline for making reservations is **May 15**. The reservation form is included with this newsletter.

We are very fortunate to have George Hodgman as the guest speaker. He has deep ties to Paris, Missouri and St. Louis. He is a veteran magazine and book editor who has worked at Simon & Schuster, *Vanity Fair* and *Talk* magazine. His writing has appeared in numerous magazines.

His memoir *Bettyville* tells the story of returning to Paris to care for his mother Betty, who is no

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longer able to care for herself or live alone. It is loving, tender, hilarious and life affirming. You might want to read the book before the luncheon.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES

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

On April 10 Ryan D. Kulik will discuss "The Assault on Global Democracy." He has spent over 20 years working as a lobbyist and public relations consultant with an emphasis in Government communications. He specializes in taking controversial issues and creating new partnerships with the goal of implementing positive social change. As the global community gets more connected with the rise of inexpensive technology, the question becomes how these connections are to be used: to advance humanist philosophy and bring freedom to a larger group of people or to foster increasing nationalism around the world.

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

Afternoon at the Movies will meet Monday, April 23 at 2:00 pm. They will be viewing "Like Water for Chocolate. 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 April 10 at 12:45 at Cannolis. Mary Ellen Starr will discuss *The Vanishing American Adult* by Ben Sasse. Notify Mary Ellen if you plan to attend.

ST. CHARLES 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 April 17 at 11:30 am. For information about the restaurant, please contact Kay Meyer Kay Meyer 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer51@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

April 7--Tea Time Trivia

April 9--Board Meeting

April 10--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

April 10--International Relations Lecture

April 10--Equal Pay Rally

April 16--Branch meeting

April 16--Opening day to request paper ballot

April 17--Meat and Eat Lunch

April 21--Spring Fling

April 26--Bylaw voting begins online

May 4--Missouri state board meeting

May 5--Missouri Annual Meeting

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May 15--Deadline for May Luncheon reservations

May 19--May luncheon

May 21--Deadline for mailing paper ballot

June 9--Online voting ends

June 10--Vote results announced

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