



Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Wilzetta Bell and
Pam Meyers
Co-Presidents

Shirley Breeze
Program Vice President

Carolyn Herkstroeter and
Carolynn Henning
Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Volume 54

October 2018

Pat Kelemen, Editor

BOARD MEETING

The branch board will meet on October 1 at McAlister's in Florissant at 11:30.

OCTOBER COMMUNITY PANEL

The October Community Panel, NORTH COUNTY--RICH IN MULTICULTURALISM, will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 315 Graham Road, Florissant, MO 63031. The panel will be presented from 10:00 am until noon. It is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Panelists will be Ruffina Farrokh Anklesaria, Sister Mary Michael McCulla, and Sousan Darwech. Each brings a unique perspective on living in North County, and the event should be very informative.

Panelists will speak for about 15 minutes each followed by a question and answer period.

Ruffina Anklesaria is from Trinidad and Tobago. She and her two daughters are American citizens. Among her many activities, she is a Transcendental Stress Management instructor and a columnist for the Ferguson Times. Her October column will be about AAUW in North County.

Sister Mary Michael McCulla is a Roman Catholic nun with a nursing degree. In her over fifty years of service, she has worked in various aspects of nursing including clinical, as an instructor, and in administrative positions. She recently spent two years in South Korea teaching English to Korean nuns.

Sousan Darwech is from Jordan. She is a wife, mother and grandmother and an American citizen. Mrs. Darwech has a business degree from a school in Jordan. She is a bus driver for the Hazelwood School District. A Muslim, Mrs. Darwech teaches Islamic studies and Arabic for a private weekend school. She is also a speaker for the Islamic Speakers Bureau.

Each participant has been asked to share the positive aspects of being a woman of diversity in North County as well as some of the challenges that have been encountered. After all the presentations, there will be an opportunity to ask questions of the three panelists.

Please help publicize this event and bring your friends.

SEPTEMBER RECEPTION

The Branch held its opening event of the new program year in the form of a Sunday afternoon reception. Members enjoyed networking with new and long-term members.

Information was provided to all attendees on the branch's programs for the year, research reports from the past few years, the National Public Policy priorities and other issues concerning AAUW at the

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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National, state and local level.

Guests were brought up-to-date on state and National initiatives by state president Kay Meyer. She discussed AAUW finances, LAF, the Work Smart initiative, the new mission statement, AAUW's new organizational structure, among other issues.



PRESIDENTS' LETTER

I am honored to be co-president with Wilzetta Bell for the next two years for the Ferguson Florissant AAUW Branch. Welcome to the new members and to the members who renewed their membership for this year. It will be an exciting and busy year for us.

The first annual event/reception was held at Shirley Breeze's beautiful home and the speaker was the MO State President Kay Meyer. She shared the upcoming events for MO Branches and the expectations from the AAUW National Organization in Washington, D.C.

Kay stated that we will continue to work on pay equity, get out the vote, leadership training, Title IX, and closing the gender gap.

The 2018-2019 Program Calendars are ready and hopefully everyone has a copy and if not please email Shirley Breeze so she can send you one.

- The next community meeting will be held on October 20, 2018,
- The topic will be: North County is Rich in Multiculturalism.
- Place: St. Marks Methodist Church, 315 Graham Road, Florissant, MO 63031
- Time: 10:00 to 12:00.

The Diversity Committee worked hard on this presentation and hope you will be able to attend. It is free to the public.

Please remember:

1. **AAUW MISSION:** To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
2. **Our Vision:** Equity for all
3. **AAUW Values:** Nonpartisan, Fact-based, Integrity, Inclusion, Intersectionality.

Don't forget to vote.

Co-Presidents

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GOTV

A special thanks to all the members who helped register voters at the Ferguson Library: Lillian Boly, Mable Davis, Lovene Hartman, Virginia Jost, Carolyn Herkstroeter, Judy Holmes, Pam Meyers,

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Joyce Spiller, Tommie turner, Joyce Wolf and especially Toni Burrow who made the initial arrangements.
--Shirley Breeze

PUBLIC POLICY by Dr. Tommie Turner
The Importance of STEM Education

Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers are both innovative and lucrative opportunities for women, minorities, and other underrepresented communities. According to the United States Department of Labor/Bureau of Labor and Statistics, "Employment of life, physical, and social science occupations is projected to grow 10 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations, which will result in about 124,800 new jobs. Increasing demand for expertise in the sciences, particularly in occupations involved in biomedical research, psychology, energy management and environmental protection, is projected to result in employment growth. The median annual wage for life, physical, and social science occupations was \$64,510 in My 2017, which was higher than the median wage for all occupations of \$37,690.

Addressing global challenges (food security, water quality, national security, energy efficiency, etc.) requires the intellect and skills of a prepared workforce. In order for the United States to continue to compete with other developed countries in the advancement of STEM discoveries, there is room at the workforce table for everyone, especially women, minorities and other underrepresented communities. From a national point of view, according to a 2017 report from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Administration Office of the Chief Economist, women filled 37 percent of all U.S. jobs in 2015 but held only 24 percent of STEM jobs. Likewise, women constitute slightly more than half of college educated workers but make up only 25 percent of college educated STEM workers. Women with STEM jobs earned 35 percent more than comparable women in non-STEM jobs--even higher than the 30 percent STEM premium for men. As result, the gender wage gap is smaller in STEM jobs than in non-STEM jobs. Women with STEM jobs also earned 40 percent more than men with non-STEM jobs.

To bring the issue closer to home that women, minorities and other underrepresented communities have career opportunities to work in STEM jobs, the 2014 State of the St. Louis STEM Workforce Report states that "The St. Louis workforce region has seen a large demand for STEM workers with few jobseekers chasing those opportunities. In 2013 there were over 23,000 STEM job ads in the region yet just over 2,000 jobseekers were looking for employment in those occupations. From 2012 to 2022 STEM jobs in St. Louis are also expected to grow by 12.4% over the 10-year period, compared to 9.2% for non-STEM jobs. STEM fields also pay considerably higher wages, helping both the worker and regional economy. With an average earnings of \$79,290, STEM workers re paid nearly 80% more than Non-STEM job holders (44,294).

Promoting STEM professional careers to women, minorities and underrepresented communities will not only economically advance individual households, but also the metro St. Louis region and the state of Missouri.

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

The October Afternoon at the Movies will be Monday, October 22 at 2:00 pm in the Theter Room at Hidden Lake. The movie is still to be determined. For information, contact Judy Holmes at 314-355-1125 or mickey.holmes@att.net.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet October 9 at 11:30 at the home of Lillian Boly. Lillian will review *Cry the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton. Bring a sandwich. Please notify Lillian if you will attend, 314-921-9143 or lboly@sbcglobal.net.

MEET AND EAT

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The Meet and Eat Group will meet at 11:45 on Tuesday, October 16 at Dado's Café, (Casual American and Classic Greek food), 5425 Hampton Ave., Stl Louis, MO 63109 (South City.)RSVP to Kay Meyer at 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer51@gmail.com.

ADELANTE BOOK GROUP

Adelante Book Group will meet at 1:30 on Thursday, October 25 at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson. The book and reviewer are TBA.

CALENDAR

October 1--Branch Board Meeting

October 9--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

October 16--Meet and Eat Group

October 20--Branch Community Pane;

October 22--Afternoon at the Movies

October 25--Adelante Book Group

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