



Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Wilzetta Bell and
Pam Meyers
Co-Presidents
Volume 54

Shirley Breeze
Program Vice President
February 2019

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

BOARD MEETING

The Board will meet on February 4 at 11:30 am at McAlisters.

GAME DAY

The annual game day was held on January 28, 2019, at the Lutheran Church of the Living Christ. Besides time to play various games with friends and new acquaintances, it featured a silent auction, a raffle of gift baskets and other treasures, and a delicious lunch. Thanks to the many people worked together to make it a success: the arrangements and kitchen crew including Judy Holmes, Joyce Wolf, and Carolynn Henning; Lovene Hartman, who brought supplies for coffee, tea, and utensils; Pam Meyers and Wilzetta Bell, who oversaw the event, selling raffle tickets and running the raffle itself; Lillian Boly and Sylvia Miller, who coordinated the silent auction; Virginia Jost, who brought many books to sell as a fundraiser for LAF; all those who donated items for the auction and the raffle, especially Shirley Breeze for the beautiful afghan; and Carolyn Herkstroeter who took the photographs. My apologies to anyone I overlooked.



Lillian and Virginia



Judy, Joyce and Carolynn

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

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Pam and the auction and raffle tables



Myra and friends

FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING

Making Schools Safe for All Students

There is great concern today about the school climate for students and staff. People are concerned about the security of schools and the effect on students from actions such as bullying and other activities of this nature.

Turn it Around . . . Hands Down is a program that raises students' self-esteem, reduces bullying and stresses a peacemaking approach in the school climate. Carol Kuhlengel, who designed and implements this innovative program, and JoAnn Klees, who works with her, will discuss this acclaimed program at the February meeting of the American Association of University Women.

Ms. Kuengel and Ms. Klees both volunteer in the Riverview Gardens School District, where this program has been implemented.

The February Branch meeting will be Monday, February 18, 2019, **at 10:00 am—please note the special time.** We will meet at Immanuel UCC Church, 211 Church Street, Ferguson. **The program will be followed by a potluck lunch. Please bring something to share,** such as salad, appetizer, casserole or other entrée, or dessert.

PRESIDENTS' LETTER by Pamela Meyers

Hello Everyone

The Month of February is here and The Groundhog Punxsutawney Phil will predict our forecast of the weather on February 2, 2019. Hopefully he will not see his shadow, then Spring will be coming soon. In addition to the events described in the newsletter, here are some others you might be interested in.

- On February 12, Gov. 101 3rd Session, "How You Can Play a Vital Role with the 2019 MO State Legislature,": 5:00-7:00 pm, Clark-Fox Forum in Hillman Hall, Washington University in St. Louis, 63130. c/o Karen Francis.
- IBC meeting, February 26 at Oak Bend County Library, 7:00.

Our Holiday Fundraising event of gift wrapping for customers at the Ladue Barnes & Noble Book Store was a true success. The final total of donations was \$1,063.35. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time.

The AAUW National News are: What the 2018 Midterm Results Mean for Women: The Midterm elections ushered in changes at all levels of government. Democrats took control of the US House of Representatives. The State level flipped seven state legislative chambers and picked up at least seven previously Republican controlled gubernatorial seats. The AAUW.org will be working with the new Congress to move key priorities like the *Paycheck Fairness Act*, which would make it easier for women who face pay discrimination to seek

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justice. AAUW will also be watching the attempts to weaken health care and reproductive rights for women. You can help by being involved by joining the AAUW Action Network.

*What the people want is very simple—they want
an America as good as its promise.*

--Barbara Jordan, US Representative 1973-78

Page | 3

SUPPORTING AAUW'S MISSION

AAUW has many programs that advance the lives of women and girls. They are vital to improving their situations, but they are not free to operate. Donations from members are needed to support them. Included with this newsletter is a chart showing the major funds. The recommendation is not to single out a fund such as LAF, but instead to make an unrestricted donation. It can then be applied where the need is greatest.

As a side note, branches can choose one named gift recipient for each \$500 in donations by members of that branch.

PUBLIC POLICY

Looking Toward the 2020 Census by Shirley Breeze

The census every ten years is one of the most important activities of the United States government and any democracy.

Why is it important? The census determines

- how \$675 billion in federal funds are allocated each year for schools, health care, public housing
- how many congressional seats and electoral votes each state receives
- how states will redraw voting districts

The issue of redrawing voting districts is one of the most contentious ones. Many states have a system that allows certain political parties or special interests to make decisions on district lines. Often this results in what is called "gerrymandered" districts which consist of one party or political persuasion.

The solutions to gerrymandering are

- establish an independent commission to draw districts
- prohibit district lines from explicitly being drawn to intentionally favor or impede a political party or incumbent
- prohibit the use of political data to draw districts
- create or clarify criteria for drawing maps
- require public engagement in the redistricting process

Thousands of institutions rely heavily on the census. An unfair and inaccurate census could have a long-lasting effect on decisions and policies of these of institutions.

Sources:

AAUW, 1310 L Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington DC 20005
Mother Jones Magazine, March, 2018

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WORKSMART INITIATIVE

Area AAUW leaders met Monday Jan. 14, with AAUW Senior BP Gloria Blackwell to discuss the Missouri WorkSmart initiative and AAUW's online salary negotiation course. Gloria was to meet afterwards with the Women's Foundation of St. Louis. Karen Francis, AAUW Public Policy chair, arranged the meeting. Gloria was able to clarify the national goals and timetable for WorkSmart. First on the agenda is to get 100,000 women to take the online course by the end of August! A toolkit will be sent to branches in the next few weeks. In addition to the partnership in Kansas City between the KC Women's Foundation and AAUW, Chicago is one of six cities where WorkSmart training will be done under a \$500K grant from Coca-Cola. IBC will have much to discuss about how St. Louis branches can be involved in promoting WorkSmart.

--Lynne Roney, Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch

SPRING FLING

Interbranch Council (IBC) will hold its annual Spring Fling on Saturday, March 23, 2019, from 10:30 am until 2:00 pm. The event will be held at the Highlands Banquet Center in Forest Park.

This is the fund raiser for IBC and features a Treasure Chest Raffle, a panel of local women who attended NCCWSL, and the presentation of this year's Barbara Lackritz Award.

Details about the lunch, specific directions, and a sign-up form are all included on the attached flyer.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet at the home of Joyce Wolf on February 12 at 11:30. Joyce will review *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. Bring a sandwich. Notify Joyce if you will attend.

ST. CHARLES TRIVIA

The St. Charles Branch will hold its Tea Time Trivia fund raiser on Saturday, April 27, 2019. This event will fund scholarship(s) awarded to St. Charles County High School Senior Women. The attached flyer provides details and includes a sign-up form.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES

This series is presented by the Tuesday Women's Association of Ethical Society and AAUW in the upper auditorium of the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Rd., St. Louis 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 stay to discuss the topic. In case of inclement weather, you may call 314-991-0955, ext. 224.

The topic for February 12, 2019, is "Fake News, Social Media and the Impact on Freedom of the Press" by Kevin Horrigan. Horrigan is a long time St. Louis journalist who recently retired as deputy editorial page editor and Sunday op ed columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. He also worked briefly for the St. Louis Sun and for 10 years as a radio talk show host at KMOX and KTRS.

MEET AND EAT

Meet and Eat will be February 19 at Frisco Bar and Grill, 8110 Big Bend, at 11:45. RSVP to Kay Meyer at 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer51@gmail.com.

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ADELANTE BOOK GROUP

The Adelante Book Group will meet at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson Road in Chesterfield at 1:30 on February 28. Lorna Anderson will review *Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History* by Keith O'Brien.

CALENDAR

February 4—Branch Board meeting

February 12—Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

February 12—International Relations Lecture Series

February 18—Branch meeting and potluck lunch

February 19—Meet and Eat

February 28—Adelante Book Group

March 23—Spring Fling

April 27—St. Charles Tea Time Trivia

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