

*The American Association of University Women advances gender equity  
for women and girls through research, advocacy and education*



## Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Wilzetta Bell and  
Pam Meyers  
Co-Presidents  
Volume 54

Shirley Breeze  
Program Vice President

March 2019

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

### **BOARD MEETING**

The board will meet on March 4 at 11:30 at McAlisters. If you have items to contribute to the Treasure Chests for Spring Fling, please bring them.

### **FEBRUARY MEETING AND POT LUCK LUNCH**

The branch meeting on February 18 began at 10:00 am. Carol Kuhlengel and JoAnn Klees presented the anti-bullying program, *Turn it Around, Hands Down*, which they developed and present in Riverview Gardens elementary schools. Over several years they have worked with students showing them how they can be peacemakers in the classroom and on the playground.

After the program, members and guests enjoyed the annual pot luck lunch which consisted of soup (thanks to Carolyn Herkstroeter) and a wide variety of salads, desserts, and other treats. Thank to everyone who brought food. A special thank you to Lovene Hartman, who set up the table and brought plates and utensils and then set up the coffee and tea station.



### **MARCH MEETING**

The meeting on March 18 will be the annual business meeting, chaired by Co-Presidents Wilzetta Bell and Pam Meyers. Officers will present annual reports, last year's minutes, etc. Officer elections/re-elections will take place. This portion is not open to the public.

After the business meeting, Mable Davis will present a brief program.

The meeting begins at 7:00 pm on March 18 at Immanuel UCC, 221 Church Street, Ferguson.

### **PRESIDENTS' LETTER by Wizetta Bell**

Contact us by e-mailing Membership Co-Vice Presidents Carolyn Herkstroeter at [herkcmw@att.net](mailto:herkcmw@att.net) or Carolynn Henning at [carhenning@att.net](mailto:carhenning@att.net).

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March is the month that brings “Spring,” which we believe will bring weather that is more pleasant than what preceded it.

We hope and dream of warmer things to come. Since March is considered “Women’s History Month,” there are several events to consider.

International relations Lecture Series will present “Dark Money and Plutocracy, Who’s Pulling the Strings?” This event will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup>. It features Professor Jeffery A. Winters from Northwestern University. Our annual business meeting will entertain the topic of “Trafficking” from the International Affairs committee presented by Mable Davis on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at UCC Church at 221 Church Street.

The Spring Fling will be held on March 23 at the Highlands in Forest Park at 10:30 am.

All of these events will enhance our knowledge in promoting our goal of advocating for women.

Happy Women’s History Month!

**PUBLIC POLICY—by Shirley Breeze**

**STATUS OF MISSOURI’S WOMEN**

New research (October 2018) by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research in Washington DC indicates that society is still not meeting the needs of a great number of women in Missouri.

The measure of economic security addresses the needs of economically vulnerable populations. Economic security is defined as a household income which is enough to meet monthly basic expenses. Using this definition, only 72 percent of Missouri’s working women and men are economically secure. Missouri ranks 15<sup>th</sup> for its share of working adults with economic security.

Households headed by working women and people of color are most affected by not having economic security. Only 26 percent of households headed by single women provide economic security.

The findings in this report also indicate that 35 percent of women have experienced sexual or physical violence and/or stalking by a partner. This violence, among other issues, has short- and long-term consequences for survivors.

There are a number of policies and actions which can be implemented to counter lack of economic security. A policy that ensures that everyone has access to educational and training opportunities that can lead to good-paying jobs is important. Another is strengthening the basic safety net for those who need assistance. Increasing funding for programs that offer financial services also is important. And current legislation such as the Paycheck Fairness Act, the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act and salary transparency would be beneficial to correct the low numbers for economic security for women.

--Sources

American Association of University Women, Washington DC 20005

Institute for Women’s Policy Research, Washington DC 20036

**HAZELWOOD STEM EXTRAVAGANZA**

We were represented by an informational table at the Hazelwood STEM Extravaganza on January 23. Thanks to Shirley Breeze, Lovene Hartman, Lillian Boly, Virginia Jost and Pat Kelemen.

**BRANCH COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Mary Ellen Starr and Shirley Breeze are liaisons between the branch and the Ferguson Library for a series of community programs organized by the library. The first event will be Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 1 pm. The speakers will be elected or appointed officials such as the mayor, school board members for Ferguson-Florissant School District, council woman Toni Burrow, etc. Each audience

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member who chooses to will be able to pose their questions one-on-one with their chosen guest officials during a five minute timeframe.

Branch members are asked to attend and have questions in mind for the officials so that the audience members feel more welcome to participate once the ice is broken.

**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.

**The registration deadline is March 13.**

**TEA TIME 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.

**STATE MEETING MAY 4**

The annual state conference, Work Smart, Closing the Gender Pay Gap One Click at a Time, will be May 3-4, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, MO. The featured speakers will be Kim Churches, CEO AAUW and Wendy Doyle, CEO Women's Foundation Kansas City. The topic will be the AAUW KS/MO Work Smart Initiative.

A flyer detailing the event and providing registration form and information about deadlines is included with this newsletter. **Deadlines for Early Bird registration and hotel reservations are both April 15.**

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

To celebrate Women's History Month, Chris Nobbe, a member of Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch, will make a presentation at the Florissant Branch of the County Library at 7:00 pm on March 20.

She is working on a project with the St. Louis County Library for Women's HERstory Month: a talk on women in space flight, including the "Mercury 13." In the early 1960s female pilots underwent testing to see if women had the "right stuff" to be astronauts, and 13 women passed with flying colors. This super-secret, non-NASA project is fairly unknown to the general public.

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will use a different format for the March 12, 2019, meeting. Instead of reading and reviewing a single book, we will meet at Cannolis **at 12 noon** to have lunch and talk about various books people have read and think others will enjoy. We welcome a diverse group of book selections—fiction, non-fiction, old titles, new titles.

Our numbers have declined in recent years due to failing health and deaths of long-time members, so we are actively seeking others to join us regularly or once in a while if the topic interests you. *We especially invite people to join us for lunch on March 12.* Contact Mary Ellen Starr if you will attend.

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**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.

**March 12, 2019—Dark Money and Plutocracy, Who's Pulling the Strings? Presented by Jeffrey A. Winters**

Professor Winters is the Political Science department chair at Northwestern; professor and Director, Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) Program. He specialized in oligarchs and elites spanning a range of historical and contemporary cases.

**MEET AND EAT FOR MARCH**

In March the AAUW Meet and Eat Group will be going to LOUIE in the DeMun neighborhood. Louie is located at 706 DeMun, Clayton, MO 63105 (314-300-8188). The group will meet on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 11:45 am. Louie is Italian fare with parking on the street or in the lot just south of the restaurant. Note it is the former location of Jimmy's On the Park. Contact Kay Meyer at 314-962-7487 or [kicmeyer51@gmail.com](mailto:kicmeyer51@gmail.com).

**ADELANTE BOOK GROUP**

The Adelante Book Group will meet at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson Road in Chesterfield at 1:30 Mon March 28. Janice Rumpfelt will discuss *Without You There is No Us* by Suki Kim.

**CALENDAR**

**March 4—Board Meeting**

**March 12—Tuesday Afternoon Book Group**

March 12—International Relations Lecture Series

March 13—Spring Fling registration deadline

**March 18—Annual Branch business meeting**

March 19—Meet and Eat Lunch Group

March 20—Women's History Month presentation at Florissant Library

March 23—Spring Fling

March 28—Adelante Book Group

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