

*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 55

Shirley Breeze
Program Vice President

September 2J019

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

BOARD MEETING

The Board will meet on Monday, September 16 at 11:30 at McAlisters in Florissant.

MAY LUNCHEON

A very successful May Luncheon was held on May 18, 2019, at Catering to You in Florissant. Before a buffet lunch, awards were presented. Wilzetta Bell and Pam Meyers presented the Gold Star Award to the branch and Shirley Breeze presented the Named Gift Honoree certificate to Joyce Glover Bluett. After lunch, member Joyce Spiller introduced the guest speaker, The Hon. Rita Days.

EQUALITY DAY BRUNCH

This year the 32nd Annual Equality Day Brunch will celebrate the 99th anniversary of women winning the right to vote. Missouri Women's Network will present the event on Saturday, August 24 from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at Clayton Plaza Hotel, 7750 Carondelet, Clayton, MO 63105. The featured speaker will be Liza Maatz, a speaker and analyst on issues about women and public policy. She served as Vice President of Government Relations for AAUW.

To register, use the attached registration form and send it via USPS with your check to Pat Shores, 5337 Trailhead Ct., Eureka, MO 63025. The base price for the brunch is \$40.00.

Ferguson Florissant Branch members who register and pay \$40 will be reimbursed \$20 if they apply to Joyce Wolf.

OPENING RECEPTION September 15.

The Ferguson Florissant Branch kicks off its centennial celebration of women getting the vote with an opening reception on Sunday September 15.

The reception will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Parlor of the First Presbyterian Church, 401 Darst, Ferguson. Virginia Minor, aka Barbara Kay, will visit and explain her actions in trying to get the vote for women. After unsuccessful attempts in lower courts, her case landed in the Supreme Court, where she was also defeated.

Refreshments will be served. For additional information, call 213-522-0413, 314-831-5359 or 313-921-7109. Information will be available at the reception on the many initiatives AAUW pursues for women's rights. Everyone is invited.

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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**PUBLIC POLICY
VOTING IN 2020**

As we enter the next election season (one that is extremely important), it behooves us to consider some of the controversies surrounding voting in the United States.

Two of the major concerns that surface prior to every election is voter suppression and voter fraud. These two areas are very inter-related. Voter suppression is using various seemingly valid means to curtail or hamper voting. This includes purging voter rolls, eliminating voting sites, limiting voting hours and days, poll taxes, voter registration schemes, literacy tests, poor preparation of voting personnel, limited staff at polling places, various voter ID systems, outright discrimination, and a myriad of other actions.

Related to voter suppression is the whole issue of redistricting (or gerrymandering) to design a voting district in favor of one party.

Voter fraud is the outright misuse or mismanagement of voting itself. This includes voting more than once in a single election, voting on someone else's credentials, and other schemes.*

Many people who study voting strongly believe that the way we handle elections in the US needs to be changed. They believe that voting times, places, and days should be extended, giving voters more options and thus more people the opportunity to take advantage of their voting rights.

Voting is at the very basis of our democracy. We should be ever vigilant about its proper management and accessibility.

*Legislators who want to limit election access frequently state that there is rampant fraud. This surfaced in Missouri's 2000 election. After several allegations and investigations, a very, very limited number of cases was found. In the 2,361,586 votes cast in that election, only six cases of fraud could be validated.

Sources:

American Association of University Women
Brennan Center for Justice
USA Today
The Week

PUBLIC POLICY/DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The Public Policy/Diversity Committee will meet Friday, September 27 at 11:30 at the Hidden Lake Dining Room. Shirley Breeze will lead a discussion on the Census. Each member who has picked a topic is asked to bring a very short report on something about their topic.

This meeting is a luncheon and is a treat from hostess Judy Holmes. Judy must have your reservation by Tuesday, September 24. If you are not a member of this committee but would like to be, contact Judy Holmes at 314-355-1125 or mickey.holmes@att.net.

TYPES OF AAUW MEMBERSHIP by Shirley Breeze

AAUW Terminology 101

There have been questions about the following terms used by AAUW.

- An Honorary Life Member has been an AAUW member for 50 years or more. She does not have to pay National dues—and in some cases, state and local dues as well.

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- A Paid Life Member is one who has paid a special fee that gives her lifetime National membership. Usually, this person must pay state and local dues.
- The Shape the Future Membership Campaign gives new AAUW members a discount of half of the National dues if they join as the result of a public AAUW meeting. Public is defined as one that has been advertised in a media such as Facebook, newspaper, etc. This program is not available for current member renewals.
- MO AAUW has some special programs, etc., that may or may not be available in other states. For instance, we have the STAR and Galaxy Awards. Another entity that we have is the Century Club and Century Club Plus program. Century Club members have donated at least \$100 to one of the National funds in a calendar year. Century Club Plus members have donated at least \$250 in a calendar year.
- AAUW has renamed the membership category that used to be Member-at-Large. It is now National membership.

FERGUSON FARMERS' MARKET

August 17 and September 14: Sign up with Carolyn Herkstroeter or Carolynn Henning for a shift or more. Two or three people are needed for each shift.

August 17—8:00 to 10:00 or 10:00 to noon

September 14--8:00 to 10:00 or 10:00 to noon—Carolyn Herkstroeter will work 8-10.

Carolyn and Carolynn will make arrangements to get handouts and other materials to each shift.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION/COLLABORATION WITH THE FERGUSON LIBRARY

The last session with the Ferguson Library will be held on Saturday, August 17 at 2:00 pm.

The topic is *Sworn Again America/Take a Symbolic Oath of Citizenship*. There will be a **30 minute registration opportunity after this session** for any participants to register to vote!

NEW ADDRESS for Carolyn Herkstroeter

Carolyn Herkstroeter has moved. Her new address is Apt. 130, St. Catherine Retirement Center, 3350 St. Catherine Street, Florissant, MO 63033. Please update your branch directory.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Joyce Wolf will review "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owen at her home on Tuesday, September 10 at 11:30 am. Please call Joyce at 314-839-3888 if you plan to attend. Bring a sandwich.

Newcomers are welcome! We have a good time and we learn about new enjoyable books and authors.

At this meeting we will also have a planning session for the rest of the 2019-2020 year. Bring ideas.

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

Afternoon at the Movies will meet on Monday, September 23 at 2:00 at the Hidden Lake Theater Room. The movie shown will be "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind," with Maxwell Simba and Chiwetel Ejiofor. All are welcome. Please call or email Judy Holmes if you plan to attend at 314-355-1125 or mickey.holmes@att.net.

MEET AND EAT LUNCH GROUP

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The Meet and Eat Lunch Group has been suspended.

ADELANTE BOOK GROUP

The Adelante Book Group will meet at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson in Chesterfield at 1:30 on September 26. Kay Meyer will review *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stephenson.

CALENDAR

August 17—Ferguson Farmers' Market

Community Participation at Ferguson Library

August 24—Equality Day Brunch

September 10—Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

September 15—Opening Reception

September 16—Branch Board meeting

September 23—Afternoon at the Movies

September 26—Adelante Book Group

September 27—Public Policy/ Diversity committee

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