

*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

October 2019

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

BOARD MEETING

The Board will meet on October 7 at 11:30 am. The location is TBA. Members will be notified.

OPENING RECEPTION

The first event of the 2019-2020 year took place on Sunday, September 15 at the First Presbyterian Church of Ferguson. Members and guests enjoyed a buffet of finger foods and were entertained by "Virginia Minor," a well-known Missouri suffragist. She was portrayed by Barbara Kay.

Thanks to Lovene Hartman, Hospitality Chair, Judy Holmes, who arranged for the entertainment, and everyone who brought food, set up, and cleaned up for the event.



"Virginia Minor
--photos by Carolyn Herkstroeter



Members relax at the party



Lovene, Shirley and new member
Patty Murray

PRESIDENTS' LETTER by Pam Meyers

October is the time to take in the beauty of the colorful season and to enjoy the cool, crisp days of Fall. As an Elementary Music Educator, I enjoyed singing and listening with my students beautiful songs that described this time of year.

October has many highlights to recognize and they are: October 4, 1993, Ruth Bader Ginsburg joins the U.S. Supreme Court as its second woman justice. May she stay strong and live for a long time. On October 8, 1993, Toni Morrison becomes the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

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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News from AAUW.org: The US Department of Education and AAUW state that women earn 57% of college degrees in America, but they hold nearly two-thirds of the country's outstanding debt. On average women graduate with needs at risk financially and student debt so intertwined with the gender pay gap that it's critical we continue working toward pay equity as a society.

May everyone enjoy the month of October.

Robert Frost the great poet has a beautiful poem about Fall that I would like to share.

Nature's First green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
So Eden sank to grief;
So dawn goes down today.
Nothing god can stay.

OCTOBER COMMUNITY PANEL

The October meeting will be a panel discussion on restrictions to voting in the United States. This panel of professionals has worked diligently to expose hindrances to voting and will address the issues surrounding this issue.

Voting is at the very basis of our democracy. Citizens should be ever vigilant of its operation and validity.

This discussion will occur on Saturday, October 19, at 10:00 am in the Community Room at the First Presbyterian Church, 401 Darst in Ferguson. Refreshments will be served.

PUBLIC POLICY

March, March, Many as One

Many of the women who'd fought for abolition—Harriet Tubman and Julia Ward Howe among them—now turned to suffrage.

"During the first two thirds of my life, I looked to the masculine ideal of character as the only true one." Howe wrote in 1899, reminiscing about 1869. "I sought its inspiration, and referred my merits and demerits to its judicial verdict. In an unexpected hour a new light came to me, showing me a word of thought and of character quite beyond the limits within which I had hitherto been content to abide. The new domain now made clear to me was that of true womanhood—woman no longer in her ancillary relation to her opposite man, but in direct relation to the divine plan and purpose, as a free agent, fully sharing with man every human right and every human responsibility. This discovery was like the addition of a new continent to the map of the world, or a new testament to the old ordinances."

That new continent had its own music. The suffragist Rebecca Naylor Hazard wrote the lyrics for "Give the Ballot to the Mothers," sung to the tune of "Marching Through Georgia." It echoed the Civil War's theme of deliverance in the language of "jubilee," with women's suffrage, not abolition, as the current goal.

Hurrah! Hurrah! We bring the jubilee!
Hurrah! Hurrah! The homes they shall be free!
So we'll sing the chorus from the mountains to the sea—
Giving the ballot to the mothers.

Bring the dear old banner, boys, and fling it to the wind;
Mother, wife and daughter let it shelter and defend.

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“Equal Rights” our motto is, we ‘re loyal to the end—
Giving the ballot to the mothers.

HELP—Planners needed

We need four or five members to volunteer to design the new Game Day, tentatively called Activity Day. The date is January 27, 2020. Let Wilzetta, Pam, or Shirley know that you are willing to help.

GIFT WRAPPING

Once again, we will be doing a Gift Wrapping fundraiser at Barnes & Noble in December. Also, IBC will be wrapping on different days. Information on signing up to wrap will follow soon.

PUBLIC POLICY/DIVERSITY COMMITTEE—Note the new date

The Public Policy/Diversity Committee will meet **Friday, October 18**, 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, October 15. 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.

AAUW GIVING

AAUW has a number of funds to which members can designate their contributions, such as the Legal Advocacy Fund, various endowments, Public Policy, etc.

Over the years, many of these funds have received major contributions, which will make them solvent for years to come. IRS rules specify that any contributions by members which are designated by the contributor for specific funds must be used for that purpose and that that purpose only. This presents a problem in some respects for the National office.

These designated funds cannot be used for operating costs, such as communications expenses, administrative expenses, staff travel, etc., unless these expenses are directly related to the particular fund.

With this in mind, AAUW appreciates any contribution a member makes to any fund, but suggests that for maximum impact in meeting our mission we consider gifts to the Greatest Needs Fund. This fund allows gifts to be used to fund programs and projects in the areas of greatest need as well as for general operating needs.

Simply note “Greatest Needs Fund” in the memo section of your check or select that fund when making online donations. All checks should be made to AAUW Fund.

IMPORTANT HONOR FOR WILZETTA BELL

Branch Co-President Wilzetta Bell is to be honored by St. Andrews Charitable Foundation at the 17th Annual Ageless Remarkable Saint Louisans Gala for her tireless commitment to improve the lives of everyone around her and her dedication to improve the community she loves. Wilzetta is a very active woman in several organizations in addition to AAUW and is a philanthropist in her own right.

Congratulations.

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TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet at Cannolis on October 8 at 11:30. Mary Ellen Starr will review *A Fighting Chance* by Elizabeth Warren. Let Mary Ellen know if you will attend.

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES—note the new date

The movie group will meet **Monday, October 28,** at 2:00 at the Theater Room at Hidden Lake. The movie will be “Mary Poppins Returns.” To let Judy know you are coming, call her at 314-355-1125 or email at mickey.homes@att.net.

CALENDAR

- October 7—Branch Board Meeting**
- October 8—Tuesday Afternoon Book Group**
- October 18—Public Policy/Diversity**
- October 19—Community Panel**
- October 28—Afternoon at the Movies**

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