

*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

November 2019

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

BOARD MEETING

The Board will not meet in November.

OCTOBER COMMUNITY PANEL

The Community Panel was presented on Saturday, October 19, at First Presbyterian Church in Ferguson. Denise Lieberman, a nationally known attorney who specializes in civil liberties, civil rights, and constitutional law, spoke at length about the long history of voter suppression since the Civil War and current, highly organized tactics to limit voter participation of minority populations. Louise Wilkerson of the League of Women Voters discussed ways of repeatedly contacting local, state, and federal representatives to express how you want them to represent you on an issue.

Thanks to the organizers of this event, including Joyce Glover Bluett, who arranged for the speakers; Lovene Hartman, who provided hospitality; Pam Meyers and Patty Murray, who set up the technology; Carolyn Herkstroeter, who greeted members and guests and took photographs; and everyone who helped with set up and clean up.



Members and Guests



Speakers Denise Lieberman and Louise Wilkerson



Members and Guests

HOLIDAY EVENT

The next general branch event will be the Holiday Event on Sunday, December 15. Details coming soon.

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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PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Wilzetta Bell

As we enter into the month of November, we take time to acknowledge all of our blessings throughout the year. In spite of all we have received, we are aware that there are many who need assistance in their lives. Our goal is to help others to at least recognize what their needs are and lend some direction to them in getting there. As strong and capable women of AAUW, we have a duty. Let us take the time to always remember this.

PUBLIC POLICY by Lisa Taylor

Hello AAUW Ferguson-Florissant Branch Members,

I look forward to sharing with our branch information related to Title IX in higher education.

It is extremely important to have a "trained" hearing panel involving sexual assault investigations. This month I would like to share information on the two types of investigations related to sexual assault allegations.

When college campuses investigate sexual assault allegations, they should always make the difference between investigating the assault as an institutional policy violation and as a crime punishable by the legal system. These types of allegations require two different types of investigations and they should not be connected in any way or conducted by the same individuals. Mainly because those best equipped to handle a criminal investigation normally are not the most qualified ones to handle institutional code violation.

College campus investigations are evidentiary findings to be submitted to the student conduct administrators so they can conduct a separate, concurrent investigation into whether policy violations have occurred. The campus officials can then determine an appropriate institutional sanction based on their findings.

A criminal investigation requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt a crime occurred. Which can be difficult to find in most sexual assault cases because there are not witnesses to the alleged assault.

This means if a student who is arrested for sexual assault, the campus law enforcement unit or local police department might choose not to prosecute. But the institution could by looking at the evidence and speaking with involved parties to help them decide that judicial sanctions are appropriate to keep the victim safe and keep the offender from repeating the behavior.

A victim may not want to press criminal charges because they do not want to experience the trauma related to the incident. But the institution could still investigate the incident as a policy violation. If the student affairs administrators or campus safety officers have concerns about the student performing this behavior, again, they can consider moving forward with the policy investigation, without the victim's wishes. The administrators must let the victim know they are going to investigate in an effort to protect other students from becoming victims, as well.

I hope you were able to get a better understanding how investigations are handled and if you would like to have more information, please let me know.

Until next time-continue to enjoy the Fall weather,

Lisa Taylor

Policy-Diversity Committee

JANUARY MEETING CHANGE

Plans are now for some other activity to replace the January Activity meeting. More information will be coming.

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DIVERSITY/PUBLIC POLICY MEETING

The Diversity/Public Policy Committee met October 18. Shirley Breeze had a presentation on The Census. She provided information on why the census is done and how it will be accomplished in 2020. She explained the importance of the census in government funding and electing representatives, as well as many other uses. Time for discussion followed.

Several members presented brief reports on the topics they are researching. Others chose topics they will research.

The next meeting is tentatively planned for a Saturday in February at Hidden Lake, details to follow. Patty Murray will do a program on her selected topic of the Popular Vote and the Electoral College.

GIFT WRAPPING

Our branch will be Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble in December. Some dates will be early, in the range of December 1-13. Others will be during the week before Christmas. Interbranch Council (IBC) will be staffing several of those dates as well. The exact dates for Ferguson Florissant will be decided soon.

Scheduling for Ferguson Florissant will be handled this year by Pat Kelemen. Many thanks to Lovene Hartman for several years of doing the scheduling.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet on November 12 at 11:30 at the home of Myra Talkington. Myra will review *The Long Road Home* by Danielle Steele. Bring a sandwich. Call or email Myra if you will attend.

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

Afternoon at the Movies will be Monday, November 25 at 2:00 pm at the Hidden Lake Movie Theater. The movie to be shown is still to be determined.

ADELANTE BOOK GROUP (aka Operation Equality: Reading for Results)

The Adelante Book Group will meet at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson in Chesterfield at 1:30 on October 24. Betty Takahashi will review *The Only Woman in the Room: Why Science is Still a Boys' Club* by Eileen Pollack.

The next meeting will be in January.

CALENDAR

October 24—Adelante Book Group

November 12—Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

November 25—Afternoon at the Movies

December—Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble

December 15—Holiday Event

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