

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



Wilzetta Bell and
Pam Meyers
Co-Presidents
Volume 55

Shirley Breeze
Program Vice President
March 2020

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

BOARD MEETING

The Board will meet on Monday, March 2, 2020, at Irma Jean's at 11:30

FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING

The Ferguson-Florissant AAUW general meeting on February 17 was attended by eighteen members and guests. Since we were late getting started, the pot-luck lunch was enjoyed first, with many delicious salads, sandwiches, and desserts. Then Pamela Meyers presented a program about Suffragettes and their music they used at meetings, parades, etc. She even had the words for one song, and the music in her phone, and we sang the song: "Standing on Their Shoulders," by Joyce Johnson Rouse. Pamela also talked about several Suffragettes, and gave us each a ten-page list of biographies of thirty-one women who worked for women's right to vote and other improvements of women's right through the years.

MARCH BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of the branch will be March 16, 2020, at Immanuel UCC, 221 Church Street, Ferguson, at 7:00 pm. As part of this meeting, members will vote on officers who will serve from July 1, 2020 until June 30, 2022. This is not an open meeting but rather a meeting of members.

PRESIDENTS' LETTER by Wilzetta Bell

March is notably "Women's Month." There are so many women to salute from the past, present and future. I recently saw the musical "Summer," featuring the life and music of Donna Summer, at the Fox Theatre. Her most popular song, "She Works Hard for the Money," reminded me of our goal to make sure that women get equal pay as compared to their male counterparts. Women to this day are still paid less in many occupational positions. We will never stop until our goal has been reached

In the past month, I have learned of three women who were from the state of MO and who were hard workers as slaves and became famous for their work in empowering women to reach their goals. They were Lucy Delaney, Mary Robinson, and Elizabeth Keckley.

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/DIVERSITY by Lisa Taylor

Title IX and Pregnant or Parenting Students

President Obama has set a goal that by 2020 the United States will lead the world in proportion of persons who graduate from college. To help us achieve this goal, there must be support for **every** student in completing high school, so they are ready for college or a career. This will include that there has to be inclusion for pregnant and parenting students. They must not be discriminated against as they persist to stay in school.

Title IX protects pregnant and parenting students from discrimination. However, many people are not aware that many schools still discriminate against these students. They place the students in separate subpar academic programs, enact policies to treat them differently from other students with medical conditions and prevent them from participating in after school programs.

As reported by the CDC (Center for Disease Control) this has harmful effects on students. The CDC reports that 50 percent of teen mothers receive high school diplomas by the time they are 22 years old compared with 90 percent of women who did not give birth as teenagers.

A provision of the Affordable Care Act created the Pregnancy Assistance Fund, which provides grants of between \$500,000 and \$2 million annually through 2019 to help underwrite programs that connect young families with the support services they will need. The program is designed to help participant focus on high school graduation, good maternal and child health outcomes, and parenting skills.

In 2011 the House of Representatives introduced the Pregnant and Parenting Students Access to Education Act, which enabled the US Department of Education to offer state and local grants for programs that promote education and parenting students.

Title IX is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex—including pregnancy and parental status—in educational programs and activities. Some additional information you should know:

Classes and School Activities

Schools must allow student to continue participating and classes and extracurricular activities. They should be allowed to choose whether or not to participate in special instructional programs or classes for pregnant students. They cannot be pressured into taking these types of classes. Students should be provided with reasonable adjustments, like a larger desk, elevator access or allowing student to make frequent trips to the restroom, when necessary.

Absences and Medical Leave

Absences are excused due to pregnancy or childbirth as long as the doctor says it is necessary. Students are allowed to return to the same academic and extracurricular status as before their medical leave began which will give them an opportunity to make up any work missed while they were absent. This will also endure that teachers understand the Title IX requirements related to excused absences/medical leave. Students are entitled to homebound instruction/at home tutoring/independent study.

The school must have and distribute a policy against sex discrimination. The policy must make it clear that sex discrimination covers discrimination against pregnancy. Adoption and publication of a grievance procedure should be considered so a student can file a grievance if the student feels they have been discriminated against and appoint a Title IX Coordinator to support this responsibility.

Additional Information for Parenting Students:

Harassment—The student's school must protect the student against harassment including making sexual comments or jokes about the pregnancy.

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Ask for Help—Students should always feel comfortable to reach out and ask the school for help. They should be allowed to meet with the Title IX Coordinator or counselor at any time.

If you would like to have additional information about this topic, please visit the following websites:

Know Your Rights: Pregnant or Parenting: <https://ws.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/dcl-know-your/rights>
<https://www.aauw.org/2012/06/18/pregnant-and-parentingstudents>

SPRING FLING

The Interbranch Council Spring Fling for 2020 will be Saturday, March 28, 2020, from 10:30 am until 2:00 pm at Greenbriar Country Club, 12665 Big Bend Road, 63122.

The program will include a narrated pictorial history of the women's suffrage movement and its relevance today on the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment. This will be presented by Nancy Price of the St. Louis League of Women Voters.

The Barbara Lackritz Award for 2020 will be presented.

Fund raising activities will include a raffle of "Women on the Go" totes donated by the five branches and other events.

The cost of the festivities is \$38 which includes lunch. A registration form is included with this newsletter. The registration deadline is March 18.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS LECTURE SERIES

The series is presented by the Tuesday Women's Association of the Ethical Society and AAUW at the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road, St. Louis 63117.

The topic for March 10 is Cyber (UN) Security. The speaker will be Joseph Scherrer. He is Washington University in St. Louis' Executive Director of the Henry Edwin Sever Institute. He has a long resume in the area of Cyber Security.

MISSOURI STATE AAUW MEETING

The 2020 Annual State Conference, "Visions of the Future, Lessons from the Past," will be Saturday, May 2, 2020, with Board meeting and Board dinner on Friday, May 1. Speakers will include Dr. Branda Bethman, UMKC, and Dr. April Langley, UMC. Early bird registration before April 15 is \$60 with a special \$30 fee for first time attendees. A registration form is included with this newsletter.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The AAUW 2020 Midwest Convention will be at Hyatt Place in East Moline, IL June 18-20. Early bird registration, postmarked **by** May 15, 2020, is \$175; after May 15, registration is \$225. Rooms can be reserved at Hyatt Place hotel. Members from 14 states will attend.

A registration form for the convention is included with this newsletter. It includes information about making hotel reservations separately.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet at Cannolis at 11:30 on March 10.Carolynn Henning will review *See Jane Win* by Caitlin Moscatello. Let Carolynn know if you will attend.

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OPERATION EQUALITY: Reading for Results, formerly Adelante Book Group

The group will meet at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson in Chesterfield at 1:30 on March 26. Teri Brecht will review *Myth of the Nice Girl: Achieving a Career You Love without Becoming a Person You Hate* by Fran Hauser.

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

March Afternoon at the Movies will be March 30 at Hidden Lake Theater Room at 2:00 pm. The movie will be *The Hundred Foot Journey* with Helen Mirren and Om Puri. All are welcome. Please let Judy Holmes know if you are coming, mickey.holmes@att.net or 314-355-1125.

CALENDAR

March 2—Branch Board meeting

March 10—Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

March 10—International Relations Lecture Series

March 16—Annual Branch Business Meeting

March 26—Operation Equality: Reading for Results

March 28—Spring Fling

March 30—Afternoon at the Movies

May 2—State AAUW Meeting

June 18—Regional Conference

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