

*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 56

Shirley Breeze
Program Vice President

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

March 2021

BOARD MEETING

The board will meet on Monday, March 1 at 7:00 pm via zoom. Board members should watch for information from Pam Meyers.

MARCH BRANCH MEETING

Celebrating AAUW

Each year the Ferguson-Florissant Branch designates one of its general meetings to the business of the branch, including annual reports, elections, etc. March 16 has been identified as that meeting this year. It will be a virtual Zoom meeting beginning at 7:00 pm.

To complement the reports and other business, two state board members will make brief remarks concerning AAUW issues. Pat Shores, who is serving on the state board in the position of strategic planning and also working with public policy, will give the latest information on the state regarding pay equity legislation. Karen Francis, who is national chair of the Public Policy Committee, will provide information and answer questions about the Open Membership proposal to be voted on by members shortly. (Voting will be from April 7 to May 17.)

We hope you will join us. If your position on the branch board has had activity or if your committee has had some interesting activities, tell us about it. We will limit these reports to five minutes in length.

For question about the meeting, contact Pam Meyers or Shirley Breeze.
See you on the 16th.

FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING

The February Branch Meeting was held on February 16 via Zoom. In addition to branch members, we were joined by several members of IBC branches, making a substantial group. The program, on the challenges of teaching music during the pandemic, was presented by Jeanine York Garesche and Daniel Shavers. Ms. Garesche teaches clarinet to individual students ranging in age from 9

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to adulthood. She discussed the changes in her teaching methods when working virtually with a student rather than face to face. Mr. Shavers is a middle school band teacher who has not met with his students in person since March of 2020. He talked about the challenges of working with students virtually and demonstrated several music programs on the computer that help him work with his students.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Wilzetta Bell

As we celebrate women in the month of March, I would like to recognize our first female Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris. She is also the first African American and Indian American to serve in that position. Vice President Harris belongs to an organization of women that started in 1908 at Howard University, known as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. This sorority is composed of nearly 300,000 women in 50 states and several foreign countries. Part of its mission is to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards for women and girls. Vice President Harris will always work hard for the advancement of women everywhere.

PUBLIC POLICY/DIVERSITY by Lisa Taylor

Public Policy-Diversity Committee Report

Thanks again for giving me the opportunity to serve as the chair for the Public Policy-Diversity Chair. To help me understand my duties and roles serving as the chair, I attended webinars and consulted with Judy Holmes (Ferguson-Florissant) and Karen Francis (Ballwin-Chesterfield) Branches

During the month of February, there were webinars presented by National in reference to public policy initiatives and diversity for the year 2021.

On February 2, 2021, the webinar on public policy "AAUW Public Policy Talks: 2021 Priorities and the New Administration" was presented by national staff members. Every two years, AAUW members vote and adopt revisions to the Public Policy Priorities. The comment period for proposed changes closed on February 5, 2021 for any proposed changes and the changes will be voted on this spring by every member.

The revisions will pertain to and support our main three initiatives. The initiatives are refinement and added specificity regarding AAUW's commitment to addressing systemic racism, refinement of our commitment to equitable access to higher education for all and emphasis on the importance of high-quality data collection. For more information on the proposed changes and how the process for the proposed changes were carried out, please visit aauw.org.

On February 11, 2021, the webinar on diversity, "Creating a Diversity Structure and Planning for Success" was presented by national staff members and a member from one of the Florida branches. This webinar was followed up from the webinar introducing the Diversity Toolkit.

The webinar shared the need for a diversity officer but if you do not have a diversity officer have a Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The D & I Committee should create a plan, establish a scope, perform an environmental scan, determine timelines, have appropriate materials and plan activities. If you would like to read more information on this topic, please visit aauw.org.

To shore up everything I learned from attending the seminars, I talked to Judy Holmes and Karen Francis. Judy stated we have a D & I committee which is combined with the Public Policy Committee. I would like to reconvene this committee and add new members, if possible. Judy will provide additional information to help with the success of this committee, again.

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In the spirit of supporting our D & I efforts, celebrating Black History month and Women please note that the Biden administration will resume and accelerate the Tubman plan. The Tubman plan is named after abolitionist, Harriet Tubman. Harriet Tubman's face will replace Andrew Jackson's face on the \$20.00 bill.

Hope you enjoy the article and please contact if you have questions. Please consider joining the Public Policy-Diversity Committee!

CORRECTIONS TO BRANCH DIRECTORY

In case you did not receive this information, you may want to make the following corrections to the 2020-2021 Directory: Deborah Knox Deiermann should read **Debra**. Her zip code should be **63116** and her email should read **debra_knox_deiermann@hotmail.com**. Gwendolyn Westbrook's zip code should be **63376**. Mable Davis has a new address: **12645 Sauterne Dr., Apt. D, Maryland Heights, 63146**. Her new phone number is **636-377-9537**.

ST. LOUIS WOMEN'S MARCH

The 2021 Women's March will be a virtual event that will take place on Saturday, March 6 at 10 am. The march is a chance for women in the region to come together and raise each other up. Contact information: stlwomensmarch.com.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Our branch is now on Facebook. Type "AAUW Ferguson-Florissant Branch" into the Facebook search bar on your screen. Then "Like" our page. Thanks to Patty Murray for developing our page.

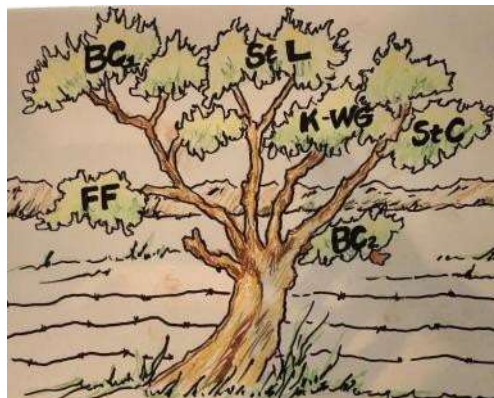
SPRING FLING—Zoom to Spring Fling



St. Louis Metro IBC is holding this year's Spring Fling via Zoom on March 13th from 10:30am to noon. The theme is "Zoom to Spring Fling" We will honor Mary Jermak as the Barb Lackritz awardee from 2020 and are planning for a Speaker (still to be announced). Attending the event is free and guests are welcome!

Our fundraiser this year is a raffle for one of six Gift Cards. Celebrate Spring 2021 as a winner of an AAUW "leaf" from the "Spring Fling Tree". Six be drawn at Spring Fling 13. Each leaf

card(s) with value of \$50. Tickets are three. Fill in the form for Spring Fling of chances. Then mail money and indicated address by March 8. The winners will be held at the meeting. attend the meeting to be a winner. sent in the mail the following week.



winning names will the 2021 Zoom meeting on March will contain gift available in lots of indicating number form to the drawing for the leaf You need not Gift cards will be

Although the event is free, we members to also give donations regardless of whether they enter the raffle. The suggestion amount is

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\$20 if possible, but any amount is appreciated. This is the only fundraiser for IBC this year... please be generous!

Registration is now open and the flyer can be found at the end of this newsletter.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS LECTURE SERIES

This series is presented by the Tuesday Women's Association of Ethical Society and AAUW. The presentation will be via Zoom. To participate, go to the Zoom.us website, click "Join a Meeting," and enter the Zoom meeting I.D. **384 422 5785**. The 45-50 minute lecture will be followed by a question and answer period.

On March 9 speaker will be Dr. Anshuman Singh, Associate Professor of Information and Technology at UMSL. His topic will be "Artificial Intelligence: An Ethics Perspective."

CALENDAR

March 1—Branch Board Meeting

March 6--St. Louis Women's March

March 9—International Affairs Lecture Series

March 13—Zoom into Spring Fling

March 16—Branch Meeting