

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



Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

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Co-Presidents
Volume 56

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April 2021

BOARD MEETING

The board will meet April 5 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

APRIL BRANCH MEETING

The April branch meeting will be **Monday**, April 19 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Note the return to the traditional Monday meeting. Information on how to join the Zoom meeting will be sent later.

What is AAUW?

The April Branch meeting will be a forum on the abundance of resources available through AAUW. Several speakers including Pam Kulp and Lisa Taylor, will address various topic materials that AAUW has available.

Have you participated in one of the many webinars produced by AAUW? Have you taken advantage of the dozens and dozens of talking points or Quick Facts prepared by the AAUW staff? Most are one-page documents that can be easily distributed at meetings. These range from the ERA, Voting Rights, Sexual Harassment, and violence in the schools to voter suppression, Title IX, Health Care, Paid Leave and many, many more.

MARCH BRANCH MEETING

The March branch meeting included annual reports including a financial report by Treasurer Joyce Wolf. Public Policy/Diversity chair Lisa Taylor stated that she is looking for additional volunteers for the committee. Annual business included the election of officers. Joyce Bluett was elected Secretary and Carolyn Herkstroeter Membership Vice President. Carolyn would welcome a partner to serve as Co-Vice President.

Pat Shores of Ballwin-Chesterfield and the Missouri AAUW State Board spoke about the Gender Pay Gap as a national AAUW priority and the progress of the Equal Pay Bill in Congress. She emphasized that the Gender Pay Gap is a family issue, not only a female issue. Congress has, in 2021, revived attempts to pass the Equal Rights Act by accepting the passage of the Act by the final 3 states necessary regardless of that being after the original deadline. She also mentioned Equal Pay bills in the Missouri Legislature and Senate.

MAY LUNCHEON

We have reserved Catering to You on May 15 for our May Luncheon. Details will follow.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Pamela Meyers

April has arrived with her many colors, sounds, and smells for the season. From the singing Robins, to the beautiful Spring Flowers. From the smell of the fresh mowed grass, to the aroma of someone barbecuing. From taking time to relax in the warmth of the sunshine or just listening to an April Shower. Spring has arrived!

The Spring Fling, "Zoom to Spring" that was held on March 13 was a success and a big thank you for everyone who attended or supported this event. A total of \$1726.00 was raised for future projects.

Hopefully everyone will have received their second vaccine by May and we can all be together for our Spring Luncheon on May 15. Hope to see you there.

PUBLIC POLICY/DIVERSITY

Paycheck Fairness Act

For those of you that were not able to attend our March 2021 meeting, Patricia Shores from the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch gave a presentation on the Paycheck Fairness Act. In this article I will highlight some of the topics she shared, and they tie in great with public policy and diversity-equity and inclusion issues.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 is now considered to be the Paycheck Fairness Act. Data has shown that women who work full time take home less than men and it averages out to be 82 cents on the dollar. Women of color are paid less.

This pay gap is not beneficial to our nation's workers and our nation's economy. AAUW strongly supports the passing of the Paycheck Fairness Act and is asking for your support. You can support in the following ways:

- (1) contact your members of Congress
- (2) write a letter to the Editor
- (3) speak up on social media
- (4) talk your family and friends.

In 2020 the Act passed in the US House and it is being considered again on March 24, 2021. The next step is for Congress to move the Bill forward to ensure women have the tools and resources to fully handle the many challenges of discrimination and employers have the incentives (monetary) they need to comply with law-equality for all!

AAUW NATIONAL—IMPORTANT ISSUES

There are two changes in that members will be able to vote on in April. There is a brief summary of each here. More detailed information can be found at aauw.org.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN NATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

Every two years, AAUW members vote on revisions to our Public Policy Priorities. The proposed edits make the following changes based on member leader feedback:

- Refinement and added specificity regarding AAUW's commitment to addressing systemic racism
- Refinement of our commitment to equitable access to higher education for all
- Emphasis on the importance of high quality data collection

PROPOSED CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

This spring AAUW members will vote on proposed changes recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would eliminate the degree requirement for membership. The basic rationale for this change is that AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity, yet the requirement for membership explicitly denies access to membership to those without college degrees. AAUW does not promote equity for all women and girls if the organization maintains

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exclusionary membership requirements. The membership requirement is not fair, is not right, and is not equity. This is simply the right thing to do.

For detailed information, go [to https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/open-membership=toolkit/](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/open-membership=toolkit/)

Voting will take place April 7 until May 17, 2021. Members will receive a unique code to use when voting.

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.

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.

The topic for April 13, 2021 at 10:45 am will be “Historical Heritage and Racist Art.” The speaker will be Dr. Akiko Tsuchiya, Professor of Spanish and of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Washington University in St. Louis. She is most recently engaged in public debates around monuments related to colonialism and slavery in the Iberian world.

CALENDAR

April 5—Branch Board Meeting

April 7-May 17—Voting on proposed bylaw changes

April 13—International Relations Lecture

April 19—April Branch Meeting

May 15—May Luncheon