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"AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research"

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[www.aauwmo.org](http://www.aauwmo.org)

#### National Web Site:

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

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**Empowering Women**  
**Since 1881**

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### You Are Invited

Saturday, July 19, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

Jan Scott's home

Following discussion at our well-attended meeting at Sue's home in June, Ellen, Sally, and a few others thought it would be a good idea to have a program planning meeting this summer (ideas, venues, dates). July 19<sup>th</sup> was suggested, and Jan offered her home as a meeting place. All branch members are invited to attend. Please come. Your input is welcomed and appreciated. Please RSVP to Jan (314-727-6876 or [jan@stlwomenonthemove.com](mailto:jan@stlwomenonthemove.com)).

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**National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.** Thank you to those who sent donations to help fund students (who attend AAUW College-University Partner institutions) to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) held in June at the University of Maryland. Funds from individuals and branches were pooled with money budgeted by the Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council; IBC handled the application process. This year we were able to send three women to the conference: **Ebony Williams**, University of Missouri-St. Louis; **Brooke Stochl**, Fontbonne University; and **Quanyce Smith**, St. Louis University. Fontbonne provided airfare for Brooke, but UMSL and SLU were unable to provide airfare for their students; IBC's pooled funds were able to pay the transportation costs for Ebony and Quanyce. Each student was asked to provide a summary of her experience. Ebony responded right away:

"Everything went fine. This was an awesome experience. I had the chance to meet some of the nicest women from all over the United States. Being that I returned to college later in life than a lot of people I always wanted the opportunity to stay in a dorm. Well it's great to say I got the chance and will not miss it at all. I went to a Wider Circle for my pre-conference activity. I was in awe and inspired by the passion and the tenacity that the Executive Director has. He makes it possible for thousands of people living in poverty to have a house full of furniture for free. He made this quote 'This kind of work has intrinsic value that only comes from within, and you have to get over yourself to do this type of work.' I thought this spoke volumes and reminded me that helping others, which I love to do, gives me meaning. All of the women of Distinction were amazing women that have accomplished extraordinary ventures in life. They all inspired me to continue dreaming, leading, and impacting others. The workshops I attended, A New Brand You, Interview Skills, and True Colors: What's Your Leadership Style, were beneficial and well needed. The knowledge that I received from these workshops is going to help me get to the next level and assist others with getting there also. I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart with making it possible for me to attend this conference. Like I said above, it was an awesome experience that I have not shut up about since I have been home."

AAUW of Missouri also funded a student from St. Louis University, Taylor Jackson of Louisville, KY (see picture on page 4).

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## MEMBER NEWS:

### Happy July Birthdays!

8 – Barbara Johnson  
27 – Ellen Irons

### Happy August Birthdays!

4 – Fran Irwin  
27 – Gwen Cotton

**Diana Collins** has written a book for Grades 1-8 that will be in print soon, *Dig Mama's Swagger*. We'll be looking for it!

## AAUW Dues Time:

**Reminder:** If you haven't renewed yet, you can do so on line through [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) (see last month's newsletter for instructions) or mail them to Sue Barley with your check made out to AAUW (*not* AAUW St. Louis). Dues are \$71 (\$49 national, \$10 state, \$12 branch). If you would like to make a donation to AAUW Funds, you may do so online when you pay your dues, or send a separate check, payable to AAUW Funds, to Sue. Thanks!

## New Resources

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the landmark 1963 President's Commission on the Status of Women report, the Department of Labor Women's Bureau published two AAUW papers. Check out "Women and Work: 50 Years of Change since the American Women Report" by AAUW's own Lisa M. Maatz and Anne Hedgepeth and "Policy, Education and Social Change: Fifty Years of Progress" by Catherine Hill, Ph. D. and Erin Prangley.

*Watch for the every-member survey coming out shortly. This survey is important for the national officers and staff to gauge the feelings of the membership on a number of important issues and initiatives.*

## Sorry, Not Sorry: Tackling Stereotypes and Biases on Campus

We still live in a world where women are paid less, unfairly criticized, and openly harassed. No wonder they feel they have to apologize for every little thing; but we're fighting back. Sorry, but we're *not* sorry about our brains, our ambition, or our drive to make our world—and ourselves in the process—better.

This fall AAUW's Campus Action Project grants, sponsored by Pantene, will empower college women across the country to take action on their campuses against the harmful stereotypes and biases that stand in their way. Check out the excellent series of short videos on the AAUW website at <http://www.aauw.org/article/shine-strong/>.

## Downtown Lunch Group

Here are the places to be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 11:45 AM. Please join us – we have lots of good conversation:

July 15 The Fountain on Locust, 3037 Locust  
Aug 19 Mama Josephine's, 4000 Shaw

For reservations contact Jean Shull at 314-822-7821 or [jshull2@mindspring.com](mailto:jshull2@mindspring.com).

## AAUW ¡Adelante! Book Group

**Where:** Barnes & Noble, Chesterfield Oaks Shopping Center, 1600 Clarkson Rd.

**When:** 1:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month.

**Contact:** Teri Brecht, [tebrecht@yahoo.com](mailto:tebrecht@yahoo.com). AAUW members from all St. Louis area branches are welcome.

### Upcoming books:

Sep 25 - *In the Shadow of the Banyan*, by Vaddy Ratner

(Future selections to be decided when the new AAUW list is published.)

## Evening Book Group

This is a joint group with the Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch. The group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7 PM at the St. Louis Bread Company (unless otherwise indicated) in the Greentree Shopping Center in Kirkwood located at the corner of Woodlawn and Manchester Road. You are welcome to come at 6:30 PM for dinner before the discussion. Friends, family, and guests are always welcome to join the discussion. Contacts: Barbara Johnson, 314-962-3501, or Kay Meyer, 314-962-7487 or [kicmeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:kicmeyer@yahoo.com). Here is the reading list for the next few months:

July 21 *Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society*, by Amy Hill Hearth  
Aug 18 *Victoria's Daughters*, by Jerrold M. Packard  
Sep 15 *Caleb's Crossing*, by Geraldine Brooks  
Oct 20 *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America*, by Eric Larson  
Nov 17 *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*, by Gayle Tzemack Lemmon  
Dec 15 NO MEETING – Happy holidays!  
Jan 19 *The Goldfinch*, by Donna Tartt  
Feb 16 *The Whistling Season*, by Ivan Doig  
Mar 16 *The Scarlet Sisters: Sex, Suffrage, and Scandal in the Gilded Age*, by Myra MacPherson  
Apr 20 *Still Foolin' Em: Where I've Been, Where I'm Going, and Where the Hell Are My Keys*, by Billy Crystal  
May 18 Planning and book selection meeting  
June 15 *Peace Like a River*, by Leif Enger

## Equality Day Brunch

**Join women activists on this special day!** Celebrating the 94<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women getting the vote, the Missouri Women's Network (chaired by AAUW of Missouri past president and past AAUW regional director Shirley Breeze) will again host an inspiring and informative brunch with good food, presentations, political action, awards, election and legislative issues, and networking opportunity. Join us on **August 23, 2014**, from 9:30 AM (registration) till 2:00 PM at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7750 Carondelet (Crystal Ballroom), Clayton. Free hotel parking on the orange level of the garage behind the hotel (entrance at 7777 Bonhomme).

Make your check payable to Missouri Women's Network and mail it, along with your name, address, e-mail, and phone number, to *Julia Triplett*. Deadline: August 16<sup>th</sup>. For additional information or late reservations (a limited number), call Shirley Breeze (314-831-5359) or Pat Shores (636-938-3958).

Brunch and program: \$37.00 (scholarships available)

Student price: \$15.00

Optional: Donation to the educational fund and/or the scholarship fund, MWN membership dues (organization \$30, individual \$20).

## Washington Update

**President Announces Executive Actions at White House Summit.** At the White House Working Families Summit, President Barack Obama announced that he will sign a presidential memorandum encouraging federal agencies to review and expand flexible workplace policies. The president also announced a Department of Labor grant program to research state paid leave programs; additional funds for technical skill training grants that seek to address barriers to education faced by low-wage individuals with childcare responsibilities; and the development of a new online portal that will help pregnant workers and their families understand their rights.

**Senate Passes Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization.** On June 25th the Senate passed the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) on a 95-3 vote. Co-authored by Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA), the bill would streamline workforce development and job training programs and improve assistance for youth with disabilities in employment centers. AAUW worked to ensure that supports for women in nontraditional occupations were part of the state and local workforce activities included in the bill, as well as making supportive services to help people get to work or care for their families more readily available under WIOA. AAUW was also glad to see provisions requiring the Department of Labor to conduct a study to see how training programs can help end pay inequality. The House version, authored by Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), is expected to be taken up after the July recess.

- Thanks to everyone who contacted their senators in advance of Wednesday's bipartisan vote! Now that the legislation is moving onto the House, please take two minutes

on the AAUW web site (Two-Minute Activist) to urge your representative to support WIOA.

**AAUW Cheer:** On June 24th the House Appropriations Committee voted to extend insurance coverage for abortion to Peace Corps volunteers in cases of rape and life-threatening pregnancy complications. This positive step for reproductive rights, which brings the volunteers' health coverage in line with other federally funded health programs, comes after a recent study found nearly 10 percent of returning Peace Corps volunteers had been sexually assaulted. Last week, a similar amendment passed the Senate Appropriations Committee; the proposals now move to the full House and Senate.

**AAUW Jeer:** On June 20th Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R) signed a bill expanding the state's school voucher program – and then he kicked off a statewide tour promoting a policy agenda that includes yet another expansion! AAUW of Florida worked tirelessly in their efforts to defeat the first bill, which broadened the income eligibility requirements for the school tax credit program. The Florida Constitution states specifically that Florida should provide a free, high-quality, public education. Public funding of private education does not fulfill this obligation.

**AAUW Cheer:** Last month the New Jersey State Legislature passed the Unfair Wage Recovery Act (S. 783), which would help employees combat workplace discrimination by treating every paycheck as another instance of unlawful employment practice. This bill expands upon the federal *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act* of 2009 by amending the state's law against discrimination and giving victims of discrimination additional time to challenge their treatment in state court. The bill now heads to Governor Chris Christie, who will decide whether or not to sign it into law.

**AAUW Jeer:** New details emerged this week shedding light on the detrimental effect of the *Citizens United* decision. Last month the Ohio State University published a report finding that the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision had so changed the rules of politics that it had reduced candidates to "bit players in their own campaigns." The report details violations of the regulations that restrict coordination between candidates and political groups, finding money had taken control away from the campaigns themselves. The report also addresses how independent expenditures drive the Congressional agenda.

## Bits and Pieces

- The House approved an amendment by Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) [an AAUW national convention speaker a few years ago] prohibiting the funding of a provision in a recent executive order that would have given more power to military commanders in sexual assault cases. This amendment was in response to a disappointing executive order signed by President Barack Obama on June 13 that would allow a sexual assault victim's previous sexual history to be considered during military justice proceedings, even though such testimony can be prohibited in civilian courts.

- In a recent Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions committee hearing, Committee Chair Tom Harkin (D-IA) questioned whether the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights' had ever enforced Title IX protections against campus sexual assault by revoking universities' federal funding; the department has never imposed this "nuclear option." A lively discussion ensued as to whether intermediate penalties should be available; AAUW continues to research the matter. Sen. Harkin also indicated that he intends to include campus sexual assault provisions in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.
- In late June the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing to call for international legislation that protects against violence against women. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) urged colleagues to pass the International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA). Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) echoed Warren's statements and also voiced her support for U.S. ratification of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). AAUW supports both policies.
- In late June Senate Republicans revealed a working-families agenda that aims to attract voters in November. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell announced that Republicans will push for six bills that they feel are good for working families. Unfortunately, the package is out of touch with the real needs of American families and does not contain proposals like the Paycheck Fairness Act, increasing the minimum wage, paid family leave, and other AAUW priorities.
- June 17<sup>th</sup> marked an historic day for the judicial branch. The Senate confirmed Staci Yandle to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, making her the first African-American and openly-gay, lifetime-appointed Federal judge in Illinois. With this confirmation, President Barack Obama exceeded the record previously set by President Bill Clinton for most female judges appointed.



June 5, 2014 - Sue Barley and AAUW MO-funded student to NCCWSL from SLU, Taylor Jackson from Louisville, KY



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jul 15	Downtown Lunch Group
Jul 19	Branch planning meeting at Jan's
Jul 19	AAUW MO board meeting
Jul 21	Evening Book Group
Aug 18	Evening Book Group
Aug 19	Downtown Lunch Group
Aug 23	27 <sup>th</sup> Annual Equality Day Brunch, 10 AM
Aug 26	AAUW Metro St Louis Interbranch Council meeting
Sep 16	Downtown Lunch Group
Sep 25	Adelante book group, 1:30 PM

Anything you want to share with our members? Please send articles and information for the newsletter to Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Drive, Manchester, MO 63011-4215, or [davis-mcdonald@juno.com](mailto:davis-mcdonald@juno.com).