



Newsletter of the Saint Louis Branch (Since 1893)

2014-2015, No. 2

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

Who we are...

The Saint Louis Branch of AAUW supports the broad goals and actions of AAUW by holding public outreach events, engaging in political action, collaborating with local organizations and educational institutions regarding AAUW topics, and by supporting area young women and girls directly. We promote a "You Can Do It" approach. We are one of six branches in the Saint Louis, MO, area that comprise the AAUW Metro Saint Louis Interbranch Council (IBC).

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Web Sites:

Branch Web Site:
<http://stlouis-mo.aauw.net>

IBC Web Site:
<http://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net>

State Web Site:
www.aauwmo.org

National Web Site:
www.aauw.org

Saint Louis Branch Updates:

October 18th Branch Event

We are pleased to announce that **Peggy Cochran, Director of MO NEA**, will be our featured speaker at the October 18, 2014, meeting from 2:30 – 4:30 PM at the home of Fran Irwin. Peggy will speak on recent education legislation in the state of MO and discuss why the proposed Amendment 3 coming up in the November election is a bad choice for our schools. *Please mark your calendars and invite your friends. Send RSVPs to Jan Scott at jan@wypstlouis.com or (314) 727-6876 by October 10th.*

A native Southeast Missourian, **Peggy Cochran** taught speech, drama, and English for 21 years in House Springs, Portageville, and Chaffee, Missouri. Peggy was the first woman to be executive director of the now 35,000 member Missouri National Education Association and the first Missouri teacher to hold that position. She served as executive director twice as long as any of her predecessors, retiring in 2006 with 21 years of service. In February of this year, Peggy returned to the position of executive director and currently serves in that capacity. She also served six years on the Board of Trustees for Jefferson College, the last two years of her tenure as president of the board. She and her husband currently live at the Lake of the Ozarks in Rocky Mount, MO, where she is the vice president of the Lake Ozark Federation of Democrats. Among her many other positions, Peggy is treasurer and scholarship chair of the Heart of the Ozarks Business Women of Missouri at the Lake of the Ozarks; part-time consultant for interest-based negotiations, problem-solving, and dispute resolution; president of the Capitol Women's Political Caucus; and serves on the State advisory board of directors for the MO Women's Leadership Coalition. The recipient of several awards, Peggy most recently was honored for her untiring efforts by the MO Women's Network at their Equality Day luncheon in August 2014.

250 St. Louis Women Names Project – Kick Off

Our Branch has a new project - we have decided to identify 250 notable women who have contributed to the history of St. Louis City. We are inviting our AAUW university partners (St. Louis University, St. Louis College of Pharmacy, STLCC-Forest Park campus, Washington University, and Fontbonne University) to participate. Our goal is to complete the project by early February 2015 and join with the MO History Museum in the closing events for the St. Louis City 250th Anniversary. Contact Ellen Irons @ ironnew@msn.com if you are interested in participating.

Notes from our latest Program Planning Meeting

Our second planning session on Sept 6th has continued the great momentum started at the July 19th meeting. Sue Barley, Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo, Carol Davis McDonald, Yvette Goods, Ellen Irons, Fran Irwin, Sally McGowan, Jan Scott, and Amy Weisser have joined together as a St. Louis AAUW Branch planning team to create a more focused direction for our branch, encourage more participation of branch members, and gain new branch members. We have decided to hold three branch sponsored events – October 18, 2014, February 2015, and May 2015.

If you want to help with the October 18 event or join the planning team, contact Ellen Irons: ironnew@msn.com

Some of our other short term goals are:

- **IBC Spring Fling, March 15 – Program Committee.** The St. Louis Branch is responsible for the program for the March 2015 Metro Saint Louis Interbranch Council's annual spring luncheon. Jan, Amy, and others are working on this. Please contact Jan Scott to get involved.
- **St. Louis Branch Website Committee.** We have our own branch website! It is based on the template sent from national and uses WordPress. We want to make more dynamic use of the site and would appreciate your ideas and website skills. Contact Carol Davis McDonald at davis-mcdonald@juno.com to get involved.

MEMBER NEWS

Happy September Birthdays!

26 – Ella Bettinger

26 – Carol Davis McDonald

Happy October Birthdays!

14 – Susan Barley

Happy November Birthdays!

29 – Sally McGowan

Welcome to New Members!

Gina Jerome has joined the St. Louis Branch. She received her BS in Botany from Eastern Illinois University and her MS in Natural Science from Louisiana State University. She volunteers at Alternative Hospice and Woman's Place. She joined us on the bus trip to Jefferson City for the unveiling of the Virginia Minor bust. Sue has added her to our member list. If you need a copy, let Sue know.

Miriam Chapman has rejoined the Branch. She received her BA in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Texas at Dallas and her MA in Nonprofit Management from Washington University in St. Louis. She is employed by Ready Readers and volunteers at Ready Readers, St. Louis Actors' Studio, National Society of Arts and Letters, and Helping

Hand-Me-Downs. Miriam enjoys reading, knitting, yoga, and is open to new adventures! Her contact information is in the latest membership list from Sue Barley.

WELCOME, Gina and Miriam! We hope you will join us at our events and even help with planning.

Congratulations!

Jan Scott is the new 4th vice president and music advisor of her music fraternity, Mu Phi Epsilon. Fran Irwin, past national president, nominated her for the position.

AAUW Dues Time

Reminder: If you haven't renewed yet, you can do so on line through 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 on line when you pay your dues or send a separate check, payable to AAUW Funds, to Sue. If you aren't sure if you are current, please give Sue a call or send a message (see contact information on Page 1). Thanks!

INTERBRANCH COUNCIL UPDATES:

August 26th IBC Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the Interbranch Council met at the Thornhill Branch Library in Creve Coeur. In attendance from the St. Louis Branch were Jan Scott, IBC Chair; Carol Davis McDonald, IBC treasurer; and Yvette Goods, Ellen Irons, and Amy Weisser as guests. Pat Shores, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, cited the 242 new voters AAUW registered two years ago. She will make arrangements again if branches want to work together. The League of Women Voters also is going to be working on this project. October 8 is the deadline for registration this year. The branches all committed to working on the project. Pat subsequently held a training session at her home on September 9th.

Plans are progressing for the March 21st Spring Fling. It was agreed that the venue would be at the Highlands Clubhouse in Forest Park. The St. Louis Branch is responsible for the program. Dianne Moran, historical portrayer, has agreed to present a program on Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring* and recipient of an AAUW achievement award.

Jan Scott announced that Malaika Horne's pay equity session through the UMSL Lifelong Learning is on October 31. Betty Takahashi, St. Charles Branch, said that the Adelante book group that meets at Barnes and Noble is growing and that the upcoming year's selections would be chosen at the next meeting on September 25th (see information on the next page). The council voted to work on a proposed project of printing bookmarks listing information on AAUW and all the area branches and are to be placed in area libraries. Kay Meyer, Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch, announced that

planning is under way for the 2015 International Relations Lecture Series jointly sponsored by AAUW IBC and the Tuesday Women's Association of the Ethical Society.

It also was agreed that IBC should continue accepting and requesting donations for NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, co-sponsored by AAUW) scholarships, concentrating on funding one student. If funds are available, additional students might be considered. Only students attending AAUW college-university partner members are eligible for the IBC scholarship.

Carolyn Herkstroeter, Ferguson-Florissant Branch, talked about some of the positive aspects of her community. The Ferguson-Florissant branch is mentoring girls in robotics/STEM and working with reading and Girl Scouts. They may have suggestions later about anything IBC could do to help, but continuing to work on AAUW education priorities is important. The council requested an update in 3 months.

The next IBC meeting is November 18th at 7 p.m. at Thornhill Branch library (note this is the third Tuesday instead of the fourth). Any member is welcome to attend.

Downtown Lunch Group

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

- Sep 16 The Salted Pig, 731 S. Lindbergh (north of I-64)
- Oct 21 LHC (Local Harvest Café), 3137 Morganford Rd
- Nov 18 O'Connell's, 4752 Shaw
- Dec 16 Jimmy's Café on the Park, 706 DeMun

For reservations contact Jean Shull at 314-822-7821 or 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. AAUW members from all St. Louis area branches are welcome.

Upcoming books:

Sep 25 - *In the Shadow of the Banyan*, by Vaddy Ratner; upcoming selections to be decided

Evening Book Group

This is a joint group with the Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch. The group meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM at the St. Louis Bread Company (unless otherwise indicated) in the Schnuck's parking lot 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. Here is the reading list for the next few months:

- 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

Dedication of the Virginia Minor Bust

Thanks to the hard work of Shirley Breeze of the Ferguson-Florissant Branch and chair of the Missouri Women's Network, and of Mary Mosley, member of AAUW Columbia Branch, MO NOW, and the MO Women's Network, \$10,000 was raised for a sculpture and bronze casting of Virginia Minor. The Speaker of the Missouri House traditionally chooses the individuals whose busts will be placed in the capitol, but last year Speaker Tim Jones allowed the public to nominate and vote for individuals to be included. Virginia Minor, along with three men, garnered enough votes to be honored.

In the past, the Speaker has sponsored a golf tournament to fund sculpting and placement of busts, but this year no golf tournament was planned. Since the busts are privately funded, the Network launched a grassroots appeal to mobilize 1,000 women to donate \$10 each to fund creation and placement of Virginia Minor's bust, which was created by Cynthia Hitschler of Eureka, Missouri. "We know that there are thousands of women in Missouri who are thrilled to see another woman in the Hall of Famous Missourians," Shirley said. "We are confident that women from all areas of the state will come forward to donate and do their part to raise the funds for placement of this bust. All we are asking is \$10 from each of 1,000 women." An additional \$2,500 is needed to fund the base for the sculpture.

Virginia Minor is important because she fought to get women the right to vote. In 1872, she tried to register to vote and was turned away. She sued under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which grants "privileges and immunities" and guarantees equal protection of the law to all citizens. Her lawsuit, *Minor v. Happersett*, went all the way to the Supreme Court, where she lost. Nearly 50 years later, with passage of the 19th Amendment, women won the right to vote; but not until 1971, nearly 100 years later, did the Supreme Court finally acknowledge that women were covered by the 14th Amendment. Virginia Minor subsequently studied law and kept working for women's suffrage until her death in 1894.

Virginia Minor joined eight other women and 35 men in the Hall of Famous Missourians in the third floor rotunda of

the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City. The dedication and unveiling of the bust in the state capitol building in Jefferson City was held at 9 AM on September 10, 2014, in the House chamber. Ballwin-Chesterfield member Pat Shores arranged for a bus to leave from Clayton Rd and Hwy 141 at 6:30 AM. Joining the group were Jan Scott, Yvette Goods, Gina Jerome, and Carol Davis McDonald. Rev. Rebecca Turner offered the prayer to Mother God at the beginning of the dedication, and MO NOW President Jamie Tomek led the pledge of allegiance. Shirley Breeze and Mary Mosley spoke, as did Speaker Jones. Speaking at the press conference



following the dedication were AAUW MO President Diane Ludwig (past St. Louis Branch president), other presidents of state women's organizations, and Ms. Hitschler.

Virginia Louisa Minor and Sculptor Cynthia Hitschler (Photo by Gina Jerome)

STATE UPDATES

Quarterly Board Meeting

The AAUW MO board met in July at President (and past St. Louis Branch president) Diane Ludwig's home in Fulton, MO, for food and strategic planning and at Diane's church on Saturday. Diane said that she will be communicating by president's letter with all the branches. "As state president, I want to help keep the connections between national and branches strong and interactive. Having served on a national committee for the past five years, I know, first-hand, how important branch work is to our efforts. National really does want to help." Diane recommends having state-led study topics for branches utilizing Programs in a Box on the annual Star Award. Upon installation, Diane stated that she has two goals: 1) Complete the F. Elaine Richardson R&P Endowment to allow it to start awarding monies to deserving young women [in case you wonder where to designate donations to AAUW Funds], and 2) to reach out to new retirees for AAUW membership (statistics show that 8,000-10,000 baby boomers are retiring every day!).

St Louis Branch Dual Member Sue Barley is the current state program vice president.

NATIONAL UPDATES

Here is a snapshot of AAUW nationally:

- 170,000 AAUW Members and Supporters
- 1,000 Local AAUW Branches
- 800 College/University Partners
- Last year, \$4.3 million was given in fellowships and grants to 278 women in professional and academic careers.

Washington Update

Senate Moves Forward on Paycheck Fairness Act. On Wednesday, September 10th, for the first time ever, the Senate voted (73-25) to move forward with a debate on the *Paycheck Fairness Act*. AAUW members have been leading the fight to pass the PFA, which would give employees the tools they need to uncover and challenge unlawful pay discrimination. Despite possible attempts to weaken the legislation with amendments, the Senate is expected to hold additional votes on the PFA early next week.

- [Tell your senators to support the Paycheck Fairness Act!](#)

Senate Votes on Campaign Finance. This week, the Senate considered and ultimately rejected an AAUW-supported constitutional amendment that would regulate campaign finance. The Democracy for All Constitutional Amendment would restore the ability of Congress and state legislatures to regulate the raising and spending of money in elections. On Monday, the Senate voted in favor of cloture and debated the bill, yet it ultimately failed a procedural vote on Thursday afternoon.

- We need to keep up the drumbeat for campaign finance reform. [Tell your elected officials that every citizen is supposed to have the same power at the ballot box: their vote, not their money.](#)

AAUW Cheer: This week, Delaware Governor Jack Markell (D) signed the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, after it passed the state House and Senate unanimously. This legislation requires employers to make reasonable accommodations to help pregnant employees stay on the job.

AAUW Jeer: A new study by the Sunlight Foundation finds that women have made up less than one quarter of the 5,000 witnesses called to testify before committees of the U.S. House of Representatives in the current Congress. Much of the work done by Congress is completed in committees and subcommittees, making this inequality all the more significant.

AAUW Cheer: Clothing retailer Gap, Inc., says it has closed the gender pay gap between its male and female employees. On average, female employees at Gap are paid at a one-to-one ratio compared to their male counterparts, the company said in an announcement last week. In the same announcement, the company noted that it exceeds industry averages when it comes to women in leadership: Women make up nearly 70 percent of the company's store managers, 60 percent of directors, and 50 percent of vice presidents.

AAUW Jeer: A recent analysis by the Institute of Women's Policy Research graded states on women's employment and earnings, and 14 states received a D or F grade. More than half of those 14 states are in the South; the lowest scoring state was West Virginia, and the highest scoring "state" was Washington, D.C. The grades took into account four factors: women's participation in the labor force, median annual earnings for women, the earnings ratio between men and women, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

Bits and Pieces

- A new paper finds that on average, having children increased men’s salaries by more than 6 percent while women’s earnings decreased 4 percent for each child. The pay gap persisted even after the researcher controlled for factors such as experience, education, and hours worked.
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention released results from a 2011 survey showing that nearly 1 in 5 women have been raped at some point in their life. An estimated 44 percent of women and 23 percent of men have also experienced another form of sexual violence.
- Despite accusations from opponents of the Common Core State Standards, the Congressional Research Service report found no evidence of the Education Department forcing states to adopt the new standards. The report affirmed what AAUW has long been saying: Common Core doesn't dictate curriculum but rather is a voluntary, state-led effort.
- The Department of Education has reached a Title IX agreement with The Ohio State University following accusations of sexual harassment within the university’s marching band. As part of the agreement, OSU will establish a Title IX resources website, develop online bystander intervention training for students, and take other steps to centralize and improve its response to sexual violence complaints and investigations.
- AAUW announced its acquisition of the WAGE Project’s signature programs, \$tart \$mart and Work \$mart. AAUW volunteers have already brought \$tart \$mart to many campuses, and we believe that Work \$mart, a salary negotiation workshop for women who are already in the workforce, has the same kind of potential. AAUW looks forward to expanding the delivery of these workshops as part of our work to close the wage gap.
- The Food and Drug Administration recently announced an action plan to expand the participation of women, minorities, and the elderly in research trials.
- Last week, a government immigration board determined that domestic violence survivors may be able to qualify for asylum in the United States. It’s not clear how this recognition of domestic violence survivors as a potential class of persecuted people will impact pending asylum cases.

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund

New LAF Case Challenges Gender Discrimination at the University of Tennessee. AAUW is proud to announce LAF support for a new case, Moshak v. University of Tennessee. The lawsuit was filed in 2012 by Jennifer Moshak, Heather Mason, and Collin Schlosser, former employees of the University of Tennessee’s women’s athletic department. The plaintiffs allege sex discrimination and unlawful retaliation under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Equal Pay Act of 1963. They claim that they were unlawfully discriminated against and eventually forced out of their positions during a university-led merger of the women’s and men’s athletic

departments. Schlosser and Mason argue in part that they were fired by the university after making internal complaints alleging unequal pay between the women’s and men’s athletic departments. Moshak claims that she was demoted, marginalized in the department, and then forced to retire. The plaintiffs also say that during the merger the vast majority — 86 percent — of terminated employees were either women or were men in the women’s athletic department.

Veterans Dismissed in Military Sexual Assault Case. Last month, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against a group of veterans that had sued the U.S. military for alleged acts of sexual assault while the veterans were on active duty. In the LAF-supported case, Klay v. Panetta, the plaintiffs said that U.S. military officials tolerated sexual predators in their ranks and antagonized service members who reported rape, sexual assault, and harassment. The plaintiffs argued that this culture of sexual assault violated their constitutional rights. In 2013, a U.S. District Court granted the defendants’ motion to dismiss the case, saying that the plaintiffs’ injuries were incident to their military service and that the court was prevented by legal precedent from ruling on a military matter. The plaintiffs appealed to the D.C. Circuit. Following court arguments held in February, the circuit court affirmed the district court’s dismissal of the case. AAUW is very disappointed in this latest ruling. The plaintiffs and their advocates are deciding how to proceed

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Sep 15 Evening book group, 7: 00 PM
- Sep 16 Downtown Lunch Group, The Salted Pig, 11:45
- Sep 25 Adelante book group, 1:30 PM
- Oct 18 Branch event at Fran Irwin’s, 2:30 PM
- Oct 20 Evening book group, 7:00 PM
- Oct 21 Downtown Lunch Group at Local Harvest Café
- Oct 23 Adelante book group, 1:30 PM
- Oct 31 UMSL Lifelong Learning on pay equity
- Nov 17 Evening book group, 7:00 PM
- Nov 18 Downtown Lunch Group, O’Connell’s, 11:45
- Nov 18 IBC quarterly meeting at Thornhill Library, 7 PM
- Dec 16 Downtown Lunch Group, Jimmy’s Café on the Park, 11:45 AM

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.

