

"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 five branches in the Saint Louis, MO, area that comprise the AAUW Metro Saint Louis Interbranch Council (IBC).

Branch Officers, 2016-2017

Jan Scott, Co-President
 314-727-6876
 jan@wypstlouis.com

Carol Davis McDonald
 Co-President, Newsletter, Website
 636-227-0511
 davis-mcdonald@outlook.com

Susan Barley, Finance Officer,
 AAUW Funds, Bylaws and Policies
 314-361-2920
 Barley702@gmail.com

Sally McGowan
 Director

Ellen Irons
 Director

Lisa Taylor
 Director

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



*** COME TO OUR SPRING GET-TOGETHER ***

Tuesday, JUNE 6, 2017 — 6:30 PM

Pietro's Restaurant

3801 Watson Road, St. Louis 63109

- We have met here before and enjoyed their food. It's a good place to gather. We hope you will be able to join us. We will be ordering from the menu.
- Per Ellen's e-mail to everyone earlier this month, we will be electing officers — recycling Jan and Carol as co-presidents, plus a new face, Lisa Taylor, who has accepted to be our third director (yaay!). Jan can summarize the state convention for us, and we can brainstorm and discuss ideas for projects and meetings for the coming year.
- Please RSVP to Carol by phone (636-277-0511) or e-mail (davis-mcdonald@outlook.com) or if you need directions, a ride, or information. The side street off Watson is Mardel Ave. Parking is on either street or in the lot off Mardel.

Have you voted yet??

Branch Member Susan Barley, currently a director on the national board, is running for re-election. She has a website available for viewing from now through the end of the campaign: www.susanbarley.info. Thirteen candidates are running for ten director positions. Sue has always done a great job of supporting AAUW and would like to continue at the national level. It's your AAUW, so your voice counts. [Review AAUW's bylaws, learn about candidates for election to the board of directors, and more](#) — either on line or in your copy of the spring issue of *AAUW Outlook*, which recently arrived.



Be aware that a May 29 postmark is the deadline for mailing a paper ballot, which should have been requested already. Online voting ends at 9 pm EDT on June 15th. Elections results will be announced on June 16h (online and at the convention).



Inspired by the Women's March, a range of local organizations sought to continue the vital work of collaborative advocacy, civic engagement, and insistence on fairness and equity for all. They therefore established the **Women's Action Resource (WAR) Project** – a coalition of St. Louis groups led by women and/or concerned with women's issues in the region, including AAUW St. Louis.

As its first initiative, the WAR Project decided it was important to identify issues that matter to St. Louis women, find out where the current St. Louis City mayoral candidates stand on those issues, and develop ways of holding our next mayor accountable for his or her answers.

WAR drafted 8 questions about the issues relevant to St. Louis women – covering topics such as pay equity, housing, policing practices, and the treatment of immigrants. These questions were sent to each candidate. Six of the eleven candidates responded by WAR's February 20 deadline. Their responses were sent out in a press release. The questions are as follows. Although the election is over, if you are interested in the candidates' responses, contact Carol, Jan, or Margaret Weck.

1. How important is pay equity for women? What measures can the city or the Mayor take to protect the earning power of jobs in the city from so called "right to work" legislation at the state level? How will your administration stand on raising the minimum wage for the city of St Louis?
2. What is your general position on safe access to affordable reproductive health care? What would your administration do to maintain clinics that provide the full spectrum of healthcare for women including gynecological exams, cancer screening, birth control, abortion, and pre-natal healthcare?
3. We are all interested in promoting sustainable development across St. Louis. What specific actions would your administration take to bring in jobs and ensure services (such a grocery stores, etc.) in all neighborhoods of the city? What is needed to make development sustainable especially in historically neglected neighborhoods such as those in North St. Louis?
4. What policies will you enact that will help provide and maintain accessible public education for all students in the St. Louis City School District? In what ways do school vouchers for private, sectarian, or for-profit schools either help or hinder equitable public education for all?
5. How high a priority would access to quality affordable child care for working women be for your administration? What policies would you support to promote access to affordable child-care across the city?
6. How important for development is a rational system of public transportation that connects all parts of the city? What is your specific position on the proposed north/south spur to the Metrolink?
7. What is your understanding of some of the special concerns facing women and children of color in this city? What about the special concerns of immigrant communities and refugees? Please provide specific ideas for the policy and/or city code provision changes that you would support to address these concerns.
8. What will you do as Mayor to reform existing criminal justice practices on the part of police, municipal courts, and our jails? Please provide specific ideas for policy and/or city code provision changes which would reduce immediate and long-term harm to women and children of the current practices. What is the role of the mayor in assisting and supporting those who return to our city from adult prisons and juvenile placements?

Branch Member News

Welcome to new member **Katy Mike Smaistrila Lampe**. Katy Mike joined the branch on line in February, but we have not been able to get in touch with her to get background information for the newsletter. Her phone number is 314-707-2118.

INTERBRANCH COUNCIL UPDATES



IBC's annual Spring Fling was held on March 25th at Glen Echo Country Club. It was a beautiful setting, and we were

assisted by a very helpful event planner who happens to be the daughter of an AAUW member. How great was that! This event is held as the only fundraiser for IBC. Jobs are rotated among the branches. This year St. Louis was responsible for the fund-raising event. Raffle baskets were donated by each branch. **Sally McGowan**, assisted by **Ellen Irons**, organized the baskets and sold raffle tickets, which brought in \$291.00. A lotto board was donated by the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, and that brought in \$146.00.



Ellen, left, and Sally



Branch pictures were taken after the program, but Nancy Collins and Gwen Cotton left the building before everyone could be rounded up. Pictured, left to right, are Carol Davis McDonald, Jan Scott, Sue Rice (Sally's sister and prospective member), Ellen Irons, Sally McGowan with the lotto board (she won!), Barbara Johnson (dual member from Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch), and Diane Sher, a brand new member who happens to be a member of Glen Echo.



Outgoing Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch president and past St. Louis Branch president, Kay Meyer, received the Barbara Lackritz AAUW IBC Service Award and was "roasted" by K-WG member Nancy Hutchins.

The St. Louis Branch had a good turnout of members. If you missed it, try to come next year.

IBC DOWNTOWN LUNCH GROUP

You are invited to meet and lunch with area AAUW members on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 11:45 am. Good conversation and interesting restaurants! For reservations contact Kay Meyer at 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer@yahoo.com.

June 20 **Lu Lu Seafood and Dim Sum**, 8224 Olive

(Future locations and dates will be sent to you when they are received).

IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP



This group, started in 1996 as a component of AAUW's diversity outreach program, meets in September, October, and January through May to discuss books written from diverse perspectives. AAUW members from all St. Louis area branches are welcome.

Where: Barnes & Noble, Chesterfield Oaks Shopping Center, 1600 Clarkson Road

When: 1:30 pm the 4th Thursday of the month

Contact: Teri Brecht, tebrecht@yahoo.com

May 25 *Poisoned Table* by Diane Michael Cantor

Reviewer: Linda Roberson

Sep 28 *"Flo" Kennedy: The Life of a Black Feminist Radical*

by Sherie M. Randolph

Reviewer: Betty Takahashi

NATIONAL UPDATES

MEMBERSHIP INFO!

Who Is Eligible for AAUW Membership?

- Graduates holding an associate (or equivalent) degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution and are entirely new to AAUW (new members)
- Undergraduate students (may also join as student affiliates through this campaign)
- Someone who rejoins after two or more years of non-membership (a lapsed member)
- Someone who is not currently a national member of AAUW (if they join your branch, they are transferring)

WASHINGTON UPDATE

- ◆ From our national president, **Patricia Fae Ho**: “It is with great sadness that I share with you the news that **Lisa Maatz** has resigned. As you know Lisa has led AAUW’s policy efforts for 15 years, and has been instrumental in AAUW’s many successes both on the Hill and off. Her reputation and expertise, with the support of her equally talented team and passionate and dedicated member leaders like you, have given AAUW a respected voice on so many issues—always with some quote-worthy “Lisa-ism.” I know you join AAUW in thanking Lisa for her unfailing commitment to AAUW and to improving the lives of women and girls everywhere.”
- ◆ AAUW’s new chief executive officer, **Kim Churches**, will be officially on board with us as of June 1. Her strategic thinking, expertise, and enthusiasm are certain to inspire not only those already in the AAUW fold, but the next generation of AAUW members as well.
- ◆ **89 Percent of Colleges Reported Zero Incidents of Rape in 2015.** In an analysis of data required by the Clery Act, AAUW found that annual statistics collected by colleges and universities still do not tell the full story of sexual violence on campus. The Clery Act, passed in 1990, requires colleges and universities that participate in federal financial aid programs to disclose campus crime statistics and security information, including training and prevention efforts. Using federal Clery data, AAUW found that 89 percent of college campuses disclosed zero reported incidences of rape in 2015. The data also included, for the second year in a row, data on dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking in addition to rape statistics. And yet, in each of these new categories most campuses did not disclose any reported incidents. For 2015 about 9 percent of campuses disclosed a reported incident of domestic violence, around 10 percent disclosed a reported incident of dating violence, and about 13 percent of campuses disclosed a reported incident of stalking. Many studies have found that around 20 percent of women are targets of attempted or completed sexual assault while they are college students, but less well known is that more than one in five college women experiences physical abuse, sexual abuse, or threats of physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner. AAUW also found that most campuses did not disclose any reported incidents of sexual violence in 2015, which simply does not square with research, campus climate surveys, and widespread experiences reported by students.

AAUW Cheer: French President-elect Emmanuel Macron named women to 11 of the 22 posts in his cabinet, which fulfills a campaign promise from Macron to have gender parity in his cabinet.

AAUW Jeer: A study examining U.S. film festivals held since last June found that festivals chose films directed by men three times as often as those by women. The media recently focused a lot of attention on the lack of opportunity for women in Hollywood, but the independent film scene has room to improve.

AAUW Cheer: For the second year in a row, a woman received the prestigious Killam Award, a prize for engineering excellence. Molly Shoichet won the award for her work on tissue and polymer engineering, which she hopes will lead to one day treating those with physical challenges due to stroke or blindness.

AAUW Jeer: Female Supreme Court justices are interrupted more by male justices and advocates, according to the *Harvard Business Review*. The empirical study shows that male justices interrupt the female justices about three times as often as they interrupt each other during oral arguments.

BITS AND PIECES

- ◆ Stanford University created an online system that allows students to report incidents of sexual assault or relationship violence. The platform, called Callisto, gives survivors the option to control how and when a university official can view the report. Survivors can save their time-stamped report and opt to submit it later or to involve the authorities only if the assailant’s name matches a report by another survivor.
- ◆ GOP women in the House cited sexism as the reason why many of them are retiring or running for higher office instead of aiming for leadership positions in their party. Women comprise less than 10 percent of House Republicans, and no woman has ever filled any of the top three leadership positions in the party.
- ◆ The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission reached a settlement with insurance broker Brown & Brown, Inc. The company was charged with violating Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 when it rescinded a job offer to a woman after learning of her pregnancy.
- ◆ Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) introduced the Keeping Girls in School Act recently. The bill, which will allocate \$35 million to help girls around the world get an education, is intended to put the mission of Michelle Obama’s discontinued Let Girls Learn program into law.
- ◆ As unemployment continues to fall, the Employment Cost Index increased 0.8 percent during the first quarter. The Index, which monitors wages, salaries, and benefits shows that while Americans are earning more, the rate is still below what would constitute a healthy economy.
- ◆ Pentagon officials reported a 10-year low in the number of members of the military who were victims of sexual assault. The report also showed an increase in disciplinary action taken against perpetrators of sexual assault.
- ◆ A 10-year study of Maryland students found that instances of bullying have decreased as school climate has improved. The survey also found that students feel that adults are doing a better job preventing bullying.

Reminder: If you have anything you would like to share with our members, drop me a note.

Carol