

"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

ST LOUIS BRANCH UPDATES:

**A Legislative Action Forum – on Sexual Assault,
Right-to-Work, and Minimum Wage**

Saturday February 27, 2016 – 10:00 AM-12:00 N
Grace United Methodist Church
6199 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

AAUW Saint Louis is hosting a three-person panel forum, moderated by **Gloria S. Ross**, principal, Okara Communications. The topics are Legislative Actions at the National, State, and Local levels.

Our national focus on sexual assault will be addressed by Field Representative for Senator Claire McCaskill, **Divine Shelton**. He will discuss the status of the bill *Campus Accountability and Safety Act* and other efforts to combat sexual violence. Our state-level focus on Right-to-Work legislation will be addressed by Missouri State Senator **Joe Keaveny**. (District 4, City of St. Louis). Our local focus on minimum wage will be addressed by **Lyda Krewson**, alderwoman for Ward 28, City of St. Louis.



Gloria S. Ross

Each speaker will share for about 20 minutes, followed by a moderated discussion. **Questions from the audience will be encouraged.** Light refreshments will be served.

Program Themes and Purpose

Because 2016 is a national election year, the St. Louis Branch is choosing to focus its Feb 2016 event on informing members and interested guests on key legislation that is currently under debate at the national, state and local levels.

We hope this program will get people engaged and inspired to actively work in these legislative areas. At the end of the program, we will ask people to sign up for follow-up interest groups for each of these areas. The AAUW STL Branch will coordinate ongoing needed action in these areas up through the date of the national election in November 2016.

Location: Grace United Methodist Church is two blocks north of the Washington University campus. Parking lot is one block north of the church at McPherson and Skinker ([Get Directions here](#)).

This event is free, but registration is requested. We prefer on-line registration if possible. Register At - <http://aauwstlfeb2016forum.eventzilla.net/>
Call (314) 727-9918 if you have questions or to register by phone.

Please join us and bring a friend and/or neighbor.

MEMBER NEWS:



L to R: Betty Takahashi (St Charles Branch), Ellen Irons, Jan Scott, Sally McGowan, and Carol Davis McDonald car-pooled to Columbia to attend the Women's Legislative Retreat on January 16, 2016.


Happy February Birthday!
11 – Jan Scott
26 – Mary Bruemmer

Happy March Birthday!
1 – Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo

If I missed your birthday, either it wasn't on your membership application or I didn't receive an application. Sorry, happy belated birthday.

Congratulations to Jan Scott! She has been chosen to receive the AAUW IBC Barbara Lackritz Service Award for the 2015-2016 program year. Come to the Spring Fling luncheon, at which time she will be honored, and help Jan celebrate.

Speedy recovery to Fran Irwin who underwent back surgery recently. She is doing well and is up and driving now.


Has something memorable happened in your life? Or would you just like to say hi? Send me a message to put in the next newsletter (davis-mcdonald@juno.com) or call me at 636-227-0511.

The flyer is attached with more information, including meal choices and cost. Please fill it out, send it to me, and join us for a good time.

The Saint Charles Branch invites us to another "Ladies Tea Time Trivia," their 5th annual local scholarship/education fundraiser. Experience a unique trivia featuring ten categories of women's interests and general topics! NO men's sports questions!!!

When: April 23, 2016, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. (doors open at 12:30)
Where: Faith United Methodist Church, 2950 Droste Road, St. Charles (I-70 to First Capitol, left to W. Clay, right on Droste; enter parking lot from Norwich).
Cost: \$15 donation single ticket Mulligans, 5/\$10; raffle baskets, Brains or Booty (Heads or Tails), Bonus Round.
Make check payable to: St. Charles AAUW
Check number _____ Total _____
Registration and check to: AAUW, 600 Breeze Park Dr, Apt 305, St. Charles, MO 63303
Questions: Phone contact - Rose Ann at 636-946-5226

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. For reservations contact Kay Meyer at 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer51@gmail.com.

- Feb 23 Mathew's Kitchen, 5625 Hampton Ave, 63109, 314-351-1700
- Mar 15 Union Loafer's Café & Bakery, 1629 Tower Grove, 63110, 314-833-6111
- Apr 19 Felix's Pizza Pub, 6401 Clayton Rd, 63139, 314-645-6565
- May 17 Evangeline's Bistro & Music House, 512 N. Euclid Ave, 63108, 314-367-3644
- Jun 21 Lombardo's Trattoria at Drury Inn, 201 S. 20th Street, 63103, 314-621-0666

AAUW ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP

Book clubs are a fun, social way to open a dialogue on women, diversity, and change. Many AAUW members share a love of reading; and that love, partnered with a desire to seek out books written from diverse perspectives, launched a component of AAUW's diversity outreach program in 1996 — AAUW's ¡Adelante! Book-of-the-Month Club. The St. Louis IBC book group meets September through May.



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

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

INTERBRANCH COUNCIL UPDATES

SPRING FLING

Join the branch to honor **Jan Scott's** receiving the AAUW Interbranch Council Barbara Lackritz Service Award at the 2016 Spring Fling, to be held March 12 at The Highlands in Forest Park! This lovely annual luncheon is an opportunity for AAUW members from all area branches to get together and enjoy a special program. It's the only fund-raising activity for IBC.



Branches donate raffle baskets to be auctioned at the luncheon. (Baskets should have a value of at least \$35. Suggestions: entertainment items of books, movies, games, music, wine, candy, a kids or pets basket, gift cards.)

eight different individuals have a part in getting a bill to its final stage.

Several candidates for public office made appearances including Bill Otto (candidate for US House of Representatives, District 4), Martha Stevens (candidate for Missouri House, District 46), and Brianna Lennon (candidate for Boone County Commissioner).

Attendees had an opportunity to discuss the pre-filed bills (there are over 1,000). Priorities adopted were the following: Tier 1, Reproductive Rights, ERA; Tier 2, Voting Rights, Medicaid Expansion, Pay Equity, Violence Against Women; Tier 3, Labor Issues (Minimum Wage, Right-to-Work), Social Justice. Gun Issues and Education also received a number of votes.

Organizational representatives in attendance included those from AAUW, NOW, League of Women Voters, MWLC, WILPF, MO Women's Political Caucus, NCJW, MWN, NEA, and others. The women's organizations had an opportunity to discuss with the group their current legislative focus and their next action or activity.

Let's Get Ready! Equity Action Day!

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

State Capitol Building, Jefferson City, Missouri

8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Legislative briefing, citizen lobbying, equity action day rally on the steps. Supporting organizations: AAUW of Missouri, Coalition of Labor Union Women, League of Women Voters, Missouri National Organization for Women (NOW), Missouri Women's Network, NARAL, National Council of Jewish Women, Planned Parenthood, Vision2020 Missouri, and The Missouri Women's Leadership Coalition. Please call 636-938-3958 or 314-223-4235 for more information.

REGIONAL NEWS

JOIN THE EXCITEMENT!

MIDWEST TEN-STATE AAUW BIENNIAL CONFERENCE



June 3-4, 2016 (noon Friday to Saturday late afternoon) at Great Wolf Lodge, Kansas City, Kansas. Nationally-known speakers, inspiring workshops, ongoing networking, AAUW Funds money-making opportunities, award-winning film, open forum, public policy events, Eleanor Roosevelt run/walk/sleep-in, recreation, shopping adventures, FUN, and



more! Room reservations being accepted: call 1-866-944-9653. Use block code 1606AAUW. Suite rooms \$176.86 plus taxes and fees. Sleeps 6 people. For conference information call 314-831-5359 or 636-938-3958.

NATIONAL NEWS

AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

Meet Aileen Rizo, Our Newest LAF-Supported Plaintiff.

Pay equity is a matter of simple fairness. Yet in 2014, women working full time in the United States typically were paid just 79 cents for every dollar paid to men. Aileen Rizo's case, *Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education*, highlights a significant factor that can contribute to the wage gap: employers' reliance on an employee's prior salary history to determine a new salary. AAUW is proud to support the case through our Legal Advocacy Fund. [Read more](#) about Rizo's case.

LAF-Supported Plaintiffs Win Settlement. In January 2016, the plaintiffs in the LAF-supported case *Moshak v. University of Tennessee* successfully settled their Title IX lawsuit against the university. As part of the settlement, the university will pay more than \$1 million.

Jennifer Moshak, Heather Mason, and Collin Schlosser are former employees of the University of Tennessee's women's athletic department. In 2012, they filed suit against the university, alleging 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. The plaintiffs claim they were unlawfully discriminated against and eventually forced out of their positions during a university-led merger of the men's and women's athletic departments.

Gender discrimination in sports remains a significant problem, for athletes as well as for coaches and administrators who support women's athletics. The Moshak plaintiffs shared a professional commitment to women's athletics at a university that has a rich history of excellence in women's sports. Their allegations show just how pervasive discrimination against women's sports and women athletes can be.

AAUW is thrilled for the plaintiffs and proud to have supported the case.

Comment on AAUW Facebook Page:

Marti J. Sladek, attorney and AAUW volunteer, wrote: "AAUW should be taking a teensy little bit of credit for developments in connection with Cuba. Our trip there four years ago was the first public policy group allowed to go. We met with policy makers that other humanitarian, etc. groups did not meet, like Mariela Castro. (They urged us to fight for the ERA!) Many of us joined the campaign to lift the embargo based on our experiences there. Reps from AAUW went to the White House for a briefing after the trip, and we published and spoke. I like to think we had some influence, however small and cumulative, on events. I am thrilled."

WASHINGTON UPDATE

Firsts

- **First American woman captains cruise ship.** Kate McCue became the first American woman to captain a mega-ship this year. Celebrity Cruises announced that McCue would lead a 14-day cruise with more than 2,100 passengers and a crew of 950.
- **First Supercar with Female Design Lead to Premier in November.** The Acura NSX is the first supercar with a female design lead. Michelle Christensen is the first female exterior designer at Acura, and led the styling efforts on the NSX. The new all-wheel-drive hybrid car will debut at the Detroit auto show this month.
- **Firsts in Sports.**
 - Sarah Thomas became the first female full-time referee in the NFL. She was also the first female referee in a major college football game.
 - Jen Welter became the first woman to coach in the NFL when the Arizona Cardinals added her to their coaching staff.
 - Major League Baseball saw its first female coach this year, as the Oakland Athletics hired Justine Siegal. She is also the first woman to pitch at batting practice for a major league team.
- **Firsts in the Media & Arts.**
 - Misty Copeland made history this year by becoming the first African-American female principal dancer with the American Ballet Theater.
 - *The Economist* named Zanny Minton Beddoes as editor-in-chief. This is the first time a woman has held the top editor position in the magazine's 172-year history.
 - Lisa Kron and Jeanine Tesori won the Tony Award for Best Original Score. They are the first female writing team to win the award.
- **Firsts in the Military**
 - Kristen Griest and Shaye Haver were the first female soldiers to graduate from the U.S. Army Ranger School. They were the only women in their 96-person graduating class. Just days after this achievement, the Navy Seals announced a plan to allow women into their teams.
 - Vice Admiral Nora Tyson was nominated by the president to lead the U.S. Third Fleet, making her the first female commander of a Navy fleet.
 - Air Force Lt. Col. Christine Mau was the first woman to fly an F-35 Lightning II jet. She is the deputy commander of the 33rd Fighter Wing Operations group.
 - Capt. Katie Higgins became the first woman to fly with the Blue Angels, an elite group of pilots that performs aerobatics.

State Spotlight

AAUW of Kansas President Dr. Nancy Bolson was asked for ideas by the Wichita Eagle to address the gender pay gap. Statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau found that pay disparities between men and women are higher in Sedgwick County than the rest of Kansas. Bolson suggested that the first step is to understand why the pay gap is so much larger

in Sedgwick County and also highlighted the importance of salary negotiation skills for women.

AAUW Oregon delivers Title IX resources to 98 percent of the state's school districts: Members of AAUW of Oregon have delivered the U.S. Department of Education's new Title IX coordinator resources to over 199 school districts in the state, with more expected in coming weeks. AAUW advocates have been braving winter weather to distribute these guidelines across the state to ensure that Title IX coordinators are better able to make our schools safe and equitable for all. Cheers to Oregon AAUW!

Will Boston Be the First City to Close the Pay Gap? In October, the mayor, the city's Office of Women's Advancement, and AAUW leaders announced an ambitious initiative to offer free AAUW Work Smart salary negotiation trainings to half of Boston's working women in the next five years. That means training 85,000 women to negotiate higher salaries and better benefits — and making a dent in the gender pay gap, which stands nationally at 21 percent. Women working full time in the United States typically are paid just 79% of what men are paid, and it's even worse for most women of color. The gender pay gap starts just one year out of college, and it only widens over the course of a career.

GAO Report Finds Gender Disparity in STEM Funding

A report released by the Government Accountability Office found that some federal agencies are not following Title IX or addressing gender bias in federal research projects in STEM fields. Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) requested the report in 2013 to make sure that the \$25 billion in STEM grants funded women as well as men. The congresswoman called on the six federal agencies that award over 90 percent of the funds to quickly address the failings in their departments, conduct required Title IX compliance reviews, and improve data collection. More from AAUW on this great development in 2016!

Education Department's Title IX Sexual Violence Cases Approaches 200.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is now investigating 199 Title IX sexual violence cases. These cases span across the country at 161 colleges. Just three weeks into the new year, OCR has opened a new case at the University of California-San Francisco, the campus' second investigation of its kind. In January 2014 President Barack Obama established a White House task force to address campus sexual assault. One of the group's key recommendations is for schools to implement climate surveys to measure the number of campus sexual assault, the services used, the impact of prevention programs, and so on. The Bureau of Justice Statistics has pilot tested the climate survey at nine colleges and universities, which revealed that an average of 21 percent of female undergraduate students experienced a sexual assault since attending college. This figure is consistent with the widely

reported statistic that one in five women is sexually assaulted during college.

Cheers and Jeers

AAUW Cheer: Defense Secretary Ashton Carter announced that no job in the United States military will be denied based on gender, opening the door for women to hold combat jobs. This decision will open up about 220,000 jobs when implemented.

AAUW Jeer: The United States fell to 28th on the global gender equality list. According to the yearly report from the World Economic Forum, the United States fell eight places from 2014, falling behind such countries as Rwanda, Bolivia, Slovenia, and Iceland.

AAUW Cheer: The market index provider MSCI studied public companies worldwide and found boardrooms that had strong female leadership returned a 36 percent greater return since 2009. The female-led companies also outpaced male-dominated ones, with a 10 percent return versus 7 percent return, respectively. Unfortunately, the same study predicts that the global percentage of female board directors will not reach 30 percent until 2027.

AAUW Jeer: The National Bureau of Economic Research found that fathers in California are twice as likely to take paternity leave for newborn sons as for daughters. The study also found this gender gap was more significant when fathers of newborn daughters were married to mothers who are employed; such men are unlikely to take paid family leave.

Bits and Pieces

- Low-income mothers continue to struggle for survival as several states have imposed bigger obstacles to receiving assistance. Studies show that social networking has become more important than ever for women who are unable to make ends meet with dead-end, low paying jobs.
- Research from the *Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences* discovered that there is no difference between men's and women's brains. These findings show that different capabilities or career choices are not based on biological differences but rather cultural expectations and gender role socialization.
- The U.S. women's national soccer team canceled a match in Honolulu, Hawaii due to poor field conditions that threatened the safety of the players. During their World Cup Victory Tour, the women's team played eight out of nine games on artificial fields while the men's team have not played a single game on artificial turf all year.
- Out of 15 block grant program choices, a bullying performance measure program was chosen by 17 states and jurisdictions. These states and jurisdictions will use the funds to examine the percentage of youth who are bullied and use the data as a key indicator of health and wellness.
- Emma Watson revealed that she fought back against those that did not want her to use the word "feminism" in her United Nation's HeforShe speech last year. Watson was told that the word "feminist" was too alienating for some people. The former Harry Potter star disagreed, and used the word "feminism" three times and "feminist" a total of four

times, stating that feminism should be inclusive for all genders.

- The United Nations send three foreign women to the U.S. to assess gender equality. Apparently, they were less than pleased with the results. A letter from a UN Working Group addressed the issue of discrimination against women in the United States. The group recommended closing the 21 percent gender pay gap by providing a livable minimum wage and guaranteeing paid parental leave.
- The Women's Media Center released a report that found media coverage of campus rape is skewed toward the bylines of men. Fifty-five percent of sexual assault stories were written by men while women account for only 31 percent.
- The U.S. Department of Justice settled a sex discrimination lawsuit against the Chicago Board of Education, who allegedly terminated teachers because of their pregnancies. The settlement includes changes in policies, training requirements, and back pay for the terminated pregnant employees.
- NASA's new class of astronauts is 50 percent female for the first time in its history. Within the class, three of the four women are married and two are mothers. The class will be eligible for an inaugural trip to Mars in 15 years.
- The U.S. Department of Education announced that the list of religious schools that receive federal exemptions to discriminate against LGBT students will be posted online for the public to view. This decision comes after eight senators requested more transparency in the practice of granting Title IX waivers to religious schools that receive federal money.
- A viral video released by the Thames Valley police force in the United Kingdom raises awareness for sexual consent in true British fashion by comparing consent to making tea. It's a must watch!
- During the federal government closure in the aftermath of winter storm Jonas, the United States Senate was briefly run by all female senators and an all-female staff; from Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), to the floor manager, down to the Senate pages. (What happened to the men?)
- The United Nations announced the first High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment. The panel will give recommendations for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to improve economic outcomes for women globally and improve women's leadership in sustainable economic growth.

"A strong woman understands that the gifts such as logic, decisiveness, and strength are just as feminine as intuition and emotional connection. She values and uses all of her gifts." —Nancy Rathburn

"I raise up my voice—not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard...we cannot succeed when half of us are held back." —Malala Yousafzai



- Feb 22 Afternoon Book Group at SL Bread Co (p3)
Feb 25 Adelante Book Group at Barnes and Noble (p2)
Feb 27 St. Louis Branch Legislative Actions Forum (p1)
- Mar 8 IBC-TWA International Relations lecture (p3)
Mar 12 IBC Spring Fling (p2)
Mar 24 Adelante Book Group at Barnes and Noble (p2)
Mar 28 Afternoon Book Group at SL Bread Co (p3)
Mar 30 Release of new AAUW research report, *Women in Leadership*
- Apr 1 Deadline for applications for MO Star Award, Galaxy Award, and Woman of Distinction Award
Apr 12 Equal Pay Day/Equity Rally, Jefferson City (p4)
Apr 12 IBC-TWA International Relations lecture (p3)
Apr 18 Mandatory bylaws revision deadline
Apr 23 Saint Charles Branch Ladies Tea Time Trivia (p2)
Apr 25 Afternoon Book Group at SL Bread Co (p4)
Apr 28 Adelante Book Group at Barnes and Noble (p2)
Apr 29 State board meeting, Jefferson City
Apr 30 State members meeting and conference in Jefferson City
- May 23 Afternoon Book Group at SL Bread Co (p3)
May 26 Adelante Book Group at Barnes and Noble (p2)
- Jun 2-4 NCCWSL
Jun 3-4 Midwest Regional Conference, Kansas City, KS (4)
Jun 27 Afternoon Book Group at SL Bread Co (p3)
Jun 30 2016-2017 officer reports due to national
Jun 30 AAUW national occupying new offices
- Sep 3 Re-creation of the 1916 Golden Lane, St. Louis
Sep 22 Adelante Book Group at Barnes and Noble (p2)

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.



AAUW St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council
2016 Spring Fling

Saturday, March 12, 2016

11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Keagan's Restaurant, Highlands Golf & Tennis Center, 5163 Clayton Ave, St. Louis 63110

Near the Planetarium in Forest Park

Program: Gateway Spotlight Chorus

Sweet Adelines International is a worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop, four-part harmony through education, competition, and performance. Members extend over five continents and belong to more than 500 choruses and 1200 quartets. St. Charles Chapter *Gateway Spotlight Chorus* will entertain with a variety of *a capella* patriotic songs, show tunes, popular songs of yesteryear, and more.

Schedule:

- 11 a.m. Registration, ticket raffle* for baskets, cash bar
12 noon Welcome, luncheon, awards presentation, and program
(*Raffle baskets from the branches support IBC and its projects)

Menu – entrée choices of:

1. Chicken Piccata
2. Cheese Manicotti
3. Cobb Salad paired with fresh fruit cup and flatbreads

- 1 and 2 include Mayfair salad, seasonal vegetable, whipped red potatoes, rolls and flatbreads.
- All meals include dessert bars and cookies, coffee, and tea.

Cost: \$28. Guests are welcome

Directions:

- From I-64/40: Kingshighway north, left on Hospital Drive, slight right onto Clayton Ave, first driveway on right past the Planetarium
- From I-64/40 and Hampton: North on Hampton, right onto Wells Drive, enter roundabout and take 1st exit to Wilken Place, left onto Clayton Ave

Registration Deadline: March 3, 2016. Mail form and check (payable to *AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC*) to: Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Drive, Manchester, MO 63011-4215.

-----Please cut here and send the form below with your check. Keep the top half as a reminder. -----

Print name _____ Branch _____

Street address/zip _____

Phone(s) _____ E-mail _____

Circle one entrée choice: 1-Chicken Piccata 2-Cheese Manicotti 3-Cobb Salad

Number of people at \$28** _____ Check total enclosed _____

**If paying for guests, please print their name(s), branch (or guest), and entrée choice(s) on the back of this form.

Please list any dietary restrictions _____