



Newsletter of the Saint Louis Branch (Since 1893)

2017-2018, No. 4

"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, 2017-2018

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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



We will be discussing the Missouri Women's Network's Legislative Retreat that some of us attended in January and how and if we want to follow some of the proposed bills in the Missouri legislature; holding a tabling event at Earth Day; a new book club and possible selections; Work Smart updates; and other topics of interest. Contact Ellen at ironnew@msn.com or her phone number in your directory.

New Membership Handbook-Directories Have Been Printed

Yours is available for pick up at a meeting. Let Carol know if you will attend, and she will bring it to you. For information, contact Carol at 636-227-0511 or davis-mcdonald@outlook.com.



BRANCH MEMBER NEWS

Happy February Birthday!

11—Jan Scott
26—Mary Bruemmer

Happy March Birthday!

4—Diane Sher
26 Colleen Doyle

Happy April Birthday!

7—Amy Weisser
21—Margaret Weck

INTERBRANCH COUNCIL UPDATES

The AAUW St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council (IBC) consists of representatives from each of the St. Louis AAUW branches. The following officers from each branch are members of IBC: president, program vice president, membership vice president, and a member at large. All AAUW members are invited to attend meetings and participate in IBC activities.

The next IBC meeting will be Tuesday, February 27th, 7 p.m., at the Daniel Boone County Library. All AAUW members are welcome to attend. We will share information and continue planning for the next Spring Fling.



It's almost time again for our annual Spring Fling. See the flyer on the last page for details and a registration form.

The fundraiser this year is sponsored by the Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch. It will be a ticket raffle of pizzazzy purses. If you would like to donate one or help with the contents of one, please call or e-mail Carol or Jan. The purses are to contain items that are "secret." The only clue is a note you place on the outside that hints as to what is inside—punny, funny, poetic, or just plain.



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

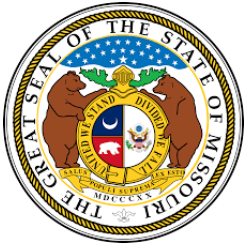
- Feb 22 *Then Comes Marriage: United States V. Windsor and the Defeat of DOMA*, by Roberta Kaplan. Reviewer: Deb McWard
- Mar 22 *Little Fires Everywhere*, by Celeste Ng. Reviewer: Lorna Anderson
- Apr 26 *Stolen Beauty: A Novel*, by Laurie Lico Albanese. Reviewer: Grace Poertner
- May 24 *The Gilded Years: A Novel*, by Karin Tanabe. Reviewer: Lynne Roney
- Sep 27 *Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman's Journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim*, by Sabeeha Rehman. Reviewer: Betty Takahashi

IBC MEET 'N EAT LUNCH (formerly Downtown Lunch)

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 and car pooling, contact Kay Meyer at 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer@yahoo.com.



- Feb 20 **Circa StL**, 1090 Old Des Peres Rd at I-270 and eastbound Manchester Rd, 63131 (American)
- Mar 20 **Mango**, 1001 Washington Ave, 63101 (Peruvian)
- Apr 17 **The Clover and the Bee**, 100 W. Lockwood, Webster Groves, 63119
- May 15 **Cathy's Kitchen**, 250 S. Florissant Rd, Ferguson, 63135
- Jun 19 **Square One Brewery**, 1727 Park Ave, Lafayette Square



**Missouri Women’s Network
Legislative Retreat
January 13, 2018**

Sally McGowan, Ellen Irons, Linda Lindsey, and Carol Davis McDonald

attended the legislative retreat held in Columbia, MO. So much was learned, and many handouts regarding bills to follow went home with each attendee.

Peggy Cochran, MNEA retired, was very helpful regarding educational issues. Moderator Shirley Breeze provided updates; and our AAUW MO public policy co-chairs, **Pat Shores** and **Karen Francis**, commented on bills and issues that they researched. One star of the day was **Melissa Alper**, state policy advocacy chair for the National Council of Jewish Women-MO (NCJW); she wrote legislation suggestions on the board and helped organize our priorities. An enthusiastic and excellent speaker, she subsequently spoke at the January Kirkwood-Webster Groves monthly meeting—an excellent speaker with lots of knowledge.

Meeting attendees voted for legislation they felt was important. With only five votes per person, the decision was difficult. The tallies were listed in tiers; those with the most votes were placed in tier 1, then tier 2, etc.: 2018 Legislative Priorities



Tier 1:

- ◇ Voting Rights
- ◇ Ethics/Campaign Finance Reform
- ◇ Reproductive Justice

Tier 2:

- ◇ Education
- ◇ Judges/Courts

Tier 3:

- ◇ Labor/Pay Equity
- ◇ Health Care
- ◇ Equal Rights Amendment
- ◇ Human Trafficking

Subsequently, Karen and Pat have asked AAUW to currently track the following bills through State Net. Public Policy priorities for AAUW MO are: **Equal Pay/Gender Pay Gap; Human Trafficking; and the MO Court Plan.**

Equal Pay

- HB1337—Establishes Equal Pay Commission (Newman, D-087)
- SB700—Modifies provisions related to employee wages (Sifton, D-01)

Minimum Wage

- HB1395—Modifies provisions relating to minimum wage (Carpenter, D-015)

- HB1784—Minimum wage (Ellington, D-022)
- SB637—Modifies minimum wage laws (Chappell-Nadal, D-14)
- SB680—Modifies provisions relating to minimum wage (Hummel, D-4)
- SB801—Modifies minimum wage (Nasheed, D-5)

Human Trafficking

- HB1246—Requires Department of Public Safety to develop human trafficking hot line posters (Pike, R-126)
- HB1461—Modifies provisions relating to addressing confidentially program (Anderson, R-131)
- HB1526—Prohibits the prosecution of minors for prostitution (Walker, D-74)
- HB1630—Raises age of marriage licenses to 17 (Evans, R-99)
- SB604—Requires posting of certain information regarding human trafficking (Onder, R-2)
- SB739—Creates a right to paid leave for employees affected by domestic violence (Schupp, D-24)

Missouri Court Plan

- HJR47—Selection of Judges (Newman, R-031)
- SJR28—Selection of Judges (Hegeman, R-012)

The following are bits and pieces noted during the day.

Education:

- Neo voucher is another name for a school voucher
- The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a very secretive organization, writes up bills for any state that wants them. They are verbatim with fill-in-the-blank wording (one state submitted a bill from them with the wording “fill in the blank” still there). 172 educational bills were put out last year.
- ALEC is anti-union. They wrote the tax law. Rural Republican legislators used to vote against vouchers because public education was their only education. Now they are threatened to follow the party line or a competitor will be funded in their local elections.
- The conservative Thomas Fordham Institute did studies in 2016 (IN, OH, LA) and found that private schools fared worse academically than public schools, especially in math. An attempt was made to squelch the findings. ALEC is funded by the Waltons.
- MO vouchers violate separation of church and state per the constitution. Most voucher programs permit discrimination (religion, gender, etc.), and there is no accountability.
- MO teachers are 44th-45th in salaries.
- MO students rank 20th-25th in many categories.
- Student debt: Teachers, \$49,000 average (14 1/2 % goes into pension plan, 14 1/2% paid by the state, which comes from the salary fund. The average student debt for engineers, etc. is \$29,000.

(Legislative Retreat continued):

Other items:

- Companies drilled all over southern Illinois and left toxic waste behind them. It's still there after 50 years.
- **Ellen Alper**, NCJW-SL executive director, is working to expunge the criminal records of victims of human trafficking so they can get jobs when they get away from their situation. Jamilla Nasheed's bill.
- January 23 [was] Sex Trafficking Awareness Day—If you see something, say something.
- HB1337 (Stacey Newman) and SB700 concern the gender pay gap.
- Judges: Other states have replicated how we choose judges. Since 1940 we have been the leader. Now, Gov. Greitens wants to get rid of the system. There is legislation to change this to political appointments (MO Court Plan, HJR 47). NCJW is working on this at the grassroots level.
- **Jamie Tomek**, MO NOW, recommended following the Clean Missouri Initiative movement (www.cleanmissouri.org) and Empower Missouri, advocating for justice, Jeannette Mott Oxford, executive director (<http://empowermissouri.org>).
- Jamie volunteers at two women's prisons (Bowling Green and Vandalia). She said the Missouri has the fastest growing female population and that two more women's prisons will have to be built.
- Check the NCJW-SL website for updates on bills. Melissa Alper is dedicated to this. (<https://www.ncjwstl.org/>)
- There are new Right-to-Work petitions being circulated. They are bogus. Paycheck Protection is paycheck deception. HB1277 is a right-to-work repeal. (See <https://labortribune.com/>)
- Shirley advised that there is a group that wants to reinvent the wheel and start over with the Equal Rights Amendment. Five states have rescinded the ERA. This wouldn't get out of court. A deadline was not in the original constitutional amendment.

***Come One!
Come All!***



*You are invited to the annual state members' meeting on May 5th. Please reserve the date. We are excited that our new executive director, **Kim Churches**, agreed to come to Missouri to attend our meeting. More information in the next state newsletter. Stay tuned.*

The gender pay

gap hurts women of all backgrounds, and it has far-reaching consequences for women's financial security. Women working full time in the United States typically are [paid just 80 percent](#) of what men are paid. [Latinas](#) are paid 54 cents to every dollar white, non-Hispanic men are paid; [American Indian and Alaska Native women](#) 58 cents; Native Hawaiian women 60 cents; [African American women](#) 63 cents; white women 75 cents; and [Asian American women](#) 85 cents. The gender pay gap starts [just one year](#) out of college with women making 82 cents to a man's dollar, and the disadvantages [only worsen over time](#). That's is why it's crucial to establish a fair salary early on.



How Is AAUW closing the gender pay gap?

AAUW Start Smart and AAUW Work Smart are programs of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) that take an important step toward closing the pay gap. Informed by reliable research, both workshops are designed to empower women with the skills and confidence they need to successfully negotiate their salary and benefits.

The workshop curricula employ the latest in research and negotiation strategies to help women navigate the complexities of job offers and promotion opportunities. Women come away from the workshops knowing how to determine their market worth based on their skills, experience, performance, qualifications, and responsibilities on the job and having the tools and business strategies they need to successfully negotiate for fair pay for the rest of their careers.

AAUW Work Smart is designed for women who are already in the workforce at any career level and helps them negotiate for a new job, raise, or promotion.

The St. Louis Branch is gathering information and working with City officials to provide AAUW Work Smart to female employees in St. Louis. This program is already in progress in Boston, Long Beach, Massachusetts, San Francisco, Tempe, and Washington, D.C. Salary negotiation workshops will reach 5,000 women in Massachusetts. Last week AAUW announced a new partnership with the Massachusetts Office of the Treasurer and Receiver General to offer 150 salary negotiation workshops in the commonwealth in 2018.

2018 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES
The Ethical Society Auditorium, 9001 Clayton Rd, 63117

AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council joins with the Tuesday Women's Association (TWA) to present four free lectures to the community on aspects of international relations. Gather at 10 a.m. for coffee and social time. Attendees are invited to bring a bag lunch and stay afterwards to further discuss the topic.

Feb 13: Mistakes of the Past: Making Sense of the North Korean Crisis

Daniel Pieper, Ph.D., East Asian Studies Department, Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Pieper is a lecturer at Washington University whose research focuses on the cultural history of modern Korea. He spent seven years living in South Korea, most recently as a Fulbright Junior Researcher in Seoul from 2016-2017 where he witnessed the massive peaceful protest that removed the right-wing Korean president Park Geunhye from power. Dr. Pieper will present a brief history of how thoughtless geopolitical division by superpowers resulted in war, ideological dictatorships, and now the surreal juxtaposition of a hyper-modern model democracy and the last Stalinist state on earth. Dr. Pieper will also discuss issues of North and South Korean identity and the disparate perceptions of the North Korean crisis in the United States and in South Korea.

Coordinator: Kayla Vaughan

Assistant Coordinator: Carol Herkstroeter

Mar 13: Human Trafficking: An International Problem

Whitney Howland has worked as the Human Trafficking Victim Services Social Worker at the International Institute of St. Louis since 2016. In this role, she provides intensive case management to clients and screens potential victims of trafficking, provides technical assistance and training to service providers. Currently she acts as the agency's liaison to the Federal District of Eastern Missouri's Human Trafficking Task Force, and she organizes the St. Louis Rescue and Restore Coalition.

Coordinator: Pam Ross

Assistant Coordinator: Julia Triplett

Apr 10: The Assault on Global Democracy

In case of inclement weather, please call 314-991-0995, x224. Please note that the driveway is heated!



Mother Wit: Exalting Motherhood While Honoring a Great Mother

By Malaika B. Horne

St. Louis Branch member Malaika B. Horne, PhD, recently wrote a book that was published by Dorrance Publishing Co., Pittsburgh, PA. The book "describes in a vivid and poignant manner the remarkable ability of a mid-twentieth century Black woman, living under conditions of apartheid as practiced in the United States, to overcome harsh and even grotesque societal obstacles and succeed in rearing six children. That each of them went on to excel in their chosen fields is worthy of serious contemplation. ..." —William M. Harvey, PhD
Congratulations, Malaika!

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)

Contact Carol to add something to a future newsletter.