

Newsletter of the Saint Louis Branch (Since 1893)

2017-2018, No. 6

"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

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 Fund, Bylaws and Policies 314-361-2920 Barley702@gmail.com

Ellen Irons Director

Sally McGowan 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

We Need Your Help!

Join us at an AAUW tabling event at the **2018 St. Louis Earth Day Festival.**

Location: Forest Park on the Muny grounds When: April 21-22 <u>Time</u>: 11 am - 5 pm daily Branch Booth Theme:



Equity in Pay (Work Smart), Equity in the workplace (Sexual Harassment); Equity in all areas

Branch Member **Sally McGowan** (314-616-3574 or sopawsam@sbcglobal.net) is scheduling members to "work" (hand out brochures and tell visitors about AAUW) on Saturday and/or Sunday. She would like volunteers to take a two-hour shift (or more, if possible). You can also take advantage of all the booths and events at the festival. If you haven't contacted her already, please support Sally's efforts in providing visibility for AAUW .

Interested members may attend an "art" party at Jan Scott's on April 12th to create posters for the festival booth and for Spring Fling.* For information, contact Jan (phone number and address in left column). The Spring Fling activity hosted by the St. Louis Branch will also be completed then.

St. Louis Earth Day (<u>https://stlouisearthday.org/festival/</u>) has built its reputation on its annual Festival, which is now recognized as one of the largest Earth Day celebrations in the country but touches over a million individuals through its year-round programming like Recycling On the Go, Green Dining Alliance, and Earth Day Action Grants.

*Because Saturday, April 21st, is the same date as the AAUW Inter-branch Council Spring Fling, it is requested that anyone not attending Spring Fling please volunteer to work shifts at the festival on the 21st.

Are you interested in getting involved with the branch board? There are two director positions opening up for the 2018-2020 term. If you would like to nominate yourself (or someone else), please contact Carol or Jan.

opefully, you signed up for Spring Fling! The deadline was April 2, 2018, at the request of Glen Echo Country Club so they can make plans for our event.

Upcoming Event

The <u>St. Louis Branch</u> and the <u>Press Club of</u> <u>Metropolitan St. Louis</u> will host a panel discussion on sexual harassment in late May. The proposed theme is the importance and pitfalls of due process in sexual harassment cases. More information to follow.

BRANCH MEMBER NEWS



Happy May Birthday! 17- Nancy Collins

Happy July Birthday! 8 - Barb Johnson 27 - Ellen Irons

Happy August Birthday! 16 - Linda Lindsey 27 - Gwen Cotton



Do you have an experience, an opinion, or something new in your life that you would like to share with branch members? If so, email Carol at

davis-mcdonald@outlook.com or call her at 636-227-0511.

Title IX Corner by Lisa Taylor, Director

Hello Everyone,

Hope you had a wonderful Easter weekend with your families. Here is my Title IX commentary from my Title IX Corner.

President Obama set a goal that by 2020 the United States would lead the world in the percentage of college graduates. To help us achieve this goal, there must be support for **every** student in completing high school so they are ready for college or a career, including pregnant and parenting students. They must not be discriminated against as they persist to stay in school.

Title IX protects pregnant and parenting students from discrimination. Many people are not aware that many schools still discriminate against these students. They place the students in separate, subpar academic programs, enact policies to treat them differently from other students with medical conditions, and prevent them from participating in after school programs.

As reported by the CDC (Center for Disease Control), this has harmful effects on students. CDC reports that 50 percent of teen mothers receive high school diplomas by the time they are 22 years old compared with 90 percent of women who did not give birth as teenagers.

A provision in the Affordable Care Act created the Pregnancy Assistance Fund, which provides grants of between \$500,000.00 and \$2 million annually through 2019 to help underwrite programs that connect young families with the support services they will need. The program is designed to help participants focus on high school graduation, good maternal and child health outcomes, and parenting skills.

In 2011 the House of Representatives introduced the Pregnant and Parenting Students Access to Education Act, which enabled the US Department of Education Act to offer state and local grants for programs that promote education and parenting students.

Title IX is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex - including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. Some additional information you should know:

Classes and School Activities:

Schools must allow students to continue participating in classes and extracurricular activities. They should be allowed to choose whether or not to participate in special instructional programs or classes for pregnant students. They cannot be pressured into taking these types of classes. Students should be provided with reasonable adjustments, like a larger desk, elevator access or allowing students to make frequent trips to the restroom, when necessary, etc.

Absences and Medical Leave:

Absences are excused due to pregnancy or childbirth as long as the doctor says it is necessary. Students are allowed to return to the same academic and extracurricular status as before their medical leave began, which will give them an opportunity to make up any work missed while they were absent. This will also ensure that teachers understand the Title IX requirements related to excused absences/medical leave. Students are entitled to homebound instruction/at home tutoring/independent study.

The school must have and distribute a policy against sex discrimination. The policy must make clear that sex discrimination covers discrimination against pregnancy. Adoption and publication of a grievance procedure should be available so a student knows how to file a grievance if the student feels that s/he has been discriminated against. A Title IX coordinator must be available to assist the student.

Additional Information for Parenting Students:

Harassment - the school must protect the student against harassment, including making sexual comments or jokes about the pregnancy.

Ask for help - students should always feel comfortable in reaching out and asking the school for help. S/he should be allowed to meet with the Title IX coordinator-counselor at any time.

For additional information, visit the following websites:

Know Your Rights: Pregnant or Parenting: <u>https://</u>ws.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-know-yourrights

https://www.aauw.org/2012/06/18/pregnant-andparenting students

If you have a Title IX question, contact me at <u>Lisa-taylor58@sbcglobal.net</u>. Until next time, Lisa

Membership Dues 2018-19

The AAUW year begins anew on July 1, 2018, and your current membership expires on June 30. As you know, the AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase the national annual membership dues from \$49 to \$59 in 2018–19. AAUW MO dues are \$10, and St Louis Branch dues are \$12, which totals \$81 for the upcoming year. Fifty-six dollars of the national dues is tax deductible.

The national membership office is emailing a renewal form to each member who has an email address on file. You just click on the link in the message to renew. You do not need to log in to renew. With one click, pay dues with your credit card. It's simple, safe, and efficient. Instructions are in the email message. The alternate method is to send your \$81 check to Sue Barley. For those without email addresses, Sue will print out the form and send it to you.

NOTE: When renewing your membership, please take time to review your listing in the membership directory. Send any changes to Carol to be included in the next directory update. Her address is in your membership directory.

Public Policy Update

Equity Action Day

On Tuesday, <u>April 10</u>, Missouri women will gather in Jefferson City to let our representatives know what we care about. AAUW members will focus on the gender pay gap to ask for legislators' support of legislation to close the gap.

Carpools are being formed to travel to Jefferson City.

 When: Tuesday, April 10, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm 10:00 am Legislative Briefings Noon Lunch 1:00 pm Citizen Lobbying 2:30 pm Wrap Up

Where: Jefferson City Capitol Building

Carpool: Contact Jan Scott

Mark Your Calendar

The annual Missouri Women's Network's **Equality Day Brunch** will be held on August 25th at the Clayton Plaza Ho= Women's Equality Day

tel from 9:30 a.m. till 2 p.m. A save-the-date flyer will be sent out as soon as it is received. You may buy ad space in the program to honor important women in your life.



Membership Directories

Did you receive one? They were handed out at a meeting or mailed. If you are new and have not received one, please call Carol at 636-227-0511 or email to <u>davis-mcdonald</u> @outlook.com.

ST LOUIS INTERBRANCH COUNCIL

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, May 22, 7 p.m., at the Daniel Boone County Library. All AAUW members are welcome to attend. We will share information about the Spring Fling held on April 21, 2018.

IBC Branches - Events:

AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH:

- <u>What</u> Branch meeting: Racial Diversity and Disparity in Education in St. Louis by Joy Weese Moll, West County Action Network & ASSIST (A Solid Stay-in-School Team)
- When Thursday, April 12, 10:30 a.m.
- <u>Where</u> Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Rd at Hwy 141

AAUW ST. CHARLES BRANCH:

- <u>What</u> Ladies Tea Time Trivia, a unique trivia featuring 10 categories of women's interests and general topics (NO men's sports).
- <u>When</u> Saturday, April 7, 2018, 1:00-3:00 PM (doors open at 12:30 PM)
- <u>Where</u> Fellowship Hall, Faith United Methodist Church, 2950 Droste Rd, St. Charles
- <u>How</u> Send a check payable to "AAUW St. Charles Branch" for \$15 (single, or \$90 for a table of 6) with your contact information to AAUW, 624 Rebecca Dr, St. Charles, MO 63301.
- Information: Rose Ann at 636-946-5226

AAUW FERGUSON-FLORISSANT BRANCH:

- <u>What</u> **Buffet luncheon** with award-winning author and editor **George Hodgman**. His recent book, *Bettyville*, humorously paints a picture of his mother.
- <u>When</u> Saturday, May 19, 2018
- <u>Where</u> Catering to You, 12775 New Halls Ferry Road (north county)
- <u>How</u> Send a check before May 15th for \$22 (payable to the branch) to Pam Meyers, 3505 Greenway Chase, Florissant, MO 63031.
- Information: 314-831-6884, 314-921-7109, 314-831-5359.

Events That Support the AAUW Mission

This section contains information about events that are sponsored by local organizations that support our AAUW mission. If you know of an event that you would like to see listed here, submit information about it to <u>Carol</u>.

National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis (NCJW)

Advocacy in Action 3rd Thursday (Bring your own) Lunch & Learn Program State Tax Reform - April 19

Our associates at the Missouri Budget Project will probably shock you with their insights into the quirks of our state tax code and the dangerous impact the resulting revenue decrease can have on the needs of women, children and families. The neighboring state of Kansas has implemented similar policies with results that are widely considered disastrous. Learn what can be done to intervene and minimize the damage.

We will begin gathering at 11:30 AM. Speakers will begin at noon. Please RSVP to Lisa at 314-993-5181 or <u>lgjerswald@ncjwstl.org</u> so that we can be sure to have adequate seating.

When:Thursday, April 19, 11:45 amWhere:NCJW St. Louis, 295 N. LindberghRSVP:https://www.ncjwstl.org/lunch-and-learn/

Press Club of Metropolitan St Louis

"What is Fake News?: Information Literacy in a World of Viral News"

Panelists include:

- Don Corrigan of *Times Newspapers*
- Alvin Reid of St. Louis American and Donnybrook
- Betsey Bruce, retired news anchor
- Julie Smith of Webster University
- Moderator Carol Daniel of KMOX
- When: Sunday, April 15, 2:00 pm

Where: Kirkwood Public Library, 140 E. Jefferson

"Give a girl an education and introduce her properly into the world, and ten to one but she has the means of settling well, without further expense to anybody."

<u>Jane Austen</u>

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.



- <u>Where</u>: 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
- 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.

- Apr 17 The Clover and the Bee, 100 W. Lockwood, Webster Groves
- May 15 Cathy's Kitchen, 250 S. Florissant Rd, Ferguson
- Jun 19 Square One Brewery, 1727 Park Ave, Lafayette Square

AAUW of MISSOURI Plan to attend the <u>AAUW of Missouri Annual Membership Meeting and Leadership</u> <u>Conference</u> at the <u>Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia</u>, MO, <u>May 4-5, 2018</u>. Special guest will be our new CEO, Kimberly Churches. A reception is planned so that you can meet her on Friday, May 4, at 7 pm. On Saturday she will kick off our conference with her keynote address "A Call to Action."

In addition to holding our annual state meeting, other sessions will be offered on social media, how to spot fake news, and a panel discussion on young women's perspectives on today's issues. Early-bird registration and hotel reservations are due April 15. A registration form is at the end of this newsletter.

The state board voted to give \$200 to each branch to help defray the cost of registration and travel; so if you would like to take advantage of having some of your expenses paid, contact Carol or Jan.

If you choose to arrive in Columbia on Friday, consider attending the board meeting at 2 pm in the hotel. A more detailed article about the conference appears in *Missouri in Motion*, <u>AAUW MO's</u> newsletter that you received earlier this month. It also is available on the state's website at <u>http://aauw-mo.aauw.net/</u>.

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.

Apr 10: The Assault on Global Democracy

Ryan D. Kulik has spent over 20 years working as a lobbyist and public relations consultant with an emphasis in Government communications. He specializes



in taking controversial issues and creating new partnerships with the goal of implementing positive social change. Through SeedSing.com, Mr. Kulik has created a community of independent journalists who, without influence or bias, spotlight the politics and popular culture of the day.

Recent years have seen the global communities get more connected with the rise of inexpensive technology. Many people, like Mr. Kulik, thought this new global connectivity would advance the humanist philosophy and bring freedom to a larger group of people. The rise of nationalist figures like Donald Trump, Narendra Modi, and Rodrigo Duterte has shown a retreat of traditional humanist values. Is the dream of Global Democracy gone? What does the future of freedom look like? Coordinator: Usha Sathe Assistant Coordinator: Nancy Hutchins

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

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NATIONAL

2017-2018 Skill-Training Webinars

- Webinars are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 PM CT. You will find information on how to sign up for these webinars in your biweekly issue of *Mission & Action* and on www.aauw.org. Please note that scheduling is subject to change, as many of these webinars are collaborative efforts between member leaders, staff, and outside experts.
- May 8, 2018: Writing to Engage. Find out how to make the most of your websites, brochures, newsletters, and emails.
- June 12, 2018: Creating the Value of Membership. Learn how to help current and future members feel connected to AAUW's work and realize the value of their membership.

Vote for Bylaws Changes!

AAUW encourages informed debate among members regarding the upcoming 2018 AAUW Bylaws Amendment Vote. Voting will open on April 25.

AAUW Outlook Magazine

Outlook, our award-winning, quarterly magazine, is now available on line (by default) at www.aauw.org, typing <Outlook> in the search box. If you wish to have a printed copy delivered by the postal service, you may request it via www.aauw.org by doing a search for <Outlook> and filling out a form. You will need your membership number. Alternatively, you may call connect@aauw.org and ask for assistance.

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund

Announces the Appointment of a Restructured Senior Management Team

"AAUW has been empowering women since 1881, and our focus on ensuring that women and girls can thrive in education, the workplace, and our communities is as relevant and pressing today as it was then," said Kim Churches, the chief executive officer of AAUW. "I am pleased to be joined by a group of dynamic and experienced executives committed to our mission of advancing gender equity."

AAUW is excited to <u>welcome our new senior manage-</u> <u>ment team</u>, including <u>Deborah J. Vagins</u>, J.D., our new senior vice president of public policy and research. In this role, **Deborah will lead the Legal Advocacy Fund and direct the organization's government affairs and research efforts.** We're thrilled to have talented, passionate individuals in these roles and look forward to continuing AAUW's work for gender equity.

AAUW Legal Advocacy in Action: AAUW Signs On to Two New Amicus Briefs for Supreme Court Cases

Sveen v. Melin

The Supreme Court will address whether revocation-ondivorce statutes violate the contracts clause of the Constitution in *Sveen v. Melin*. AAUW signed on to the amicus brief in this case because <u>women's economic security</u> is one of AAUW's chief concerns.

Here, the amicus brief asserts that revocation-on-divorce statutes frequently revoke beneficiary designations of women and deprive women of more benefits than men, in addition to negatively affecting financially vulnerable divorced women. We joined this brief because revocation-on-divorce statutes, which automatically revoke the prior beneficiary designation of a spouse upon divorce, disproportionately cause damage to women's economic security.

In this case, Mark Sveen purchased a life insurance policy in 1997 and married Kaye Melin later that year. In the following year he named her as the primary beneficiary of his life insurance policy and his two adult children as contingent beneficiaries. Melin and Sveen divorced in 2007, but Sveen never changed the beneficiary designation on his policy.

In 2002 (after Sveen had designated Melin as the primary beneficiary), Minnesota amended its probate code to essentially automatically revoke life insurance beneficiary designations of a former spouse after divorce.

When Sveen died in 2011, Melin was still the primary beneficiary on the policy. The insurance company took procedural steps to determine whether the revocation-upon-divorce statute revoked this beneficiary designation.

Sveen's children and Melin both filed a claim for the proceeds. The U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota found in favor of the Sveen children, but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit reversed the lower court's decision and concluded that the revocation-on-divorce statute was unconstitutional when applied retroactively.

This case was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on March 19.

National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) v. Becerra

We signed on to an amicus brief that demonstrates the deception and harm produced by crisis pregnancy centers (which attempt to refuse to disseminate accurate information about reproductive options) by highlighting stories of women who tried to seek medical services through these facilities. Denying women the full range of family planning and pregnancy-related medical services, such as abortion, undercuts women's right to choose and has farreaching consequences that could jeopardize their economic security and access to education. (continued)

In this case, NIFLA challenged a California law that requires licensed pregnancy centers to post or hand out information about the availability of low-cost or free family planning services, prenatal care, and abortion services as well as a phone number to contact to determine eligibility. This law also requires unlicensed facilities to post or hand out information that makes it clear that they are not licensed and do not have a licensed medical provider. NIFLA challenged the law as a free speech violation, but the U.S. District Court for Southern California rejected its argument, as did the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

This case was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on March 20.

Meet an LAF Plaintiff

Another special guest at the AAUW state conference in <u>May</u> will be **Susan Daria Landino**, LAF plaintiff in the AAUW-supported case *Burhans V. Yale*: A New Wave in Title IX Cases. Susan will inform us what it is like to be a plaintiff up against one of the most prestigious universities - affecting her career, marriage well-being, and financial security. We will also learn about the critical role the AAUW Legal Fund plays in advancing women's rights and about the AAUW Legacy Fund.

AAUW Washington Update

AAUW is proud to partner with <u>Election Protection</u> to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in elections. If your voting rights are challenged at the polls, call the nonpartisan hotline 866.OUR.VOTE (866.687.8683) as soon as you experience an issue. Make your voice heard!

Details Revealed about School Safety Commission Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos appeared before a House Appropriations subcommittee in March at a hearing on the U.S. Department of Education's FY19 budget proposal. During her testimony, Secretary DeVos revealed that the newly-announced federal commission on school safety would be comprised of just four cabinet secretaries: Attorney General Jeff Sessions; Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen; Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar with Secretary DeVos serving as chair. The limited scope of the group has prompted concerns of partisanship and fears that the administration is omitting essential voices from discussions about school safety, including those of parents, teachers, advocates, and subject-matter experts. When pressed about the commission's makeup, DeVos said the group would be "inviting and having forums and meetings with a wide variety of experts."

State Spotlight

Frustrated by the lack of action on a state <u>sexual har-assment bill stuck in committee</u>, AAUW of Maryland members used the AAUW Action Network to motivate activists. They urged constituents of committee members to call and ask for a vote to be scheduled before the crossover date, the deadline when bills can no longer pass from one chamber to another. The committee received so many calls that a vote was scheduled and the bill successfully passed out of the House in time to move to the Senate.

AAUW Cheer: Women are making history in Congress. Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant (R) appointed state Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith (R) to the U.S. Senate, making her the first woman from her state to serve in Congress. Hyde-Smith will fill the seat retiring Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS) is vacating on April 1; and at 35 years of service, Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) is now the longest-serving woman in the U.S. House of Representatives. AAUW congratulates Rep. Kaptur and soon-to-be Sen. Hyde-Smith on these milestones!

AAUW Jeer: A survey of more than 65,000 full-time physicians by Doximity found a 27.7 percent gap between men's and women's earnings in the field. This represents a growing pay gap for physicians, as the field's pay gap was 26.5 percent in 2016.

Bits and Pieces:

-- The U.S. Supreme Court denied a request from Republican leaders to block the use of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's <u>redrawn congressional map</u>. The former district boundaries, established in 2011, had consistently yielded Republican victories in 13 of the 18 congressional districts. The redrawn map is an attempt by the state to correct partisan gerrymandering before the upcoming midterm election.

-- A federal judge blocked a Mississippi law that would implement <u>the most restrictive ban on women's repro-</u> <u>ductive rights</u> in the nation. This piece of legislation, signed into law earlier this week, prohibits women from receiving abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy (down from the 20-week restriction already in place).

-- Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) died last month due to injuries sustained in a fall last week. Rep. Slaughter was a trailblazer, valued AAUW ally, and dedicated advocate for women's rights, including supporting Title IX, equal pay, and the Violence Against Women Act throughout her career. We extend our deepest sympathies to her friends and family.

