



*AAUW advances
equity for women and
girls through research,
advocacy, and
education.
Equity for all.*

St. Charles Branch AAUW

February 2024 Newsletter

90 Years Young! St. Charles Branch AAUW held its first meeting on October 27, 1933.

February 1 Invite a Guest for this Timely Topic
1:00-1:30 pm Social Time
1:00-2:00 pm Speaker: Don Croizer League of Women Voters
 Short Business Meeting Sign-up form available for Spring Fling Luncheon

February Speaker: Don Croizer The League was officially founded February 14, 1920, just six months before the 19th amendment was ratified and women won the vote. Formed by the suffragists of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

February 24, 2024 Zoom to Annual MO Legislative Retreat

AAUW MO is facilitating a Legislative Retreat on Saturday, February 24, 2024, via Zoom, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. You are invited to attend. It is quite informative and well worth spending the time on a Saturday morning. The leaders of 15 Missouri organizations each give a brief (5 minute) description of their group, an explanation of their main legislative priority, and the bill number, title, and author of two bills they would like us to monitor. Activists from organizations across the state will share information about pay equity, ERA, book bans, sensible gun safety, LGBTQ+, abortion action, voter protection, and much more.

For more information contact Karen Francic, AAUW MO President at 314.223.4235 or karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com. **Meeting ID: 811 4538 4169 Passcode: 589130**

IBC Spring Fling will be held March 23 at "Catering to You" in Florissant. This will be a time to honor *Karen Schneider*, 2024 St. Charles Branch IBC Barbara Lackritz AAUW Award honoree. Karen is an Honorary Lifetime AAUW member with 53 years of membership. After lunch, Bev Schuetz will speak about Women Entrepreneurs. The form for this luncheon is attached. Teri will collect forms and checks at both February and March branch meetings to send in together. Or send in on your own. In March we will make plans to carpool.

2024 AAUW Art Contest

AAUW Celebrates the Talent & Voices of Women Artists
Only a third of artists represented by commercial galleries are women and women working in arts professions are paid on average 74 cents to every dollar paid to men. This is what motivates AAUW to host an annual art contest—to give women artists the attention they deserve. St. Charles member Joyce Rothermich submitted two paintings for the AAUW art contest. The entries are entitled, *Anticipation*, a portrait of a woman, and *Faithful Friend*, a portrait of a dog. You can vote for ten entries beginning February 5. Preview them now at AAUW Art Contest.

¡Adelante! 1:30 pm Zoom Contact Teri for link 2024 Theme: Banned Books
January 25 Sold by Patricia McCormack Reviewer: Patty Murray
February 22 Gender Queer: A Memoir Reviewer: Kay Meyer

GREAT DECISIONS- Karen Schneider- Provocateur Extraordinaire 10-11:30 am
Faith UMC 2950 Droste Road 2nd and 4th Mondays February- May
1st meeting February 12 Book is \$35.00 payable to Karen at February 1 meeting.

2024 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES- Free and Open to the Public

Sponsors: Tuesday Women's Association (TWA) of Ethical Society and AAUW
2nd Tuesdays through April In case of inclement weather, call 314-991-0955, ext. 224
February 13-10:45 in the auditorium "Generative AI" Speaker: Anshuman Sing PhD, AI educator, researcher and entrepreneur

March 7~ Evening Meeting- Math & Science Awards Arrive by 6:00 pm with desserts
Area high school senior young women will be honored for math or science excellence.
Multi-Purpose Room Desserts & Social Time- 6:30 pm Awards and speeches- 7:00 pm
Everyone brings small or bite-size desserts by 6:00 pm to serve 12 people

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, signed by President Obama on January 29, 2009, restored the ability of individuals to assert their rights under federal anti-discrimination laws, after a devastating 11th Circuit Court decision that was upheld by the Supreme Court, in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.* The Fair Pay Act was monumental in bringing national attention to the issue of pay discrimination, but wages for women have barely improved in the last 15 years. Women of color fare even worse than white women compared to their non-Hispanic white male counterparts.

We honor Lilly Ledbetter and her enduring fight for equal pay and opportunities by marking equal pay days throughout the year - the date at which women in a particular demographic group have to work into *the following year* to approximate the earnings of their white male counterparts from just the year prior. The only way we can remedy these inequities is through transparency. Check out this article in the Washington Post, "Closing the gender pay gap one job offer at a time." By Chrisi West January 16, 2024

Winter Weather: If "City of St. Charles Schools" are closed, so is the church

