

AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH HISTORY: 1997-2010

The Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch was founded in 1981 as the Lafayette Area Branch with 41 charter members and the plan to meet during the day. We have grown steadily over the years, with 264 members in May, 2010. Branch meetings are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Chesterfield, on the second Thursday from September through April. In September, Branch Board members, host a complimentary Fall Welcome Brunch for the members and their guests. In December, a festive holiday auction raises funds to support branch activities. The May meeting is a celebration luncheon, currently held at an area country club. In July, members meet at a local park for a summer picnic. Throughout the year, members participate in a variety of interest groups, currently including eight bridge groups, four book groups, two Play Readers groups, Poetry, Movie, Expressions, Scrabble, Out-to-Lunch, Golf, and Saturday Night Singles.

Over the years at each branch meeting, the Program Committee has been committed to presenting mission-based topics that capture the interest of our members, while focusing on the goals that reflect the mission statement of AAUW. Diverse programs and speakers have spoken on topics related to social justice, health care, economic well being, diversity, gender and educational equity, human rights, international affairs, and public policy. Representative recent speakers and topics follow:

Beth Griffin	“Public Policy & Missouri’s Children”
Dr. Jami Ake	“Sexual Harassment on Campus”
Edward Bishop	“Who’s Delivering The News?”
Kathy Sokol, LAF Plaintiff	“Kathy, Five Years Later”
Dr. Mark Rank	“Poverty & Inequality in America”
Dr. Lewis Wall	“Treating the Cast-off Women of Nigeria”
Dr. Melissa Waters	“Human Rights: A Report Card After 60 Years”

Supporting the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund (Educational Foundation) and local scholarships for mature women returning to college is an important part of branch efforts. Our successful program, *Dollars for Scholars*, raises scholarship funds through member-sponsored activities. Through these efforts, monies are sent annually to EOF, and scholarships are provided to women attending University of Missouri-St. Louis, Pierre Laclède Honors College at UMSL, and Maryville University. In recent years, we have been able to contribute between \$6,000 and \$8,000 annually to AAUW and a like amount in local scholarships, divided among several women. In January, we invite these women to attend the branch meeting so we can hear their stories. In November, the committee invites an AAUW fellow to speak, if possible, and EOF conducts an annual Individual Giving campaign. In 2004, the branch completed a Research and Project Grant in the amount of \$35,000; in 2005, we began the Silver Anniversary Research and Project Grant, with a \$75,000 goal by 2015. As of June 2010, it is 80% complete. In addition, each October, members participate in an Eleanor Roosevelt Walk to raise money for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund.

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch supports the Legal Advocacy Fund through education and fundraising. The LAF committee educates members through articles in the newsletter and presentations at branch meetings. Each year, from 1997-2008, a raffle was held to benefit LAF. In 2008, the committee decided to emphasize Individual Giving, setting a goal of \$25 or more from each member. February was designated as LAF Individual Giving month and participation has increased each year. In 2009, LAF Ballwin-Chesterfield sponsored a successful Trivia Night, which raised over \$3000. The second Trivia Night, in April 2010, raised nearly \$4,900. For the

last two years, the committee has sponsored a book review fundraiser, focusing on LAF issues, and branch members paid \$25 to attend. Each year almost \$1000 was raised.

Under the leadership of the Issues and Diversity Committee, between 1997 and 2005, a series of Woman-to-Woman Dialogues on Social Justice were presented on topics such as Women's Health, Economic Security, and Community Issues. Organizations such as Coalition of One Hundred Black Women and National Council of Negro Women co-sponsored these events and members from a wide range of metro women's groups attended. All of the events emphasized AAUW priorities. From 2005 through 2009, the Public Policy Committee organized public forums on such topics as Tabor, Stem Cell Research, Immigration, and Financing Health Care. Eight metro organizations acted as co-sponsors and sent members to the half-day events, which featured physicians, professors, attorneys, and other experts in fields related to the topics. These forums were awarded 21st Century and Galaxy awards. Along with other St. Louis area branches and the Tuesday Women's Group of the Ethical Society, the branch sponsors and participates in an annual series of four lectures on international relations, which are free and open to the public.

An extensive newsletter is published 10 times a year, which includes articles from the co-presidents and all major committees. Announcements of branch, IBC, state, and national events are included, as are announcements of Dollars for Scholars events and interest group meetings. In 2002, Joyce Katz became the first Chair of Technology and Ballwin-Chesterfield began sending the newsletter by email and launched its first website, aauwballwin-chesterfield.org. The website contains information and pictures from branch meetings, minutes, branch activities, as well as state and national information. In 2010, Ballwin-Chesterfield became the first Missouri branch on the national AAUW calendar.

In addition to the branch newsletter and website, branch meetings and special events are publicized in other media outlets. For many years the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch sent notices of the monthly meetings only to the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) and one other local paper. Since 2005, we send press releases to 17 newspaper outlets, 10 radio stations, 4 television stations, 12 media websites and 4 organizations with similar missions.

For over fifteen years, Ballwin-Chesterfield has awarded cash prizes to girls at the Queeny Park Science Fair. In 2009, the branch received a \$7,000 AAUW Community Action Grant. In the EACH ONE TEACH ONE grant project, members tutored small groups of sixth and seventh graders at Curtis Bishop Middle School (Wellston district) on science fair projects. We helped sponsor a continuation of this project in 2010, contributing funds and workers. Also in 2010, we continued our support of Wellston students and STEM by taking a group of girls to the Expanding Your Horizons Conference at SLU. The branch also participates in the History Day project, providing judges and recognizing outstanding projects by girls.

Ballwin-Chesterfield has been well represented by enthusiastic and sizable delegations to all state, regional, and national meetings from 1997 to the present. Members have served as officers and board members of IBC and of AAUW MO. Among those currently serving at the state level are Sue Barley, 14 years on the state board, treasurer for the last six years, and co-chair of Bylaws/Parliamentarian from 2010-2012; Julia Triplett, LAF chair 2005-2007, VP Program 2007-2009, president elect 2009-10, president 2010; and Yvonne Morrison, 10 years on the board, EF chair from 2003-2009, and co-chair of Bylaws/Parliamentarian for 2010-12. Also serving on the AAUW MO Board are Joyce Katz as Communications Chair, Pat Shores as Administrative Assistant, Doris Nistler as co-chair of Education and Equity Funds, Debbie McWard as co-chair of College/University Relations, and Kathy Childers for the state directory.

At the national level, Julia Triplett has served as Community Action Grants Panel Chair from 2005 to 2010. Patricia Shores and Julia Triplett served as Local Arrangements Committee chairs for the 2009 national convention. Members served as committee chairs, and many others volunteered to make the St. Louis national convention a huge success! Twelve members were also financial sponsors of the convention. Sandra Camillo and Julia Triplett serve on the AAUW Leadership Corps from 2009 to the present. Sue Barley serves on the Breaking Through Barriers Major Gifts Campaign (2009-2011). Yvonne Morrison serves on the AAUW Fundraising Committee.

Since 2005, Ballwin-Chesterfield has placed in the top ten branches nationally in total giving to AAUW and among the top contributors in Missouri. The branch is also consistently the highest branch contributor in the state. From 1997 to 2000, we received the Five Star award. In 2001 we were awarded the Seven Star designation. From 2002 to the present, we have received the Ten Star designation and the Galaxy Award from 2007 to the present. In 2008 Julia Triplett received the Barbara Lackritz Award from IBC, and Pat Shores received the same award in 2010.

Ballwin-Chesterfield recipients of the AAUW Missouri Named Gift Award:

1997	Barbara Lackritz
2005	Sue Barley
2007	Joyce Katz
2008	Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Yvonne Morrison
2009	Pat Shores Julia Triplett
2010	Sue Barley Joyce Katz Debbie McWard Julie Triplett

BRANCH PRESIDENTS—1997-2010:

1997-1998	Marilyn Morton / Pam Trentadue
1998-2000	Harriett Hirschfeld / Yvonne Morrison
2000-2002	Ruth Griffin
2000-2003	Julia Triplett
2002-2004	Linda Tinker
2003-2005	Rose Buck
2004-2006	Patricia Jennings
2005-2007	Rosann Swaringim
2006-2008	Mersine Kallaos
2007-2009	Pat Shores
2008-2010	Mary Jermak
2009-2011	Bette Bude
2010-2012	Marcia Block