

AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council (IBC)

(This history goes back to the beginning of the IBC, as it was not included in the previous state history update.) In the fall of 1970, Theresa Mayer (later Hofstatter) contacted the presidents of the three branches that were in existence in the St. Louis area: St. Louis (Margaret Joyce), Creve Coeur (Rosamond Musgrave), and Ferguson-Florissant (Helen Finn). The group got together for a number of meetings to discuss trying to coordinate and pool information. It was decided to have an interbranch council. The council was composed of the above three presidents and Theresa Mayer as an ex-officio member from the Missouri State Division board. The council was organized to (1) recognize all branches in the area through sharing of general meetings of special importance, announcing topics being studied in each branch, and sharing newsletters; (2) share information from state, regional, and national meetings; and (3) attempt consensus on state legislation and action of general concern.

Margaret Joyce served as chair of the council until the spring of 1971, when there were three more branches added to the council. They were Jefferson County, St. Charles, and the newly formed Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch. It was decided at that time to have from each branch the president, the legislative chair, and an at-large person added to the council. An election of the council was held in the spring of 1971. The council branches were Creve Coeur (Rosamond Musgrave, president, membership 101), Ferguson-Florissant (Helen Finn, president, membership 82), Jefferson County (Barbara Johnston, president, membership 57), Kirkwood-Webster Groves (Maurita Stueck, president, membership 70), St. Charles (Jane Kitt, president, membership 70), and St. Louis (Theresa Hofstatter, president, membership 210). (The above historical information was provided by Mrs. Musgrave from the Creve Coeur Branch's scrapbooks, a newspaper clipping, and her memory.)

In its early days, a telephone listing for AAUW was answered by the United Nations Association, and contact information was forwarded to the appropriate branch. Mail was also delivered there for pick up by the IBC chair. Each branch was levied a charge to pay for the service. Later, after sufficient funds had accrued, IBC paid for the phone listing. When this service was no longer available, IBC purchased a business white-pages listing of the national office's telephone number for referrals to appropriate branches

In later years new branches formed and were added to IBC: Franklin County, West St. Charles County, and Lafayette Area (later Ballwin-Chesterfield). Although not a voting member, the South St. Louis County satellite branch, fostered by the Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch, came into and then out of existence. Under guidelines adopted in May 1981 and revised in November 1986, May 2009, and August 2010, IBC continues to foster cooperation among member branches with regard to programs and projects with area-wide implications, to open channels of communication for the sharing of ideas and interests, and to provide leadership training for branch board members.

Today IBC consists of Ballwin-Chesterfield, Creve Coeur, Ferguson-Florissant, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, and St. Louis branches. Meetings have been held four times per year, in August, November, February, and May, which traditionally was a potluck supper and leadership-training meeting. Both outgoing and incoming officers were invited. When state, regional, and national conventions, as well as state board meetings, were held in the St. Louis area, member branches were asked to assist with local arrangements. In addition to sharing branch, state, and national information, IBC planned a Fall Area Conference, which subsequently became the Winter Area Conference and then the Spring Area Conference. It currently is called the "Spring Fling." Responsibilities for the conference have been rotated according to a schedule divided into program, arrangements, evaluation, publicity, and registration; the branch arranging the program was on standby the following year. Conference programs addressed the current two biennial AAUW topics. Examples of programs were

- Politics – Working Within the System, with two concurrent sessions Politics and Economics and Politics and the Judiciary followed by two other concurrent sessions, Food as a Political Weapon and Politics and Education

- Exploring the Topics: Managing Resources for Tomorrow and Families Facing Change (concurrent sessions: Adding Life to Years; The Male in the Changing Family; and The Impact of Change on the Family)
- Taking Hold of Technology: Advances in Medicine with presentations on The CT Scanner: What It Is and What It Does; The Technology of Good Health: Diet Fads, Nutrition, and the Woman of '82
- A celebration of the St. Louis Branch's 100th anniversary
- A look at gender discrimination and harassment through the eyes of plaintiff Mary Beth Oba
- A history of the Kiel Opera House and Auditorium and the efforts to reopen and revitalize it

Projects of IBC included the Paestum project with the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and the *Journal of Aesthetic Education*; an art exhibit; an Educational Equity Roundtable (1992). In 1996-1997 IBC co-sponsored the annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki Observance in University City by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the "Spirit of Beijing, Spirit of St. Louis" Women's Equality Day at Webster University. On several occasions IBC sponsored concerts by Leonora Suppan-Gehrich held at the Ethical Center to benefit the Educational Foundation. In 1998 a Sister-to-Sister Summit for girls from 12 to 16 at Webster University was held. This daylong conference brought together girls of diverse backgrounds to candidly discuss issues that they themselves identified as critical. Breaking into small groups, the girls developed strategies to address their common concerns and reconvened to consolidate their ideas into a unified platform for action. In the fall of 2002, when the Legal Advocacy Fund provided assistance to Dr. Kathy Sokol for her discrimination lawsuit against St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, members of the branches wrote letters in support of Dr. Sokol to SLCC-FP, attended her discrimination trial in the federal courthouse (Eastern District of Missouri), and earmarked funds to LAF for her case.

Branches cooperated in producing bookmarks and flyers, which had branch program and contact information and which were distributed to all public libraries in the metro area. Area-wide programs included the International Relations Lecture Series, a program co-sponsored by the Ethical Society of St. Louis that provides interested members of the public with the opportunity to learn about and discuss issues of global importance with experts from the community; the Adelante Book Group, which uses the AAUW national list of books that promote diversity; Downtown Lunch Group; and volunteering to answer phones during PBS pledge campaigns. In recent years IBC has continued a project begun by the KWG Branch involving the St. Louis History Day Project. Prize money is provided to winners of an annual contest for high school students who complete projects relating to women's history.

In 2003 the IBC established the Metro St. Louis IBC Barbara Lackritz Service Award to recognize members who uphold the mission of AAUW and provide service and leadership in AAUW and non-AAUW areas. Honorees have been

2003 - Barbara Lackritz, Creve Coeur, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Ballwin-Chesterfield

2004 - Shirley Breeze, Ferguson-Florissant, and Shirl Garhart, Creve Coeur

2005 - Jean Shull, Kirkwood-Webster Groves

2006 - Ella M. Bettinger, St. Louis and Kirkwood-Webster Groves

2007 - Carol Davis McDonald, St. Louis and Kirkwood-Webster Groves

2008 - Julia Triplett, Ballwin-Chesterfield

2009 - Lynne Roney, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, and Barbara Barnett, St. Charles

2010 - Dr. A. Patricia Shores, Ballwin-Chesterfield

2011 - Betty Takahashi, St. Charles

2012 - Diane B. Ludwig, St. Louis and Kirkwood-Webster Groves

2013 -

Those who have served as IBC chair since its inception are

Margaret Joyce	St. Louis	1970-1971
Rosamond Musgrave	Creve Coeur	1971-1972
Maurita Stueck	Kirkwood-Webster Groves	1973-1974
Marcia Whitson	Ferguson-Florissant	1974-1975
Rose Ann Glazer	Creve Coeur	1975-1976
Roberta Miller Sterling	Kirkwood-Webster Groves	1976-1977
Bobbe Hodgden	Creve Coeur	1977-1978
Velja Lacey	Ferguson-Florissant	1978-1979
Virginia Terry	St. Charles	1979-1980
Barbara Lackritz	Creve Coeur	1980-1982
Toni Garrett	Ferguson-Florissant	1982-1984
Barbara Johnson	St. Louis	1984-1986
Jean Shull	Kirkwood-Webster Groves	1986-1988
Sandra Morris	St. Charles	1988-1990
Dorothy White	Creve Coeur	1990-1992
Nancy Gerber	Ferguson-Florissant	1992-1994
Betty Takahashi	St. Charles	1994-1996
Shirl Garhart	Creve Coeur	1996-1998
Linda Stark	Ballwin-Chesterfield	1998-2000
Kay Meyer	Kirkwood-Webster Groves	2000-2002
Jan Scott	St. Louis	2002-2004
Linda Tinker and Harriett Hirschfeld	Ballwin-Chesterfield	2004-2006
Mary Gaffey and Donna Eichman	Creve Coeur	2006-2008
Nancy Gerber	Ferguson-Florissant	2008-2010
Marsha Koch	Kirkwood-Webster Groves	2010-2012
Betty Knapp and Betty Takahashi	St. Charles	2012-2014