Christine Nobbe <nobbechristine@gmail.com> to Aauw

Join us for our end-of-year celebration and meet

Capt. Carolyn Moore St. Louis Fire Department Recipient of an AAUW Career Development Grant

Saturday, May 25
9:30 am social and place food orders
10:00 am program
Walnut Grill
10797 Sunset Hills Plaza

The 2018-2019 AAUW Career Development Grantee, <u>Carolyn Moore</u>, is challenging preconceived notions about what women's work is or could be. Moore is the fire captain in the St. Louis Fire Department and the only African-American woman commissioned officer serving in the department.

She first considered becoming a firefighter in the late-1980s when her uncle, a retired battalion chief, told her the department had hired its first women for the job. "He ... gave me encouragement and support and suggested I apply," she said. Although she was initially apprehensive, she rose to the challenge after her mom told her she would have seized the opportunity had it been available when she was a young woman. "If my mother said she would be interested, then I was also."

In 1989, Moore became the seventh woman to join the department. "We were the women pioneers of the fire industry," she said. She met with the other women monthly to discuss how to handle the challenges and disappointments that came with being the firsts.

"The hardest part of the job was the physical challenges," she said, citing mastering the technique for using the jaws of life. "The women worked together and shared this knowledge, which gave us the confidence that we could do the job."

With the support of her AAUW award, she is currently pursuing a master's degree in management and leadership, and she intends to develop a fire-service management and leadership consulting firm. She also wants to give back: "I plan to start a mentorship program and reach out to young girls and women who are interested in joining the public service field," she said.

We hope you can join us to celebrate our hard work and to meet Capt. Moore.

Also, I'd would like to give a shout out to Marsha, Kay, the AAUW MO board, Nancy, Deb, Lynne, Jeanne, Carol, and the many volunteers who made the Missouri Leadership Conference a success. Our key note speakers Kim Churches and Wendy Doyle were excellent. Have a great week!