



**American Association of University Women
Lake / Sumter (FL) Branch, Inc.
A Tax-exempt 501(c)(3) Organization**

Learn – Connect – Support

September 2026

A Message from your 2026-2027 Co-presidents

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. (Marcel Proust)

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a fun summer, and is looking forward to cooler temperatures and the new AAUW year. Our talented board of directors has already met, and we are busy planning an exciting and fulfilling year for our members.

We are grateful to be with other college-educated community-minded women in AAUW who make us happy, and we hope to share that with others by increasing our membership and improving our member retention. Members have let us know that they want to spend more time connecting with each other. Our Wednesday morning gatherings that used to just be in the summer now meet every Wednesday year-round. We recently started a monthly Happy Hour that has already been very popular. Join us at either or both of these informal opportunities to get to know each other better, and feel free to bring a friend who might be interested in joining AAUW! We also have a couple of day trips planned for our members this fall. (Check our website for these and other upcoming events.)

We know AAUW is a great organization that provides opportunities to women and girls through our college scholarships and Tech Trek, and we want to increase public awareness of our programs that benefit the community. If you have a PR background or are otherwise interested in helping us share our good news, let us know.

In service of our shared vision,

Elizabeth White and Sue Laluk, Co-presidents



Sue Laluk and Elizabeth White

Monthly Programs and General Meetings

Saturday, September 26th

PACE

At PACE, they envision a world where all girls and young women are safe, have economic security and an opportunity to use their voice in shaping their future. Learn how PACE's values and guiding principles, their mission, their vision and their three pillars support this important work.

Allamanda Recreation Center

1515 St. Charles Place (Village of Liberty Park)

Always open to Members and Guests

Doors open for socializing at 9:30 am

Programs begin at 10:00 am

Saturday, October 24th

Frida Kahlo

Her life and work as an artist

Our own Lisa French will discuss Frida Kahlo as one of the most significant artists of the 20th century.

Fish Hawk Recreation Center

2318 Buttonwood Run, (Village of Buttonwood)

Doors open at 9:30 am.

Introducing Your 2026-27 Branch Leadership

Board of Directors

Each office has one vote on Board issues. Where two people share an office, each person has one-half vote.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is composed of elected officers and directors.

Presidents	Susan (Sue) Laluk & Elizabeth White
Presidents-Elect	Beth Hicks & Laura McLaughlin
Directors of Programs	Kathy Howe & Sally Wickman
Directors of Membership	Mary Anderson & Bobbie Peters
Directors of Finance	Barbara Fieldman & Pat Shub
Secretaries	Sandy Plano & Dee Sherman

Appointed Directors

Three members of the Board of Directors are appointed by the co-Presidents and approved by a majority of Board members.

Director of Communications	Beth Hicks
Directors of Fundraising	Leslie Flanders & Jill Marrese
Director of Public Policy	Lisa French

Branch Committees & Appointed Chairs

Standing Committees

Standing Committees are chaired by the Directors appointed by the co-Presidents and approved by a majority of Board members.

Communications Committee	Beth Hicks
Fundraising Committee	Leslie Flanders & Jill Marrese
Public Policy Committee	Lisa French

Operations Committees

Operations Committee chairs are engaged by the co-Presidents.

Bylaws and Policies	Anne Wilkins
Dropbox Manager	Carolee Litwinka
E-Mail Distribution	Carolee Litwinka
Embracing Community	Jacquie Latzer
Historian	<i>open</i>
Hospitality	Ann Marie Lombardi & Bobbie Peters
Morning Coffee	Gay Birchard
Newsletter	Leslie Flanders
Scholarship	Susan Gold & Gretchen Lewis
Sunshine	Ann Marie Lombardi
Tech Trek	Sue Hanson-Otis
Webmaster	Alice Watts

Your AAUW Book Club

An Invitation to All Readers

An Invitation to all AAUW members to join the Book Discussion Group meetings on the **THIRD Wednesday of the month.**

Kate Manion has arranged for our **September 16th** meeting to be at **The Ashton at Villages Crossing**, (*formerly Harbor Chase*) where she is living while going through rehab.

LOCATION: **13517 NE 86th Ct. Lady Lake Fl 32159**

DATE & TIME **Wednesday September 16th at 10:30**

BOOK & Author: **How to Read a Book by Monica Wood**

Discussion FACILITATOR: **Katie Haviland**

LUNCH option at The Ashton: cash paid to Kate Manion

Last year's cost was \$15. Kate will let us know before September 10th if that has changed.

Please respond by September 10th to

Katie Haviland katiehaviland1@gmail.com

if you plan to attend the **discussion** and/or **lunch**.



We need the count for both the discussion and for dining by Friday, September 11th so Kate can reserve a discussion room with enough chairs and make dining accommodations.

SEPTEMBER 16: How to Read a Book by Monica Wood Facilitator Katie Haviland	OCTOBER 21: Soul of America by Jon Meacham Facilitator Sue Laluk
A contemporary novel about guilt, second chances, and the unexpected ways people help one another heal. At its center is Violet, a young woman leaving prison after serving time for a fatal accident, and the two people whose lives become tied to hers: Harriet, a retired teacher who runs a prison book club, and Frank, the widower of the woman who died in the crash. The novel is thoughtful, humane, and deeply interested in what reading can do for people who feel cut off from the world. It asks whether a person can survive shame, accept forgiveness, and still build a meaningful life.	In recognition of the 250 th anniversary of our country, the group decided to read few books that help us all remember our past with a look to the future. With this in mind we selected a nonfiction book by American journalist, historian, and presidential biographer Jon Meacham. The book explores periods of US history during which the politics of fear battled against the politics of hope. The author largely threads his narrative around issues of racial justice and anti-immigrant nativism, from the Reconstruction era in the postbellum South, to the civil rights era of the mid-20th century, to the era of Donald Trump.

Katie Haviland and Kate Manion, Co-chairs

NEW SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

AAUW Happy Hour at Evans Prairie CC

Every 3rd Monday at 4 pm

Yes, that's what it says! A chance for us to gather and get to know each other in a relaxed venue with no time limit. PLEASE wear your AAUW name badge!!

This month on Monday, September 21st at 4pm

RSVP via text or email to Elizabeth White by **September 18th** so she can reserve tables for us. [\(201\) 749-0845](tel:2017490845)
elizabethwhite2000@yahoo.com



Mark your calendars now for this monthly get-together on the 3rd Monday of each month! Cheers! It is for members to get better acquainted. Also, if you know someone who might be interested in joining our AAUW branch bring her along. This is not a couples event or a formal organized event. There is no agenda, just a casual, relaxed get-together once a month to share a drink, a soda, a snack or meal with other educated women.

Wednesday “Morning Mingle” at Panera

Every Wednesday morning around 9:30, **we invite you** to find us at Panera in Lake Sumter Landing to get acquainted, talk about any topic that arises, and just relax with friends who enjoy being with friends! You'll be glad you came! If you have an AAUW name badge, please wear it! And, if you have a clothing article with our logo on it, wear it to raise awareness of AAUW. AND, bring a friend who might be interested in learning about AAUW.



Mahjong



Contact Barbara Fieldman if you are interested in playing Mahjong on Wednesday afternoons. bfieldman@gmail.com

Our NEW Website

Alice Watts has created an entire new version of our website! Please go there and realize that it has all the information you will ever need about our branch! And, in the Members Only section you can use our secret password to find out all sorts of things you may not have known about our branch and how we function. We are so grateful for her time and expertise she is contributing without even being a member of our branch!

<http://lakesumteraauw.org>

THANK YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN!

We continue to thank all of you and others who make it possible for our Scholarship and Tech Trek programs to continue with your generous contributions to our 501(c)(3). Please contact our finance director, Barb Fieldman, Beth Hicks, or your financial advisor for information on how to do an RMD or direct contribution.

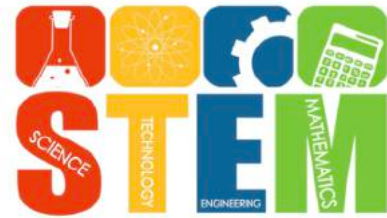
Our DONATE button on our website now donates directly to our AAUW bank account!!! So easy! Just use your credit card! And, it will email you a Thank You along with all of the information you need to get your tax deduction!

Beth Hicks, 501(c)(3) Chair
Leslie Flanders, Director of Fundraising

Tech Trek

September 2026

The 2026 week-long residential Tech Trek Summer Camps were held in June at Stetson University in Deland and Florida Atlantic University in Jupiter. Each camp accommodated 48 girls who were entering 8th grade. Lake/Sumter AAUW funded the participation of 10 girls from Lake and Sumter Counties.



The attendees had the opportunity to participate in a variety of workshops. Both camps offered a workshop used C++ coding to make a city come alive. The girls worked in teams to connect lights, sirens and switches to control a city. The girls who attended the Stetson University camp were able to participate in workshops that pertained to Environmental Science, Marine Science, and Forensic Science. The camp at Florida Atlantic University had workshops related to Structural Engineering, Neuroscience, and Marine Biology. Many of the girls select a camp that is tailored more toward their interests.

Plan on attending the **January 23, 2027 General Meeting** to learn more about the girls' experiences at the 2026 Tech Trek Summer Camps. At this meeting, you will have the opportunity to meet some of the girls and their families.



Susan Hanson-Otis, Tech Trek Chairperson



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Wear It and Spread AAUW Awareness!!!



Stop in at **Custom Apparel** at 3451 Wedgewood Lane, The Villages, and order a shirt or jacket, etc. with our logo on it to spread awareness of our branch of AAUW. They have all kinds of clothing just waiting for our logo!

Thanks for reading this newsletter! And, thanks to all of the contributors and especially our proofreader! **I so appreciate your getting your articles to me by the day after the 2nd Tuesday of each month.**

Leslie Flanders, Newsletter Editor

AAUW Websites

Local:	LakeSumterAAUW.org
State:	aauw-fl.aauw.net
National:	aauw.org