



**American Association of University Women
Lake/Sumter Branch, Inc.
*Learn – Connect – Support***

May/June 2026

Co-Presidents' Message

Once again, we are delighted to report that the 2025–2026 year has been truly exceptional!

We have welcomed many new members and hosted countless visitors. Not only have these new members joined our organization, but several have already stepped forward to serve in leadership roles on next year's Board—a testament to their enthusiasm and commitment.



Our fundraising efforts met and exceeded expectations. The Dine to Donate program was both successful and a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and fun. Contributions to our 501(c)(3) initiatives were outstanding, thanks to the generosity of our members, many of whom donated from their personal resources. We were also grateful to receive support from supporters and groups throughout The Villages and beyond.

Our Tech Trek STEM and Scholarship programs continue to thrive, making a meaningful impact in our community. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, talents, and resources to these important efforts.

This year's General Meetings were informative, engaging, and well attended. Special thanks to our dedicated chairpersons whose hard work made each meeting a success.

In every way, this has been a remarkable and successful AAUW year. Thank you for helping make it possible! See you in September if not before!

Betty Rohan and Gay Birchard, Co-Presidents

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Newsletter Editor's Note:

While this newsletter is a bit skimpy, it is the last one of our organizational year and is a wish for a happy and safe summer for all of you. Notice the two new social opportunities on pages 5 and 6 that begin in JULY!

Our Monthly 4th Saturday Program Meetings will resume in September

at Allamanda Recreation Center

Always open to Members and Guests

Doors open for socializing at 9:30 am

Programs begin at 10:00 am

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marilyn Ettman
Sally Wickman
Joan Sprague
Jacki Wasserman
Sandee Horowitz
Jill Marrese
Pat Shub
Kay Owen

Mary Anderson and Bobbi Peterson, Membership Co-chairs



Our May Luncheon at Havana Country Club
featuring 3 of our Scholarship winners



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 Team	<i>open</i>
Tech Trek	Sue Hanson-Otis
Webmaster	Alice Watts

Your AAUW Book Club: An Invitation to All Readers

An Invitation to Read and Discuss

ALL are welcome to **JOIN** the meetings and discussions. Come when you can.



We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:30am. Watch for more specifics in our September 1st newsletter.

Katie Haviland and Kate Manion, Co-chairs

NEW OPPORTUNITIES



AAUW 3rd Monday Happy Hour at Evans Prairie CC 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!!

BEGINS on Monday, July 20th

RSVP via text or email to Elizabeth White by **July 17th** so she can reserve tables for us.

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.

NEW!! MEN's AAUW DISCOURSE GROUP

LOOKING FOR TEN MEN WHO WOULD LIKE TO FORM A DISCUSSION GROUP ON A WIDE VARIETY OF TOPICS THAT THEY WISH THEY COULD TALK ABOUT WITH OTHER MEN.

CONTACT KEITH FLANDERS TEXT/PHONE
859-321-7172

FROM BOOKS, TO CURRENT EVENTS, MENS HEALTH ISSUES, THE FUTURE, UFOs, or anything else you want to discuss with other men! This may be just the group you've been waiting for.

Mahjong



Contact Barbara Fieldman if you are interested in playing Mahjong on Wednesday afternoons. (321)663-1858 or bfieldman@gmail.com

Website Rebuild

Alice Watts is working diligently on rebuilding our website into one that is more accessible via smart phones and tablets. We are so grateful for her time and expertise she is contributing without even being a member of our branch! Stay tuned to be amazed! In the meantime, here is our regular website.

<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, or me 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
and Leslie Flanders, Fundraising**

Tech Trek

The 11 girls who were selected to attend Trek STEM camp this year in early June probably home recovering from their fantastic experiences there. Stay tuned in September for more info.



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NEWS!!!

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 you getting your articles to me **by the 20th of each month.**

Leslie Flanders, Newsletter Editor

AAUW Websites

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

