



**American Association of University Women
Lake/Sumter Branch**

**Board Meeting Minutes
2022-23**

**Lake/Sumter Branch AAUW
Board Meeting
September 13, 2022
Minutes**

Roll Call:

Executive Committee:

- *President: Anne Sobocinski
- *Co-President Elect: Joanie Schmidt
- *Co-Membership: Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard
- *Finance: Barbara Fieldman
- *Co-Secretary: Jennifer Thompson

Appointed Directors:

- *Communications: Beth Hicks
- *Public Policy: Susan Gold, Jeanie Hamilton

Operations Committees:

- *Scholarship: Kathy Mason
- *Tech Trek: Liz Schweers

Others Attending:

- Katie Haviland, Past President
- Ann Marie Lombardi, Member
- *Voting Members

Call to Order

1. Call to order on September 13, 2022, 1000 a.m. on Zoom.
2. Affirm Quorum.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the August board meeting was made by Beth Hicks and seconded by Karen Pickelsimer. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Executive Committee Reports

President Report presented by Anne Sobocinski

- Only coffee will be served at the September meeting. The board needs to locate and appoint a Hospitality Committee Chair so we can offer food at subsequent meetings this year.
- Lois Venus has resigned as Co-Director of Finance due to health reasons. The board needs to locate a volunteer to serve in this important position as soon as possible.
- The board needs to locate and appoint a Tech Team Chair.
- Board member Judith Anderson was recently injured in a fall and a get-well card has been sent from the branch.
- All board meetings for 2022/2023 will be conducted on Zoom due to budget constraints.
- The money collected from the 50/50 drawings at general meetings will be placed in the branch general fund.
- The board handbook is online and needs to be reviewed by all board members.
- Currently the branch is without a Director for Fundraising. All members are encouraged to provide ideas for fundraising opportunities until a new Director of Fundraising is identified.

Finance Report presented by Barbara Fieldman

- The 2022/2023 budget was presented. A motion to accept the budget was made by Karen Pickelsimer and seconded by Gay Birchard. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.
- Currently the funds available for the 2022/2023 budget are extremely limited. The branch will need to prioritize fundraising in the upcoming year in order to supplement the budget.

Membership Report presented by Gay Birchard

- The branch currently has 90 members who have paid their dues. 82 of the members renewed their membership and eight are lifetime members.

Standing Committee Reports

Communications Report presented by Beth Hicks

- The monthly newsletter has been redesigned to fit the new website so as to reflect the same categories and organization structure of the website.
- All branch materials now have the national branding logos, fonts and colors.

Operations Committee Reports

Newsletter Report presented by Beth Hicks

- Members were reminded information for the newsletter should be submitted by the 20th of each month.
- Linda Carpenter needs current information to post on the branch website, as it is constantly being updated.

Scholarship Report presented by Kathy Mason

- The branch is currently supporting a total of five students with scholarships.
- Money had been designated for a sixth student, but she has not responded to calls and has not received any funds from the branch for the current semester.

Tech Trek Report presented by Liz Schweers

- The Tech Trek Committee has four members and hopes to add more members after the September general meeting.
- State AAUW has provided a timeline for the branch committee to follow.
- The committee plans to brainstorm at the September General Meeting and plans to meet at Leslie Flanders' home to assign tasks.

Angel Book Report presented by Liz Schweers

- The Board of Directors of Tutors4Kids has voted NOT to distribute books to students in the Florida public schools at this time.

Announcements and Discussions

- Ann Marie Lombardi discussed the recent advertising campaign in the Daily Sun. There has been an 83% increase in traffic to the branch website with an average time of seven minutes spent on the membership section of the website. Cost per ad is \$150.
- A membership drive event is scheduled for March 8, 2023, at Waterlily Recreation Center in the southern section of The Villages. The event goal is to have 50 women attend (25 who heard of the event via the ad campaign and 25 from contacts with AAUW members) resulting in 15 new members.
- Beginning with the September General Meeting, gift bags will be provided to guests in order to share information about our branch.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Jeannie Hamilton and seconded by Gay Birchard at 11:30 a.m. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted on September 20, 2022

Jennifer Thompson

Secretary Lake Sumter Florida Branch AAUW

**Lake/Sumter Branch AAUW
Board Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2022**

Roll Call:

Executive Committee:

- *President: Anne Sobocinski
- *Co-President Elect: Joanie Schmidt
- *Co-Director of Programs: Carolyn Pasquale
- *Co-Membership: Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard
- *Co-Finance: Barbara Fieldman, Debbie Gately
- *Co-Secretary: Jennifer Thompson

Appointed Directors:

- *Communications: Beth Hicks
- *Public Policy: Susan Gold

Operations Committees:

- *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion: Jacquie Latzer
- *Scholarship: Kathy Mason

Others Attending:

- Katie Haviland, Past President
- *Voting Members

Call to Order

1. Call to order on October 4, 2022, 10:04 a.m. on Zoom.
2. Affirm Quorum.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the August board meeting was made by Beth Hicks and seconded by Carolyn Pasquale. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Executive Committee Reports

President Report presented by Anne Sobocinski

- The State AAUW Board has asked for volunteers from our branch to serve on the state board. A list of members available and willing to serve will be sent to State AAUW.
- Motion to approve Debbie Gately as Co-Director of Finance was made by Barbara Fieldman and seconded by Gay Birchard. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.
- Money earned from the Adopt-A-Precinct Program has been deposited into the AAUW State Fund for Tech Trek.

Programs Report by Carolyn Pasquale, Co-Program Director

- The General Meeting was held on September 17, 2022. The theme of the program was “You can be an active member.” Members had an opportunity see displays from Social and Learning Committees of our chapter. Members then chose a committee to work with in a brainstorming session to form ideas to be considered by the committees in the future. Several ideas were then shared with the entire group. A list of these ideas are available for viewing via Drop Box.
- The October 15, 2022, General Meeting will be “Learning in your own backyard!” There will be two presenters. (1) Andrea Brooks, South Lake Campus, Assistant Director of Admissions, Lake Sumter State College will share the history and overview of the college which offers bachelor’s and associate degrees, as well as programs for grade school and high school students. (2) Beth Hicks, past President of the local Tri-County League of Women Voters and an AAUW member will discuss constitutional amendments for the state of Florida that will be on the November ballot.

Finance Report presented by Barbara Fieldman

- The Annual Financial Report has been completed.
- The Branch Treasurer Report from September 1, 2022, to September 30, 2022, is as follows:
 - General Fund Balance: \$6,893.91
 - Two zoom licenses were paid this month costing \$299.80
 - Deposits: \$1175.90, Payments: \$882.70
 - \$418.00 was received from National AAUW for dues from 22 members
 - Current Reserve Fund Balance: \$14,315 (all scholarships have been paid for the year)

Membership Report presented by Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard

- The branch currently has 91 members who have paid their dues.
- An attempt has been made to contact the 36 members who have not paid their dues this year. Five of the members said they would be renewing, seven said they do not plan to renew and 24 were left voice messages asking them to renew their membership.

Standing Committee Reports

Communications Report presented by Beth Hicks

- The The Villages Newcomers Guide, distributed this week to all homeowners, featured the AAUW Club Connections ad.
- Six-panel business cards are currently being printed and will be available to distribute to members at the October General Meeting.

Operations Committee Reports

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion presented by Jacquie Latzer

- Jacquie Latzer requested the board consider making the Chair of Diversity Committee a permanent voting board member.
- Motion to table this discussion was made by Barbara Fieldman and seconded by Karen Pickelsimer. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Newsletter Report presented by Beth Hicks

- Members were reminded information for the newsletter should be submitted by the 20th of each month.
- Linda Carpenter needs current information to post on the branch website, as it is constantly being updated.

Scholarship Report presented by Kathy Mason

- Two or three of the scholarship students will be present at the October General Meeting.
- The jewelry raffle ticket sales will begin at the October General Meeting and money collected from the tickets will be given directly to the Finance Director.

Announcements and Discussions

- Anne Sobocinski led a discussion regarding the need to increase our membership, increase participation by current members and increase funds available for scholarships and Tech Trek. She requested three or more board members volunteer to serve on a committee to assess the situation and report their findings at a general meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the October board meeting was made by Karen Pickelsimer and seconded by Beth Hicks. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

**Lake/Sumter Branch AAUW
Board Meeting
November 1, 2022
Minutes**

Roll Call

Executive Committee:

- *President: Anne Sobocinski
- *Co-President Elect: Helen Gozdanovic
- *Co-Director of Programs: Carolyn Pasquale
- *Co-Membership: Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard
- *Co-Finance: Barbara Fieldman, Debbie Gately
- *Co-Secretary: Jennifer Thompson

Appointed Directors:

- *Communications: Beth Hicks
- *Public Policy: Susan Gold, Jeannie Hamilton

Operations Committees:

- *Scholarship: Kathy Mason

Others Attending:

Katie Haviland, Past President
Espí Walmsley, member

*Voting Members

Call to Order

1. Call to order on November 1, 2022, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom.
2. Affirm Quorum.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the August board meeting was made by Beth Hicks and seconded by Helen Gozdanovic. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Executive Committee Reports

President Report presented by Anne Sobocinski

- The general meeting held in October was a success. Thank you to Carolyn Pasquale and Bonnie Weaver.
- The Pampered Chef fund raiser was a success. The amount of money raised has not yet been determined.
- Members of the 2023 Nominating Committee are Katie Haviland, Diane Star and Helen Gozdanovic. Motion to approve these members to the Nominating Committee

was made by Barbara Fieldman and seconded by Karen Pickelsimer. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Program Report presented by Carolyn Pasquale

- The General Meeting will be November 19. The program is entitled “Scams and Scares: Protecting yourself financially and emotionally.” A panel discussion will be lead by Nicole Palacios, Financial Administrator from Edward Jones, and Charles Kantor, representative from Seniors vs. Crime. The discussion will include scams by phone, mail, internet, email and ways to make solid financial decisions.

Finance Report presented by Barbara Fieldman and Debbie Gately

- Bank Account Balances: General \$7,383.20, Reserves \$14,315.00
- There was a \$7.50 service charge in the prior statement period. This will be resolved within the month, since we should not have services charges on our account.
- Two renewals of dues have been processed and deposited for Karen Heinen and Elizabeth Rohan.
- Two new member dues have been received but not deposited for Gretchen Sholar and Carole Taylor.
- Scholarship Money deposited in October: \$200.00
- Money deposited from 50/50 at October General meeting: \$60.00
- Projected Future Expenses: Room Rental (\$400), Ann Marie Lombardi (Business Cards: Designer & Printing Costs), Brochure Costs. AHT Insurance-General Liability Insurance for January 1, 2023-2024 with an annual premium of \$200.00.
- Please note the Annual Renewal Registration for Solicitation of Contributions Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is due by 11/18/2022.

Membership Report presented by Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard

- Two new members joined in October 2022. The current membership now totals 97.
- Karen clarified the policy on the AAUW National website which states student members who are enrolled full-time in a College or University for an Undergraduate or Graduate Degree are allowed a free annual membership. Students who are not enrolled full-time pay a \$18.81 fee for annual dues.

Operations Committee Reports

Newsletter Report presented by Beth Hicks

- Members were reminded information for the newsletter should be submitted by the 20th of each month.
- The January newsletter will be released later due to the holidays. It will be available on the website around January 9 -10, 2023.
- December 31, 2022, will be the deadline for information for the January newsletter.
- Linda Carpenter needs current information to post on the branch website, as it is constantly being updated.

Scholarship Report presented by Kathy Mason

- The jewelry raffle ticket sales are continuing and will be available at the November general meeting. Currently 18 members have purchased tickets totaling \$1,200.
- One of our five students on scholarship this year will be receiving scholarship funds for next year.

Announcements and Discussions

- The board verbally agreed to sell raffle tickets for a quilt donated by member Joan Knick for the scholarship fund. Agreement about price (\$10/ticket) and timing were reached following a discussion led by Carolyn Pasquale. The need to avoid impacting the jewelry raffle in February for the College Scholarship was discussed. Carolyn offered several ideas for how to sell tickets, suggesting each member be asked to buy one ticket at a cost of \$10 to raise \$1000. The board left final details of printing tickets for the quilt raffle to Carolyn.
- The board has decided to host a “Farewell to the Card” Mah Jong fundraiser on March 22, 2023. The cost will be \$25 per person and will be in the card room at Allamanda from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. The board asked members to volunteer to set-up and serve snacks or purchase tables costing \$100 to play with friends who are residents of The Villages.
- Katie has agreed to work with Debbie Gately and Barbara Fieldman on establishing Lake Sumter AAUW as a 501-3(C) organization. Currently we are a 501-3 (B).

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the November board meeting was made by Barbara Fieldman and seconded by Jeannie Hamilton. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted on November 12, 2022
Jennifer Thompson
Secretary Lake Sumter Florida Branch AAUW

**Lake/Sumter Branch AAUW
Board Meeting
December 6, 2022
Minutes**

Roll Call

Executive Committee:

- *President: Anne Sobocinski
- *President Elect: Helen Gozdanovic
- *Co-Director of Programs: Carolyn Pasquale
- *Co-Membership: Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard
- *Co-Finance: Barbara Fieldman, Debbie Gately
- *Co-Secretary: Jennifer Thompson

Appointed Directors:

- *Public Policy: Susan Gold, Jeannie Hamilton

Operations Committees:

- Tech Trek: Liz Schweers
- Tech Team: Linda Carpenter
- DEI: Jacquie Latzer

Call to Order

1. Call to order on December 6, 2022, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom.
2. Affirm Quorum.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the November board meeting was made by Carolyn Pasquale and seconded by Karen Pickelsimer. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Executive Committee Reports

President Report presented by Anne Sobocinski

- The general meeting held in November was a success. Thank you to Carolyn Pasquale and Bonnie Weaver.
- Reminder to all, the General meeting starts at 10:00 am and the block of time available at Allamanda Recreation Center is limited. Recommend a discussion at future board meetings regarding a change in the starting time of the general meeting for 2023-2024.
- All board members are encouraged to read the December report submitted by Ann Marie Lombardi regarding the new AAUW literature, the upcoming membership drive and the ongoing development of a relationship with Lake Sumter State College. The report is in the AAUW December Dropbox file.
- The nominating committee is working hard to fill the vacancies on the board. Specifically, a Co-President is needed to serve with Helen Gozdanovic.

- Next year will be the 25th anniversary of the Lake-Sumter AAUW branch. Discussion should begin regarding how we celebrate this milestone, possibly through a fundraiser or a celebration to include alumni members.

Program Report presented by Carolyn Pasquale

- The holiday luncheon has 41 paid participants so far. Piano music will be provided during the luncheon. A short business meeting will be conducted in order to vote on changes to the by-laws. The restaurant will not be able to provide a microphone. There will be a raffle held for the quilt fundraiser and a donated gift.
- The program for the January 2023 General Meeting will be about Tech Trek and will be facilitated by Liz Schweers and will include interaction with last year's Tech Trek participants and their families.

Finance Report presented by Barbara Fieldman and Debbie Gately

- Bank Account Balances: General \$8,912.40, Reserves \$14,315.00
- Deposits from the November General Meeting are: Jewelry Raffle \$1,580.00, Quilt Raffle \$125.00, Pampered Chef \$ 70.00, 50/50 \$60.00, Holiday Lunch \$1,020.00
- New member dues paid by: Gretchen Sholar, Carole J Taylor
- Renewal dues paid by: Karen Heinen, Elizabeth Rohan, Eileen Gagon
- Florida Department of State was paid \$87.50 for 501(c)3.
- Upcoming expenses: \$75.00 security deposit with the room rental contract. Projector equipment is used as necessary which has totaled \$85.20 to date. The balance due at this time is \$10.20.
- For future discussion: Does the AAUW Board want to add a screen and projector to the monthly bill and call in if we don't use these items, or do we wish to leave the rental contract as it is and honor the additional payment if a screen and projector is needed. Another possibility, we can buy our own screen and projector for the 2023-2024.
- As of December 5, 2022, we are incorporated in the State of Florida as Lake Sumter AAUW, Inc. Note there is no hyphen in our name for the purpose of the application. The incorporation takes effect on January 1, 2023. We have also received a new tax Identification number (EIN#) to use in our application for a 1020Z tax number with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Starting in 2024 we will need to file our financial reports with the IRS in January and June of each year to maintain our status.
- The branch is getting closer to obtaining 501(c)3 status.

Membership Report presented by Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard

- The total membership as of December 5, 2022, is 100, this number does not include five student members and two state members.
- Current student members are Hannah Davis, Shelby Mulholland, Jordan Threlfall, Jacklyn Lee and Amanda Cyr. Nitka Goodson will finish her scholarship this spring and will not be renewed for a student membership for 2023.

- All of the 22 members who have chosen not to renew their memberships have been contacted personally to obtain feedback regarding their decision not to renew. Most have not renewed due to logistics such as moving, health and lifestyle changes.

Operations Committee Reports

Tech Trek presented by Liz Schweers

- Special seating at the front of the room is requested for the girls and their families at the General meeting in January.
- It is the intention of the branch to sponsor four girls for 2023 Tech Trek. It has been difficult getting participation by faculty in Lake County. All faculty nominations of students must be submitted online by December 15th. The Tech Trek committee will have until January 15, 2023, to assist with applications.
- Currently the Tech Trek program has money collected from the Adopt-a-Precinct Program (amount unknown at this time) and a \$500 member donation to pay for the \$1,100 tuition for each girl attending Tech Trek 2023.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), presented by Linda Carpenter

- There are nine members of the DEI committee: Terri Slotterback, Cynthia Snavelly, Carolyn Olsen, Diane Starr, Dorothy Dobbs, Judy Reinhardt, Espi Walmsley, Linda Carpenter, and the chairwomen of DEI, Jacquie Latzer.
- Jacquie Latzer has requested 10 minutes at the February, March and April general meetings to highlight DEI issues. The theme of these 10-minute discussions will be the Past, Present and Future of DEI. It is the hope of the committee to bring about healing and to discuss more positive aspects of DEI topics.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the December board meeting was made by Karen Pickelsimer and seconded by Helen Gozdanovic. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted on December 9, 2022

Jennifer Thompson

Secretary Lake Sumter Florida Branch AAUW

**Lake/Sumter Branch AAUW
Board Meeting
January 3, 2023
Minutes**

Roll Call

Executive Committee:

- *President: Anne Sobocinski
- *President Elect: Helen Gozdanovic
- *Co-Membership: Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard
- *Co-Secretary: Jennifer Thompson

Appointed Directors:

- *Public Policy: Susan Gold, Jeannie Hamilton
- *Communications: Beth Hicks

Operations Committees:

- Tech Trek: Liz Schweers
- By-Laws: Judy Reinhardt (DEI committee representative)
- Great Decisions: Christine Loken-Kim

Members Attending:

- Past President: Katie Haviland
- Ann Marie Lombardi

Call to Order

1. Call to order on January 3, 2023, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom.
2. Affirm Quorum.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the December board meeting was made by Beth Hicks and seconded by Jeannie Hamilton. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Executive Committee Reports

President Report presented by Anne Sobocinski

- As of December 6, 2022, Lake Sumter AAUW is a 501(c)3 organization. Special thanks to Barbara Feldman, Tweet Coleman, Dave and Katie Haviland for all their hard work on this project.

Membership Report presented by Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard

- The total membership is 100 paid members, this number does not include five student members and two state members.

Standing Committee Reports

Communications Report presented by Beth Hicks

- The deadline for next month's newsletter is January 20th.
- Beth request time at the January General Meeting to announce the next fundraiser, "Farewell to the old card" a Mahjong fundraiser being held on March 22, 2023 at Allamanda Recreation Center. All proceeds from the event will go toward the scholarship fund. There will be a total of 17 tables of four people. The cost to play will be \$25 per person.

Operations Committee Reports

Tech Trek presented by Liz Schweers

- Five campers from 2022 Tech Trek will be recognized at the January General Meeting. Two of the campers have developed short video presentations they will show at the meeting. The other three campers will speak briefly about their camp experience. The campers will be presented with an AAUW mug and hot chocolate. Volunteers from the Tech Trek committee will serve as hostesses for the girls and their families. The Villages Sun newspaper has been contacted to have a reporter present; no firm response from the newspaper at present. Both Lake and Sumter County School superintendents were invited to attend but declined. The county STEM coordinators have also been invited. There has been no response from Lake County and Sumter County STEM coordinator may attend.
- According to the State AAUW office, we have 19 applications submitted from Lake and Sumter County on the State AAUW Tech Trek website.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), presented by Judy Reinhardt

- The February General meeting topic will be "American Stories: Race Amity and Other Traditions." This topic will be discussed along with a PBS video which highlights some of the positive stories of integration in American society.

Discussion

- Katie Haviland stated the general membership will need to vote on changes to our by-laws to accommodate language for the 501(c)3 status. These changes are currently under review and need approval by State AAUW. Once approved by State AAUW, the vote can be put to the membership.
- A donation letter will be created to give to donors for tax deductible contributions. All donations made after December 6, 2022, are tax deductible.
- A Podium sign is in production and will be displayed at the January General meeting. It will look similar to the front of the new brochures.
- Ann Marie Lombardi discussed the Membership Recruitment Drive being held March 8, 2023, at Water Lily Recreation Center. The budget proposal for the event has been submitted and updated on Dropbox.

- There will be advertising in the Daily Sun for a one-week ad run on February 28, March 2, 3 and 4. These ads (known as Fab 4) will be 3.5 x. 4.5 black/white and will appear in the Lifestyle section. Requested “above the fold” placements. The ads will promote the open house with a link to the website to register.
- Ann Marie Lombardi introduced a member incentive program entitled “Who’s Your Plus One?” This is a program to encourage members to get qualified acquaintances registered to attend the open house. The member that gets the most registered acquaintances will receive a \$100 Visa gift card. Another \$100 Visa gift card will be given to the member that turns the most acquaintance registrations into paid memberships at the event. The \$200 for the gift cards are being donated by Ann Marie’s husband.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the January board meeting was made by Helen Gozdanovic and seconded by Gay Birchard. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted on January 16, 2023
Jennifer Thompson
Secretary Lake Sumter Branch AAUW

**Lake/Sumter Branch AAUW
Board Meeting
February 7, 2023
Minutes**

Roll Call

Executive Committee:

- *President: Anne Sobocinski
- *President Elect: Helen Gozdanovic
- *Co-Membership: Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard
- *Co-Director of Programs: Carolyn Pasquale
- *Co-Finance: Barbara Fieldman, Debbie Gately
- *Co-Secretary: Jennifer Thompson

Operations Committees:

- Tech Trek: Liz Schweers
- By-Laws: Diane Reichert
- Scholarship: Kathy Mason
- DEI: Diane Starr

Members Attending:

- Past President: Katie Haviland (Nominating Committee)
- Ann Marie Lombardi

Call to Order

1. Call to order on February 7, 2023 10:00 a.m. on Zoom.
2. Affirm Quorum.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the January board meeting was made by Gay Birchard and seconded by Karen Pickelsimer. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Executive Committee Reports

President Report presented by Anne Sobocinski

- Barbara Fisler has agreed to be Co-President Elect with Helen Gozdanovic beginning immediately. Motion to approve Barbara Fisler as a nominee for Co-President Elect made by Gay Birchard and seconded by Carolyn Pasquale. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote. This announcement will be made at the February general meeting and will be put to a vote at the March general meeting.
- Beth Hicks request time at the February general meeting to promote the fundraiser, "Farewell to the old card" a Mahjong fundraiser being held on March 22, 2023, at Allamanda Recreation Center. All proceeds from the event will go toward the scholarship fund. There will be a total of 17 tables of four people. The cost to play will be \$25 per person. Currently only three tables have been reserved.

- The general meeting on the 3rd Saturday of the month conflicts with other club meetings for many of our members. A discussion and possible vote is recommended at the March board meeting to change the week of the general meeting for the upcoming year. Carolyn Pasquale has agreed to check with The Villages regarding room availability for a different week than what is currently reserved for the meeting.
- Several Florida AAUW chapters are using grant money from AAUW National to fund special guest speakers for community education outreach.
- AAUW National is providing stipends to help cover the cost of food and lodging at Lobby Days in Tallahassee, FL.

Membership Report presented by Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard

- The “Shape the Future” membership campaign ends on March 16, 2023. This campaign provides a discount on dues to new members joining before the March 16 deadline.

Program Report presented by Carolyn Pasquale

- A member of our branch has offered to match donations received up to \$2,000.

Operations Committee Reports

Tech Trek presented by Liz Schweers

- Generous donations totaling \$2,500 were made at the January general meeting to the Tech Trek Program. This consisted of two individual donations and one large donation of \$2,200 from “All One Family, Inc.”
- The Tech Trek committee will begin later this month interviewing 17 students for Tech Trek 2023. The prospective campers are from the following schools: four students from Wildwood Middle, four from The Villages Charter School, five from Umatilla Middle and four from South Sumter Middle.
- Marge McQueston, an interview committee member, will not be able to participate due to health issues. If anyone would like to be part of the interviewing team, please contact Liz Schweers.
- National AAUW has removed the vaccine mandate for summer camp; however, every camper and staff member must pass a Covid test upon arrival at camp.
- One of our 2022 Tech Trek campers, Abby Lacayo has been invited by her physician to attend a summer camp for future doctors with a cost of \$1,600. One of our members, RaeAnn Bethel is contacting several clubs in The Villages to see if they will be willing to help underwrite part of the cost.

Scholarship Report presented by Kathy Mason

- The jewelry raffle ticket sales are continuing and will be available at the February general meeting. The drawing for the raffle will be conducted at the end of the meeting. Currently \$2400 has been collected for ticket sales.
- One of our five students on scholarship this year will be receiving scholarship funds for next year. Applications for scholarships will be collected in March and April.

- The board will decide the number and amount of the scholarships for the 2023-2024 year after the scholarship applications have been received.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) presented by Diane Starr

- The February general meeting topic will be “American Stories: Race Amity and Other Traditions.” This topic will be discussed along with a PBS video which highlights some of the positive stories of integration in American society.
- The DEI committee would like to have a few minutes at the March general meeting for a follow-up discussion.

Discussion

- Ann Marie Lombardi announced the decision to postpone the March 8 Open House due to low registration numbers and volunteer participation.
- Gay Birchard and Helen Gozdanovic volunteered to go to the Water Lily Recreation Center on March 8 to meet any guest who may not have been notified of the postponement.
- The Nominating committee will present the slate of 2024 proposed officers to the board for approval at the March board meeting and present to the members at the March general meeting. The vote for the new board will take place at the April general meeting.
- The repositioning of the By-Laws insertion will be sent to the members in an e-mail and will be put to a vote at the February general meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the February board meeting was made by Carolyn Pasquale and seconded by Barbara Fieldman. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted on February 12, 2023
Jennifer Thompson
Secretary Lake/Sumter Branch AAUW

**Lake/Sumter Branch AAUW
Board Meeting
March 7, 2023
Minutes**

Roll Call

Executive Committee:

- *President Elect: Helen Gozdanovic
- *Co-Finance: Barbara Fieldman
- *Co-Membership: Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard
- *Co-Director of Programs: Carolyn Pasquale
- *Co-Finance: Barbara Fieldman, Debbie Gately
- *Co-Secretary: Jennifer Thompson

Appointed Directors:

- *Public Policy: Susan Gold
- *Communications: Beth Hicks

Operations Committees:

- Tech Trek: Liz Schweers
- By-Laws: Diane Reichert

Members Attending:

- Past President: Katie Haviland (Nominating Committee)
- Dee Sherman
- Terry Slotterback
- Leslie Flanders

- *Voting members

Call to Order

1. Call to order on March 7, 2023, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom.
2. Affirm Quorum.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the February board meeting was made by Carolyn Pasquale and seconded by Barbara Fieldman. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Executive Committee Reports

Finance Report presented by Barbara Fieldman

- Bank account balances: Reserves \$16,815.00, Debits: (Paid Expenses) \$0.00, Credits: (\$ 100.00), General Fund balance is \$7,178.82.
- Total deposits to date from jewelry raffle, February 50/50 and new member dues is \$3,250.00.

- Payment of dues have been processed for two new members: Fern Gleason, Jo Anne Fillwock
- Expecting final approval by the end of week for the 501-3-C State of Florida application.

Program Report presented by Carolyn Pasquale

- A member of our branch has offered to match donations received up to \$2,000 to the scholarship fund. This matching donation program will begin Fall 2023.
- The March meeting will celebrate women's history month. The program will follow the yearly theme of "learning of self, learning of others, and learning of our world."
- The program participants are Esperanza (Espí) Walmsley, an accountant; Jan Barone, an attorney; and Captain Amanda Stevenson, Captain of Fire Safety for the Leesburg Fire Department.

Membership Report presented by Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard

- There has been a review of the membership list. Three members are listed as having paid dues this year but are not on the Lake Sumter AAUW Roster. Coordination with State AAUW and our finance director will resolve this disparity.

Standing Committee Reports

Public Policy Report presented by Susan Gold

- This newsletter this month encourages all members to become a "2-minute activist" and contact their elected officials.

Communications Report presented by Beth Hicks

- "Farewell to the old card" a Mahjongg fundraiser is being held on March 22, 2023 at Allamanda Recreation Center. All proceeds from the event will go toward the scholarship fund. The cost to play will be \$25 per person. The fundraiser will be held regardless of the number of participants.

Operations Committee Reports

Tech Trek presented by Liz Schweers and

- The Tech Trek committee has nominated six girls from four local middle schools (Wildwood, South Sumter, The Villages Charter School and Umatilla) to the State AAUW Tech Trek summer camp. Currently waiting to hear if all six will be accepted to summer camp.
- Lake Sumter AAUW Tech Trek account has \$9,100 in funds and the camp for six girls will cost \$6,600. This will leave \$2,500 in funds for 2024 Tech Trek.
- Liz Schweers will be speaking at the Evening Rotary Club in The Villages this month to discuss the importance of the Tech Trek summer camp and the need for donations to the program.

Bylaws presented by Diane Reichert

- The repositioning of the bylaw's insertion will be sent to the members in an e-mail and will be put to a vote at the March general meeting.
- Motion to present the bylaws change to the general membership at the March meeting was made by Gay Birchard and seconded by Beth Hicks. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.
- All board members will be required to sign a "Conflict of Interest" form with the start of the new fiscal year in July 2023.

Discussion

- The general meeting on the 3rd Saturday of the month conflicts with other club meetings for many of our members. A discussion and possible vote is recommended to change the week of the general meeting for the upcoming year. Gay Birchard, Karen Pickelsimer and Barbara Fieldman have formed a committee to discuss and recommend changing the meeting time or day for 2024. The committee will have information to share at the April board meeting.
- Gay Birchard and Helen Gozdanovic volunteered to go to the Water Lily Recreation Center on March 8 to meet any guest who may not have been notified of the postponement of the open house event.
- Katie Haviland, on behalf of the Nominating committee, presented the slate of 2024 proposed officers. The vote for the new board will take place at the April general meeting. Executive committee board candidates for 2023-2024 are: President Elect: Jennifer Thompson and Irma Mottley; Co-Secretary: Dee Sherman and Gay Birchard; Co-Program: Kathy Howe and Cynthia Snavely; Co-Membership: Leslie Flanders and Terry Slotterback.
- Motion to host a casino night fundraiser in Spring 2024 was made by Beth Hicks and seconded by Gay Birchard. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.
- Gay Birchard stated we should consider three options for fundraising: (1) Encourage other clubs to donate and sponsor an individual camper or scholarship student. (2) Encourage members to combine their donations to sponsor an individual camper or scholarship student. (3) Encourage our members to use their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from retirement accounts to support Lake Sumter AAUW programs.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the March board meeting was made by Karen Pickelsimer and seconded by Carolyn Pasquale. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted on March 14, 2023

Jennifer Thompson

Secretary Lake Sumter Branch AAUW

**Lake/Sumter AAUW
Board Meeting
April 5, 2023
Minutes**

Attending on Zoom: Anne Sobocinski, President; Gay Birchard, acting Secretary; Karen Pickelsimer, Membership; Debbie Gatey and Barb Fieldman, Finance; Helen Gozdanovic, President Elect; Susan Gold, Katie Haviland, Beth Hicks, Kathy Mason, Terry Slotterback, Linda Carpenter, Jacquie, and Irma Mottley.

The March Board Meeting minutes were approved by Karen and seconded by Beth.

Finance Report: Debbie Gately

Reserves: \$18,040.00. Future money for Scholarships and Teck Trek.

General Fund: \$7,494.38

Six new members

A new member: Susan Hanson will help Debbie and Barb with Finance

Beth Hicks reported we made \$1.250 on the Mahjong Fund raiser

New Business:

Katie Haviland reported: Our Official Name will be: The American Association of University Women Lake/Sumter Branch, INC.

Starting with the new officers: they all must sign a conflict of interest form.

Beth Hick reminded we need to form a committee to write up receipts and thank you notes for donations made under the 501c3.

Karen Pickelsimer reported we have 105 members.

She wants to know what part on our dues can be deducted under the 501c3.

Kathy Mason asked about how much money can be used for Scholarships. A long discussion followed. Anne will meet with Helen, Debbie and Kathy will meet before the May meeting to give Kathy an amount of money for Scholarships.

New Board Members for Voting on in April Meeting:

Co President Elect: Jennifer Thompson and Irma Mottley

Co Secretary Elect: Dee Sherman and Gay Birchard

Co Program Elect: Kathy Howe and Cynthia Snavelly

Co Membership: Leslie Flanders and Terry Slotterbeck

Adjorned: Beth Hicks moved and Helen seconded

**Lake Sumter Florida Branch AAUW
Board Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2023**

Roll Call

Executive Committee:

- *President: Anne Sobocinski
- *President Elect: Helen Gozdanovic
- *Finance: Barbara Fieldman
- *Co-Membership: Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard
- *Co-Director of Programs: Carolyn Pasquale, Bonnie Weaver
- *Secretary: Jennifer Thompson

Appointed Directors:

- *Public Policy: Susan Gold

Members Attending:

Past President: Katie Haviland
Terry Slotterback
Irma Motley
Kathy Howe

- *Voting members

Call to Order

1. Call to order on May 2, 2023 10:00 a.m. on Zoom.
2. Affirm Quorum.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the April board meeting was made by Susan Gold and seconded by Carolyn Pasquale. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Executive Committee Reports

President's Report presented by Anne Sobocinski

- Linda Carpenter would like to post the strategic plan for our branch on the website for members to view. Motion to post the strategic plan on the website was made by Carolyn Pasquale and seconded by Helen Gozdanovic. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.
- All outgoing committee members are asked to meet with their successors to pass any information or helpful hints for the upcoming year.
- The Casino Night Fundraiser scheduled for March 2024 has been cancelled. At this time there are no plans to reschedule the event.
- The last board meeting of the year will be held June 6 on Zoom. All board and committee members are expected to attend to set the budget for the following year.

- Kathy Mason with the scholarship committee has asked the board to decide the amount of funds available for scholarships in the Fall of 2023. Motion to allocate \$5,000 for funds in 2023 and \$5000 held in reserve for 2024 was made by Barbara Fieldman and seconded by Gay Birchard. The motion was discussed at length by all members. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Finance Report presented by Barbara Fieldman

- Bank Account Balances: Reserves \$21,265. \$7,335 is currently allocated and there is a remaining balance of \$13,930 at this time.

Membership Report presented by Karen Pickelsimer, Gay Birchard

- We currently have 113 members on the Lake/Sumter AAUW roster.
- Of the \$103 paid in dues by member, \$72 is sent to National AAUW, \$12 is sent to Florida AAUW and \$19 stays with the Lake/Sumter AAUW Branch.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the May board meeting was made by Helen Gozdanovic and seconded by Jennifer Thompson. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted on May 10, 2023

Jennifer Thompson

Secretary Lake Sumter Florida Branch AAUW