

AAUW LAKE/SUMTER  
Board Meeting  
August 25, 2015

Judy Bonn, co-president, opened the meeting at 9:30 AM. She stated that the purpose of this non-regular Board meeting is to agree on changes to the proposed 2015-2016 budget for STEM and Tech Trek.

Barbara Fisler passed out copies of the budget and explained that it is hard to draw a line between the fiscal year that starts on July 1 and the preceding fiscal year because of ongoing activities related to membership. The Board reached agreement as follows:

1. We will increase our donation to State for Tech Trek from \$900 to \$1500.
2. We will increase the number of local schools that we contract about STEM awards to the most improved 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls from 4 to 6.

We will also raise the amount of scholarship money that we award to each recipient (a woman who has completed her first 2 years of undergraduate work at Lake Sumter College or Beacon College). The new annual stipend is \$1,500.

Our financial state can accommodate these changes. Barbara will deliver the amended budget before our next regularly scheduled Board meeting on September 1.

Attendance: Judy Bonn, Linda Carpenter, Cathy Cirocco, Julee DeLaRosa, Barbara Fisler, Beverly Grappy, Diane Jacobson, Margaret Kaufman, Carmel Leese, Diane E Reichert, Ginny Rivera, Liz Schweers, Rosella Todd Valentine, Anna Whipple

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Rivera

AAUW Lake/Sumter  
Board Meeting  
September 1, 2015

**Attendance:** Judy Bonn, Co-President, Barbara Jones, Co-President, Cathy Cirocco, Ginny Rivera, Ann Wilkins, Mary Ann Swisher, Julie DeLaRosa, Diane Geach, Liz Schweers, Linda Carpenter, Barbara Fisler, Diane Reichert, Carmel Leese, JoAnn Kelch, Frankie Smith, Margaret Kaufman, Beverly Grappy, Diane Jacobson, Rosemary Scarfia

**Welcome, Call to Order**

**Approval of Minutes of the August 4 Board Meeting.** The August 4 Board minutes were approved as amended and read, by motion.

**Finance Directors' Report** Barbara Fisler delivered the report as of September 1, 2015

Balance May 13, 2015	\$17,148.14
Income	6,371.33
Expenses	11,904.78
Balance September 1, 2015	\$11,614.69

AAUW Reserve Funds as of September 2015      \$ 6,700.00

**Membership Report** Diane Jacobson reported that we had 130 members. All are included in the booklet which are being distributed at the general meetings. The new member coffee will be October 17. The summer coffees were very successful and ended in August.

**Program Report** Barbara Jones presented the information in the absence of the co-chairs. The venue is secured at the Leesburg library and 60 members have accepted for the luncheon which will be at Beacon college. There will be a brief report from the officers, new members will be welcomed and the scholarship recipients will speak. Steve Mueller from Beacon College will speak briefly about their program and escort us to the site of the luncheon.

**Co Pres. Elect (Neighborhood Coffees)** Julee DeLaRosa announced they are in the process of setting up a schedule for the neighborhood coffee. More news will follow.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**AAUW Funds** No reported

**Angel Book Drive** Books will be collected October thru December. The age targated is 5 to 10 years of age and the books must be new. Books can be dropped off at the general meetings. All were encouraged to support this endeavor.

**College/University Partner Relations** Frankie Smith reported that the jewelry donation frm Gold-in-Art is the fund raiser for the scholarship fund. We are hopeful that many members will take a package of 10 tickets to sell or buy to raise money. Local scholarships will again go to LLSW and Beacon College. Receipts of these scholarships have reported on their current status and successes. Beacon College is in need of volunteers to work with students. These volunteers will be trained by Beacon

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college.

**Communications/Publicity** JoAnn Kelch reported information on the meetings has been submitted to Village News.

**Data Base Manager** Carmel Leese stated that the neighborhood list is up to date. Members were encouraged to update their list as new members are listed.

**Email Distribution** Linda Carpenter stated that the email distribution list is up to date with 130 members.

**Fundraiser** Barbara Jones reported on the status of the program. We are still seeking a chair for this program, although planning continues. Diane Jacobson and Barbara Fisler will do ticket sales. Hopefully additional members will assist with this program. Rental for the Savannah Center is \$537.50 and we could not use the Village Box Office for ticket sales. Tickets will go on sale in January.

**Hospitality** Liz Schweers is seeking some new members to serve on this committee. It was discussed that light snacks will be provided at general meetings.

**Members Handbook** Linda Carpenter stated that the handbooks would be distributed at the meetings.

**Name Tags** Cathy Cirocco is looking for additional members for her committee.

**Newsletter** Linda Carpenter reported for Theresa Jevelle. The deadline for articles is Friday, September 25.

**Public Policy** Barbara Jones reported the news from National concerning the legislature about Human Trafficking. We do not have a chair for this committee and Barbara asked for a volunteer.

**TechTrek/STEM** Cathy Cirocco reported that 3 students will be present at the next meeting to talk about their experience. A flyer has been produced for distribution on the combined program. Principals have been contacted in the Middle Schools as well as the teachers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. In the Tech Trek program, campers pay the \$50 application fee, all other expenses are paid by AAUW.

**Web Master** Diane Reichert is looking for someone to help her.

## INTERST GROUPS

**Bridge Monday Group** MaryAnn Swisher stated no change in program. 2<sup>Nd</sup> and 4 Monday open to new members.

**Bridge Thursday Group** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, closed to new members.

**Conversational Mah Jongg** Ann Schlick, no change in the program, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday

**Dine Around/Finger Food and Fun** Needs chair

**Diversity Book Group** Had organizational meeting, books suggested.



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**Foreign Policy Assoc/Great Decisions** Diane Jacobson reported it will be on Tuesday AM starting in January.

**Golf** Carmel Leese reported there is no change in the program

**Special Interest Day Trips** Needs chair.

## FINANCE

**Finance Discussion** Judy Bonn was added on the checkbook. The bank we are using is BB&T as there are no fees. A revised budget for 2015- 2016 was presented by Barbara Fisler.

**Sunshine** Now combined with Hospitality.

**Early Learning Coalition Committee** Linda Carpenter reported on the Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) Project that several Lake/Sumter AAUW branch members are working on in collaboration with the League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area (LWV). Initiated by Susan Gold, who is a member of both groups, the project is designed to study implementation of the VPK program in the tri-county area. VPK was mandated for all 4-year olds in the State by a constitutional amendment that was approved by Florida voters in 2002.

For the project, a questionnaire was developed and sent to the Directors of the Early Learning Coalitions (ELC) in Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties. Follow-up meetings were held in each ELC with Directors and their staff, and future plans include visiting VPK programs in the area. The joint committee is preparing a report, which will be presented at a LWV meeting on January 25, 2016. All Lake/Sumter AAUW members are invited to attend that meeting; details will be provided as they become available.

**By-Law Request from National** Co-President Judy Bonn announced that National informed us that we need to rewrite our By-Laws for our branch. This needs to be completed by May 15. Several members of the Board volunteered.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rosemary Scarfia



## Lake/Sumter AAUW Board Meeting      October 6, 2015

**Attendance:** Judy Bonn, Linda Carpenter, Cathy Cirocco, Julee DeLaRosa, Linda Ferens, Barbara Fisler, Diane Geach, Beverly Grappy, Terri Jevelle, Diane Jacobson, JoAnne Kelch, Diane Reichert, Ginny Rivera, Liz Schweers, Frankie Smith, Diane Starr, Mary Ann Swisher

**Call to Order/Welcome** Judy Bonn called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Minutes of the September 1 Board Meeting** The new member coffee will be on October **31**. Cathy Cirocco moved; Ginny Rivera seconded; the Board approved the minutes as amended.

**Finance** Barbara Fisler had a balance of \$12,424.69 on September 5. Income for the month included \$205 from jewelry tickets, \$90 from luncheon tickets, and \$69 for LAF. Expenses were \$366 for national and state dues and \$1,050 for the September luncheon. The current balance is **\$11,372.69**, with \$6610 in reserve funds. There was a clarification on which line of the budget should cover expenses for lunches for Tech Trek students. Reserve funds for Tech Trek were restored to \$1500. The report was filed for audit.

**Membership** Mary Ann Swisher reported that there are two new members Carolyn Rebholz and Suzanne Weil; their personal information is in the October newsletter. About thirty membership booklets remain to be distributed; members will be asked to take them to friends. Information for recruiting new members may be found on the AAUW website, or one of the membership chairs may be contacted to send materials to the prospective member.

**Programs** Linda Ferens gave details of the Saturday, October 10 meeting at Captiva Recreation Center. Mike Enright, an instructor at the Lifelong Learning College, will speak on "We Are Americans: We Should Know This." Those who have heard him before have found him to be an informative, entertaining, and thought-provoking speaker.

**Neighborhood Coffees** Julee DeLaRosa explained that neighborhood groups were revised over the summer to try to make each group a consistent size. All but one or two have already scheduled their first coffee for the fall.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**AAUW Funds** Diane Geach advised that branch presidents and state chairs have been sent a packet from the national office which strongly encourages donations be unrestricted in use. Though their "crucial need for unrestricted giving" is understandable, the branch reserves the right to designate where we want our funds to be applied. In regard to the legalities of fundraising, the literature also recommended using care with terminology. We will continue the 50/50 drawing for LAF.



**Angel Book Drive** There will be a small display at the October meeting, and books will be collected through the December meeting. Members can also donate money for the committee to purchase books.

**College/University Partner Relations** Frankie Smith reported that Beacon College is waiting to hear from national about their 3-year Start Smart lease for workshops and about approval for an ElectHer program. There is now a \$500 charge for this service. Members can read in the October newsletter or on the AAUW website about Florida State Mini Grants that are now available.

**Communications/Publicity** JoAnne Kelch sent notices about the October meeting to Villages publications. Photos of our scholarship winners were sent to newspapers in Leesburg, Orlando, and The Villages.

**Data Base** No report

**Email Distribution** Linda Carpenter reported that the list is current.

**Fundraising** Plans are proceeding for "An Evening with Heloise" on April 17, 2016, at the Savannah Center. Ticket sales will begin at the December meeting, with 850 seats available at a cost of \$20 for general admission. Diane Jacobson will hold a committee meeting in early November to discuss ticket sales/seating. Heloise's only compensation will be a hotel room for two nights. She reportedly has some interest in finding a home in this area. An idea to possibly provide a gift membership to AAUW for Heloise was introduced.

There was discussion on what direction publicity and flyers should take. Terri Jevelle provided a link for Heloise's website <http://www.heloise.com/appearances.html>, where we can read background information about our speaker. Her presentation will be followed by a 20-minute question and answer period.

**Historian** Ginny Rivera requested pictures from the September meeting.

**Hospitality** Liz Schweers said refreshments for the October meeting will consist of cheese, crackers, and fruit. Twenty-six invitations have been mailed for the new member coffee on October 31; once reservations have been made, Liz will let Board members know if she needs assistance with food for the event. Sunshine cards will be sent to members who have health problems or who have recently undergone surgery.

**Name Tags** Cathy Cirocco will continue to produce name tags for new members.

**Neighborhood Lists** Terri Jevelle sent updated lists with the current newsletter.

**Newsletter** Terri Jevelle announced that the deadline for articles for the November newsletter will be October 23. She is planning to take photographs of members to include in each issue.



**Public Policy** No report

**Tech Trek/STEM** Cathy Cirocco reported that letters have been sent to principals at six schools. Members of the committee have been assigned to do follow-up personal contact. Those serving on the newly-expanded committee are Kathleen Buckley, Linda Carpenter, Cathy Cirocco, Linda Clark, Susan Gold, Carolyn Johnson, Connie Konatsotis, Carmel Leese, Marilyn Milne, Judie Pearson, Diane Starr, and Arlene Stein.

Cathy will address STEM teachers at the Villages Middle School this week. She has an appointment with the principal at South Sumter on Monday morning. Linda Carpenter and Arlene are trying to make contact with Carver and Wildwood Middle Schools before the end of October. Carolyn and Carmel are in charge of Tavares and Oak Park.

There are two new state directors for Florida who went to Washington, DC recently for training. Palm Beach State University is the main college sponsor for the camp, which will be held June 14-19 on the campus of Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. Various jobs with stipends are available to any interested AAUW member.

**Webmaster** Diane Reichert would like help with maintaining the website.

#### INTEREST GROUPS

**Bridge** Mary Ann Swisher said that there are currently 18 members on the list for the Monday group. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at members' homes. The group is open to new members. The Thursday group has 12 permanent members who are committed to playing every week and must find their own substitutes. Carolyn Johnson chairs the group.

**Conversational Mah Jongg** Barbara Fisler reported that the group has set a cap of two tables (eight players) per session, as that is the number of persons most of the members' homes can accommodate. The group, chaired by Anne Schlick, continues to be open to new members.

**Dine Around/Finger Food and Fun** Judith Anderson has agreed to chair this interest group. There is no report on activities yet.

**Diversity Book Group** Linda Carpenter said the Book List for the 2015-2016 year will be in the October newsletter. The group, chaired by Pat Bays, meets at Freedom Pointe on the third Wednesday of each month. This month's meeting will be on October 21st, and the book is The Rosie Project.

**Educated Palates** Carolyn Moores has scheduled a planning meeting for a dinner with a theme of Oktoberfest. Several dates have been proposed; the group is currently voting to decide the date that is best for the majority of members.



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**Great Decisions/Foreign Policy Association** Diane Jacobson announced a limit of 25 participants for this discussion group. It is open to non-members for a \$20 fee. Background reading books cost \$25. Carol Richardson will facilitate the group, which will meet on Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m., beginning on January 19, 2016.

**Golf** Carmel Leese has had cataract surgery on both eyes; as a result, the group is on hold until the end of October. Diane Jacobson reported that the Friday morning group plays executive 9-hole courses; another group plays 9 holes on championship courses after 1:30 p.m. on Monday and accepts guests.

**Special Interest Day Trips** No permanent chair has yet been appointed. Diane Jacobson shared information on a DAR-sponsored trip to Heritage Village near Largo on Friday, December 4th. The cost is \$35, and reservations can be made through AAA in Spanish Springs.

**Summer Coffees/Breakfast** This morning coffee group chaired by Jacquie Latzer has ceased meeting on Tuesday mornings with the end of summer.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

**New Member Coffee** This welcoming event will take place at the home of co-President Barbara Jones on Saturday, October 31, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. One of each officer pair and significant committee chairs should be present to explain the work of our AAUW branch.

**Bylaws Committee** Members of the committee are Anne Wilkins, Ginny Rivera, and Diane Reichert. There was no report on any progress with updating the branch bylaws.

**Nominating Committee** This committee must be composed of one former branch president, one member of the current board of directors, and one member of the branch, with one alternate. Cathy Cirocco and Mary Ann Swisher volunteered to fill the first two slots, and Judy Bonn will ask for additional volunteers from the membership at the October general meeting. Offices to be filled for spring, 2016, will be President-Elect, Program, and Finance.

**December Meeting** Reservations are required for the holiday brunch at Pennbrooke Fairways Grill on December 5th. Checks for \$15 will be taken starting at the October meeting. Linda Ferens will compile the pertinent information for the November newsletter.

Diane Jacobson moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Barbara Fisler seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Diane Starr*

AAUW Lake/Sumter  
Board Meeting  
November 3, 2015

**Attendance:** Judy Bonn, Co-President, Barbara Jones, Co-President, Cathy Cirocco, Diane Jacobson, Ginny Rivera, Mary Ann Swisher, Linda Ferens, Margaret Kaufman, Ginger Ryan, Julee DeLaRosa, Carmel Leese, Diane Reichert, Terri Jevelle, Liz Schweers, Diane Geach, Carolee Litwinka, Frankie Smith, Diane Starr

**Welcome, Call to Order**

**Approval of Minutes of the October 6 Board Meeting.** The October 6 Board Meeting minutes were approved as read, by motion.

**Finance Directors' Report** Carolee Litwinka delivered the report as of November 3, 2015

Balance October 7, 2015	\$11,372.69
Income	1,003.00
Expenses	260.01
Balance November 3, 2015	\$12,115.68

A report of AAUW Reserve Funds was also reported with a balance of \$6676. LAF funds to date \$163.00

**Membership Report:** Mary Ann Swisher reported that we are now 135 members. In December new members would pay half of the dues for the remainder of the year. The coffees have been successful with 34 people attending.

**Program Report:** Linda Ferens reported that the set up for the November general meeting must be correct, especially for the audio. The tickets are now being sold for the Holiday Bunch, cost \$15.00. Entertainment will be provided at the meeting, she will sing holiday songs and the cost is 475.00.

**Co-President Elect (Neighborhood Coffees)** Julee DeLaRosa reported that the coffees were working fine. All groups met for the first and second time. The new member coffee was very successful for new members at the home of Barbara Jones.

**Committee Reports: Judy/Barbara**

**AAUW Funds** Memorial for Phyllis Williams, funds from the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. There was an email from national to direct donations to the general purpose fund.

**Angel Book Drive** Donations can be brought to the November and December meeting.

**College/University Partner Relations** Preparations are underway for the inauguration of the Smart Start workshop on December 10. Contact Susan Ward if you are interested in tickets for donations. Steve Mueller article on the program will be sent to state newsletters and maybe to state.

**Communications/Publicity** Jo Ann Ketch reported that notices have been sent out.



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**Data Base Manager** Carmel Leese reported the data base is up to date.

**Fundraiser** It was recommended that tickets for "An Evening with Heloise" be sold at The Village ticket outlet. They will also provide a professional AV person. A cash bar will be available and a place for book signing. Tickets will be sold at \$20.00. Advertising will be done thru The Village box office at no additional cost. There was further discussion that members would be able to purchase tickets a day ahead. Expenses for Heloise will include 2 nights at the Waterfront Inn and transportation. Margaret Kaufman reported that the Belk tickets will be sold at the general meeting.

**Historian** Ginny Rivera asked if anyone has any relevant news to please send to her.

Hospitality Liz Schweers thanked everyone for their efforts. They have stayed under budget. They sent 8 cards in October and 1 in November/

**Members Handbook** Diane Jacobson reported that there are a few left.

**Neighborhood List** Carmel Leese reported it was up to date. New members are added as they come in.

**Newsletter** Deadline for December newsletter is November 23. Everyone was thanked for sending photos of neighborhood coffees.

Tech Trek/Stem All schools have been contacted. We have a list of nominees from The Village School. There is a meeting on November 13. The deadline is November 11 for all schools to get there list in. The plan is to get 5 to 7 names turned into state. There is a limit of 5 students from each school with 6 schools participating. There is a set of criteria sent from state. The attendees have been increased to 60 students from 44 in the past.

**Web Master** Diane Reichert reported that they are working to improve the site.

Interest Groups: Judy/Barbara

**Bridge Monday Group** Mary Ann Swisher reported the group is going with 18 people

**Bridge Thursday Group** Carolyn Johnson reported a group of 12, new members may be interested.

**Conversational Mah Jongg** Rosemary Scarfia reported it is continuing with no changes.

**Diversity Book Club** Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday.

**Foreign Policy Assoc/Great Decisions** Diane reported a room has been reserved. Carolyn Richardson is the moderator. Program is 10 weeks, Tues AM starting mid January. Books are preordered. There were 15 books ordered with a cost of \$25.00 per book. Eighteen have signed up, there is room for 25.

**Golf** Carmel Leese reported it is going well. There will be a break for holidays resuming in January.

**Special Interest Day Trips** Diane Jacobson reported there are 6 seats left, trip is thru AAA.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosemary Scarfia



## Lake/Sumter AAUW Board Meeting

February 2, 2016

**Attendance:** Cathy Cirocco, Julee DeLaRosa, Linda Ferens, Barbara Fisler, Diane Geach, Susan Gold, Joan Irwin, Margaret Kaufman, JoAnne Kelch, Kathie Keul, Jacquie Latzer, Carolee Litwinka, Linda Macleod, Diane Reichert, Ginny Rivera, Liz Schweers, Frankie Smith, Diane Starr, Mary Ann Swisher, Anne Wilkins

**Call to Order/Welcome** In the absence of the co-Presidents, Anne Wilkins called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Judy Bonn was planning to participate in the AAUW Lobby Day in Tallahassee today but was called out-of-state when her mother-in-law suffered a stroke.

**Minutes** In the absence of Co-Secretary Rosemary Scarfia, the minutes of the Board meeting in January were not available.

**Finance** Carolee Litwinka reported a balance of \$13,084.64 on January 16. Income for the month included \$995 from jewelry tickets, \$70 for LAF, and a \$20 donation for Tech Trek. Expenses were \$119.88 for the annual fee for the branch website, \$75 deposit for a general meeting venue, and \$43.42 for January meeting hospitality. The current balance is **\$13,931.34**, with \$9,916 in reserve funds. About \$4,000 is available for operating expenses. The report was filed for audit.

**Membership** Mary Ann Swisher announced that five new members have joined for the half-year period from January through June. The branch now has 139 members. Susanne Beason has helped Mary Ann prepare membership renewal letters for 2016-17, which will be passed out at the March meeting.

**Programs** Linda Ferens previewed the February 13th general meeting, a panel discussion inspired by a PBS series on women. Carmel Leese, Frankie Smith, and Donna Taylor will serve as panelists.

**Neighborhood Coffees** Julee DeLaRosa will follow up to see that neighborhood groups are holding second and third meetings.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS--**

**AAUW Funds** Diane Geach shared a letter that requested each branch to provide a basket for fundraising purposes at the 2016 Florida State Convention in April. Unfortunately, the convention will be held April 15-17 in Palm Beach Gardens, which conflicts with our own fundraiser with Heloise. After some discussion, it was decided that it would be unrealistic to expect someone to deliver a basket to the southern part of the state, and the cost of mailing would also be prohibitive. A suggestion was then made to send a monetary donation. The Board voted to send gift cards to be used to create a basket from the Lake/Sumter Branch.

**Angel Book Drive** According to Mary Ann Swisher, the committee has decided to invite the Mira Mesa Book Club to come to our November meeting so the women can see our collection of books and be recognized for their contributions.

**College/University Partner Relations** Frankie Smith reported that AAUW continues to work on programming with Beacon College.

**Communications/Publicity** JoAnne Kelch said she sends notices about our monthly meetings to The Villages Daily Sun, the Orlando Sentinel, the Leesburg Daily Commercial, and The Villages.news.com.



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**Data Base** No report

**Email Distribution** No report

**Fundraiser** Plans are proceeding for "An Evening with Heloise" on April 17, 2016, at the Savannah Center. Heloise will speak from 7:00-8:30 p.m., followed by a question and answer period. This will not be a rundown of household hints, but a memoir of Heloise's life experiences as a math major/computer programmer who took a popular newspaper column in the 1970's upon the unexpected passing of her mother.

The Villages Entertainment will handle ticket sales. The branch will net approximately \$20.68 from the sale of each \$25 ticket. With 848 seats available, the proceeds could be as high as \$10,000. Vouchers will be available so members can purchase tickets first and obtain the best seats.

Co-chairs Kathie Keul and Kay Bogolin are being assisted by Frankie Smith-publicity, Liz Schweers-greeters, and Carmel Leese-AAUW resources. The committee was thanked and congratulated for their work on this project so far.

**Historian** Ginny Rivera asked Board members to clip newspaper photos and articles. She is not getting as many contributions as she previously did.

**Hospitality** Liz Schweers requested a list of new members and guests **before** each meeting to facilitate welcoming these individuals. It was suggested that officers recognize new members at the beginning of every meeting. Please let Liz know if someone needs a sunshine card.

**Name Tags** Cathy Cirocco will continue to collect badges at the end of each meeting so that she doesn't have to continually produce replacement name tags for members.

**Neighborhood Lists** No report

**Newsletter** Officers are looking for a new editor to take over after Terri Jevell finishes the program year in May.

**Public Policy** No report

**Tech Trek/STEM** Cathy Cirocco announced that 12 applications were received from the 27 nominated girls. Members of the committee have been assigned to do interviews at six schools in Lake and Sumter Counties this month. Parents will be interviewed by phone. The committee will then meet to rank the girls and send all materials to the state for final selection. With the camp being expanded to sixty girls this year, it appears that a good percentage of the nominees may be selected to attend. Diane Reichert said her daughter Heidi will be visiting The Villages and could talk to the group of girls on April 3.

**Webmaster** Diane Reichert reported that the website is up and running.

### **INTEREST GROUPS--**

**Bridge** Anne Wilkins said both Monday and Thursday groups are going well.

**Conversational Mah Jongg** Margaret Kaufman reported that the group continues to meet regularly.

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**Dine Around/Finger Food and Fun** No report

**Diversity Book Group** No report

**Educated Palates** Cathy Cirocco shared the news that this special interest group will hold a French dinner on Saturday, February 27.

**Great Decisions/Foreign Policy Association** Participants have begun their discussion meetings.

**Golf** No report

**Special Interest Day Trips** A chairperson is still needed. Board members were encouraged to look for one-day trips to share with the membership.

**Summer Coffees** Jacquie Latzer agreed to continue to be in charge for the coming summer of 2016. She will contact Perkins Restaurant on 441 to determine if members can use the meeting room again free of charge. Meetings would be on Tuesday mornings beginning in June. This activity functions as an informal mixer where topics of discussion are kept light.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS--**

**Bylaws Committee** Anne Wilkins reported that the committee's work is almost finished. The revisions are mostly language changes to keep the local bylaws in line with the national organization. The changes will not require a vote of the membership.

**Nominating Committee** Cathy Cirocco and Mary Ann Swisher announced the following slate of co-officers to be voted on in March:

President-Elect	Susan Gold and Jacquie Latzer
Program	Anne Schlick and Carol Zoellner
Finance	Joan Irwin and Diane Reichert

**Pre-K Education** This is a joint project of AAUW and the League of Women Voters. Carolyn Johnson, Susan Gold, and Linda Carpenter visited the Early Learning Coalition offices in Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties. Linda has written a 17-page document detailing their findings. LWV will release the full report in March, and our branch will attach a 2-page summary to our March newsletter. The mandate for free preschool education for 4-year-olds was approved by Florida voters in 2002 and went into effect in 2005. The legislature has decreased the amount of funding for this project every year since. Florida meets only 3 of 10 quality indicators for Pre-K education and ranks 37th in the United States.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Diane Starr*

Co-Secretary



## Lake/Sumter AAUW Board Meeting

March 1, 2016

**Attendance:** Judy Bonn, Linda Carpenter, Cathy Cirocco, Julee DeLaRosa, Linda Ferens, Barbara Fisler, Diane Geach, Joan Irwin, Barbara Jones, Margaret Kaufman, JoAnne Kelch, Kathie Keul, Carolee Litwinka, Linda Macleod, Diane Reichert, Liz Schweers, Frankie Smith, Diane Starr, Rosella Valentine, Anne Wilkins

**Call to Order/Welcome** Judy Bonn called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Sumter County Sheriff's Annex at the corner of Morse Boulevard and Route 466.

**Minutes** The minutes of the Board meeting on February 2 were approved.

**Finance** Carolee Litwinka reported a current balance of **\$14,458.14**, with \$10,591.00 in reserve. Income for February included \$725 from jewelry tickets, \$150 from venue deposit refunds, and \$20 from Great Decisions. Expenses were \$50.42 for jewelry raffle gifts, \$46.05 for February meeting hospitality, and \$209.88 to print flyers for the Heloise fundraiser. The report was filed for audit.

**Membership** Members will receive renewal letters for the 2016-17 year at the March meeting. Carolee may be able to take credit card payments at the meeting. Members will be encouraged to pay by check because that method is the easiest for the finance chairs to process.

**Programs** Linda Ferens has reserved recreation centers in The Villages for meetings through November 16. The incoming program chairs will need to reserve locations for meetings for the remainder of the 2016-2017 program year.

The final monthly meeting for this year will be a luncheon on Saturday, May 21, at the Continental Country Club in Wildwood. Installation of new officers will take place, and scholarships will be presented to winners. Cost will be kept at \$15.

**Co-Presidents-Elect** Julee DeLaRosa and Anne Wilkins have compiled information from the survey of members done at the February meeting. They are looking for new committee chairs.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS--**

**AAUW Funds** The 50/50 drawing for LAF will resume with the March meeting. Diane Geach is sending gift cards for a fundraising basket for the state convention in April to Joan Dick, Director of Development for Florida State AAUW.

**Angel Book Drive** No report

**College/University Partner Relations** AAUW is still customizing a curriculum for the "Start Smart" program with Beacon College. A three-year contract is in place. Frankie Smith hopes to possibly repeat the program for Lake-Sumter State College. She has been working with Claire Brady and will develop a contact with the new president, Dr. Stanley Sidor.

**Communications/Publicity** JoAnne Kelch was commended for doing a wonderful job of getting news of our meetings to local newspapers and online media.

**Data Base Management** No report

**Email Distribution** Linda Carpenter would like a new person to take over this position with the new administration.

**Fundraiser** Tickets went on sale for "An Evening with Heloise" on February 25. About 250 tickets have already been sold, which puts us at the break-even point. Advertisement of the appearance is in section A of the Thursday edition of The Villages Daily Sun along with other entertainment special events. Heloise will give a 90-minute presentation, followed by a question and answer period. There



will be no intermission. There will be a cash bar in the lobby from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Kathie Keul reported that 900 flyers have been produced to be handed out by the ushers. Heloise will sign programs after her speech, but there will be no book promotion at the Savannah Center. The committee is working out final details by email (airport transportation, green room supplies, microphones, etc.) and will place a gift basket in Heloise's suite at the Waterfront Inn. Cathy Cirocco was asked to develop some technology-type questions to plant in the audience. Heloise has another speaking engagement in Fort Myers a few days before our event, and she is currently working on a syndicated radio show.

**Historian** No report

**Hospitality** Liz Schweers reported that 20 cards have been sent for sunshine purposes. Nancy Bell will be moving to Arizona soon; a "wishing you well" card will be circulated at the March meeting. Susan Christen, who has been a member of AAUW for over 50 years, will be celebrating her 97th birthday on March 9; her address in Maryland was published in the last newsletter so that members could send personal greetings.

**Neighborhood Lists** No report

**Newsletter** An editor is needed to take over next fall; please give name(s) to Anne Wilkins.

**Public Policy** Judy Bonn announced that Equal Pay Day is Tuesday, April 12, 2016. AAUW is encouraging "Get Out the Vote" activities in advance of the national election this fall. In the past, our branch has registered voters at college campuses in August. Judy will check to see if volunteers need to be recertified by attending additional training sessions.

**Tech Trek/STEM** Cathy Cirocco has chaired this committee since 2013; she and Linda Carpenter will be stepping down after the completion of this year's work. Other committee members are Kathleen Buckley, Linda Clark, Susan Gold, Carolyn Johnson, Connie Konatsotis, Carmel Leese, Diane Starr, and Arlene Stein. Eight committee members met for five hours on Thursday, February 25, at the home of Linda Carpenter to review twelve applications and rank the students for state consideration for 60 camper slots. Our branch was also asked to handle six applications from West Pasco County. Susan and Diane spent a Saturday afternoon interviewing the girls and their parents by phone. These six candidates were also presented to the committee for evaluation and ranked separately from the Lake/Sumter students. Selection of campers from 92 statewide applicants will be finalized by the state committee by April 1. Local campers are asked to come to the September meeting to share their experiences at Tech Trek. Past campers have gone on to win scholarships and contests. Skylah Rault, Liz Schweers's granddaughter, recently won a solar oven competition and is moving up to state-level judging.

**Webmaster** Diane Reichert reported that she needs to work with Verizon on coordination. It was suggested that a counter be added in order to see how many visitors come to the website. Links to state and national AAUW should be available. This could be a possible program for next year--demonstrate how to use the site, make it a favorite, and so on to make members more comfortable with accessing the site. We would probably need to hold the meeting at a regional recreation center to get a WiFi connection.

**INTEREST GROUPS**--Barbara Jones took over the meeting at this point.

**Bridge** No report

**Conversational Mah Jongg** No report

**Dine Around/Finger Food and Fun** No report



Board 3/1/2016

**Diversity Book Group** Linda Carpenter said that this month's book is *We Got the Water: Tracing My Family's Path Through Auschwitz* by Jill Gabrielle Klein. The book tells the story of Village of Duval resident Gene Klein, a Hungarian Jew who survived the Holocaust.

**Educated Palates** A French dinner was enjoyed by the group recently.

**Great Decisions/Foreign Policy Association** Linda Macleod shared that some topics were depressing, but discussions are moving on.

**Golf** No report

**Special Interest Day Trips** DAR is sponsoring a bus trip to Tarpon Springs on Thursday, March 31. The tour includes a sponge boat cruise, a visit to the historic Safford House, and lunch at a Greek restaurant. Cost is \$78 per person. Contact AAA in Spanish Springs to participate.

**Summer Coffees** No report

### **OTHER BUSINESS--**

**Bylaws Committee** Anne Wilkins related that the committee is typing up the revisions to the branch bylaws, which will put them in accordance with the national bylaws.

**Nominating Committee** Election of officers for 2016-2017 will take place at the March meeting. This is the slate proposed by the committee:

President-Elect	Susan Gold and Jacquie Latzer
Program	Anne Schlick and Carol Zoellner
Finance	Joan Irwin and Diane Reichert

Nominations may be made from the floor with the permission of the candidate.

**Pre-K Education** Linda Carpenter, Susan Gold, and a representative from the League of Women Voters will meet with the Executive Director of the Nature Coast Early Learning Coalition (ELC) on March 8. Linda has written a 17-page report documenting the findings of the joint AAUW-LWV preschool education study. LWV will release the full report at their meeting on March 21 and will decide if they want to continue investigating mandated preschool education in Florida. The study may be taken up by other AAUW branches in other counties for their own local areas.

### **Announcements**

Linda Carpenter won second place in an art show currently on display at the Sheriff's Annex. Her entry is a graphite drawing of her grandson at six years old.

The Colored Pencil Painters will hold a show/sale from 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, at Colony Cottage Recreation Center. There will be raffles, demonstrations, and entertainment in addition to 24 artists selling their works.

The next monthly meeting will take place on Saturday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Bridgeport Recreation Center. The program will be a discussion following the showing of a PBS Women's Series video.

This year's final Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sheriff's Annex.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Diane Starr*

Co-Secretary