

LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

May 2022



Lake/Sumter branch of AAUW is committed to a diverse community that stimulates a culture of learning and understanding and enhances a member's experience. We aspire to create an inclusive and equitable branch that represents, supports, and celebrates diversity of all kinds.

President's Message



As Gay and I come to the end of our term as co-Presidents of Lake Sumter AAUW, we want to thank and celebrate the leadership team who made the successes of this year possible, and we also need to thank all of you, our members, for your

continuing dedication to AAUW. Our branch has managed to stay connected, stay committed, and to move forward

Reflecting on the General Meeting held on Saturday, April 23, we first congratulate and thank the members who stepped up to assume 2022-2023 Board positions. Thanks also to our Nominating Committee: Sharron Albrecht, Anne Sobocinski, and Linda Ferens for their good work in inviting members to fill Board positions.

Co-Presidents
Co-Presidents Elect
Co-Secretaries
Finance Director
Co-Membership Directors
Co-Program Directors

Linda Carpenter & Anne Sobocinski
Joanie Schmidt & Helen Gozdanovic
Jennifer Thompson & Judith Anderson
Barbara Fieldman
Karen Pickelsimer & Gay Birchard
Carolyn Pasquale & Bonnie Weaver

We encourage you to support your new leadership, and to join them as they work to meet the Strategic Plan initiatives. Take advantage of the Plan that spells out who we are, what we are about, and how we can be a dynamic influence for each other as well as in our local community and beyond,

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At the meeting we saw and heard the Strategic Plan, initiated by Linda Carpenter and Anne Sobocinski; Char Griffin managed the meetings with input from several members of our branch who served on that committee. Thank you all.

If you were not at the General Meeting, go to the link sent by Carolee (also found on page 3 of this newsletter) and listen to Linda's presentation of the Strategic Plan and then go to the new website that Linda designed and stand proud. Talk about energizing. Lake/Sumter AAUW branch not only LOOKS good, we ARE good, and we are still growing. Thank you, Linda.

Because this is the last newsletter of the year, our last words are words of thanks to all those who made this a great year. It's hard to know where to start so we'll just jump in:

- Ann Marie Lombardi & Diane Jacobson worked creatively to plan and implement our general meetings
- Liz Schweers & Laura McLaughlin took a team approach to managing Tech Trek
- Judy Reinhardt stepped up to oversee Adopt a Precinct supporting Tech Trek
- Kathy Mason and the Scholarship Committee opened doors for women as they advance their education.
- Char Griffin organized our accounting for easier reporting and record keeping
- Espy Walmsley graciously offered her services for our annual financial review.
- Karen Pickelsimer & Joanie Schmidt reminded us of how important it is to engage new members as well as to involve our current members in branch projects
- Carolyn Pasquale as Secretary, accurately documented our meetings
- Carolee Litwinka maintains our database and helps the entire membership to be up to date on branch events through e-blasts
- Beth Hicks presents the various activities and projects of this branch in an engaging, informative newsletter
- Kate Manion, Carolyn Pasquale, and Angela Vickers bring us together by arranging Day Trips
- Kate Manion coordinates our monthly Book Discussion group
- Ann Marie Lombardi creates of PowerPoint presentations for State Convention and many of our meetings.
- Jacquie Latzer frequently hosts our Zoom meetings
- Diane Jacobson wears many hats in our branch. In addition to Co-Program, Diane is Fundraising chair, Membership Handbook creator and, until Linda took over, our branch web master.

- Judy Bonn as Public Policy liaison, keeps us aware of what State and National AAUW are promoting for Equal Opportunities for Women in education and the work force.
- Anne Wilkins, Diane Reichert, and Judy Bonn serve as the ByLaws committee,
- And thank you to all the coordinators of the various activities and branch projects that continue to invite our members to be engaged.

Please join Gay and me with a round of applause for these women.

We look forward to seeing you at our last General Meeting on May 21st to celebrate in person how far we have come and to WELCOME our 2022 – 2023 Board of Directors.

The weekly summer breakfasts are being planned. Be on the lookout for information on them in an email blast.

Gay Birchard & Katie Haviland
Co-Presidents

The Future of Our Branch

With the Board's approval of our strategic plan, our branch now has a focused direction for future activities. The future looks bright to us, and we are excited and energized to begin work under the new plan.



We presented the logic behind the plan and an overview of our goals at the April 23 General Meeting. Rather than recap that information here, interested members can view the video of the meeting at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/IVE4dBtIKcu-LkBu-GVffoP5jBjuZO9a9LhZKrs3-ZOyUnEmjUOToM3OXQB7O-.HywBw8DGspHsedUb>
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We do want to reiterate our **strategic vision** and what it means for branch operations. The vision is straightforward and represents fulfilment of members' needs for stimulating learning opportunities and opportunities to support girls and women as they begin their educational journeys, especially in STEM fields:

Lake/Sumter AAUW will be the premiere organization in Lake and Sumter Counties that offers college-educated women stimulating learning opportunities as well as opportunities to give back to the community.

It is our hope that the plan and the rationale behind it will resonate with members, that you will embrace the vision, and will contribute actively to the future of the branch. Recall the 3Ts: Time, Talents, and Treasures. We need all you can offer.

Our plan includes four **goals** that flow directly from the strategic vision and will guide work for the next 5 years.

GOAL 1: Differentiate us by developing and providing dynamic learning opportunities targeted to college-educated women.

GOAL 2: Organize robust efforts to Recruit, Engage, and Retain Members, especially targeting new eligible women moving into Sumter (and eventually Lake) County.

GOAL 3: Enhance and create opportunities to support young women beginning their journeys in STEM fields.

GOAL 4: Reorganize branch committee structure to create a framework that enhances branch governance.
Lots of opportunities to connect, get involved, shape future

While the goals are for 5 years, we have written **objectives** for the 2022-23 fiscal year. During this year, we will be working on Goals 1, 2, and 4, laying a foundation for future work in these areas. Future presidents-elect will have the opportunity to review goals and objectives and specify the objectives for the year they are presidents.

Our first two goals – program development and member recruitment – offer numerous opportunities for members to get involved in the work of the branch. We are not asking anyone to take on a chair position, and we are trying to break projects into smaller tasks...pieces that will be easier to commit to than long-term obligations.

In Program Development, we need to build a list of topics for General Meeting programs but also for any programs we might offer to the community as fundraisers. Creating the topics and identifying presenters and resources for each one does not require a long-term commitment. While the co-Directors of Programs are engaged with our ongoing programs, two or three members could help by brainstorming topics and beginning the research for resources.

A member recruitment drive is already in the works for next year; we will need lots of people, each doing small and/or short-term tasks, to make that drive happen.

In addition to presenting our strategic plan at the April General Meeting, we also introduced members to our new website. Please visit the site at

<https://lakesumteraauw.org> and let us know what you think. The Members' Page is still under construction, so not all links are live. The Members' Page is the area that serves YOU, the membership, so tell us what other resources and information you'd like to see in that part of the site. Note that, if you want to read the full strategic plan, there is a link to it on the Members' Page.

The Members' page is password protected. We sent the password to all members by email after the April meeting. We are not re-publishing it here because this newsletter is available to non-members on our site. If you can't find the message, let us know, and we'll send you the password again.

We also want to change the pictures on the site frequently. So, if you're a photography enthusiast send us pictures of branch events...preferably in landscape orientation and in jpeg. format. And because we don't expect one person alone to be our branch photographer, if several of you are interested, band together and arrange when and where each of you will show up, camera in hand.

With a focused plan and a website that communicates who we are to the public, we are ready to step into the future and make it ours. Please bring your three Ts and join in the fun.

Linda Carpenter & Anne Sobocinski
Co-Presidents-Elect

Opportunities to Offer Your Time & Talents



To help you choose where to contribute your time and talents, here is a list of our committees along with descriptions of the tasks assigned to each one. Please keep in mind that these are *committee* tasks and are not expected to be carried out by one person.

Standing Committees

Communications Committee is chaired by the Director of Communications, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by a majority of Board members. The committee charge is to contribute to PR plan development and implementation as well as to photograph branch events and to ensure that internal and external communications present a unified image of our branch. The Communications



Director position is currently open. Basic committee members include newsletter editor, email distributor, social media chair; the committee needs additional members.

Fundraising Committee is chaired by the Director of Fundraising, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by a majority of Board members. The committee charge is to initiate, plan, and execute events to garner support for our Tech Trek and scholarship programs and to work collaboratively with Programs Committee to plan and implement fundraisers. Diane Jacobson currently holds the Director of Fundraising position, but it will be vacant as of July 1; the committee needs additional members.

Public Policy Committee is chaired by the Director of Public Policy, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by a majority of Board members. The committee charge is to keep members informed of National and State public policy issues and actions and to encourage participation in advocacy events. Judy Bonn is currently the Director of Public Policy, but the position will be vacant as of July 1; the committee needs additional members.

Operations Committees

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Committee helps plan and implement activities and events focused on DEI issues. This committee has been on hiatus but will be resuming work in the fall. Jacquie Latzer will chair the committee; some committee members may be returning, but new members are always welcome.

Hospitality Committee greets attendees at General Meetings; it also plans/provides refreshments, as needed. This committee is active again as we return to live meetings. It is not labor-intensive and is a great way for members who are new to branch activities to get involved.

Membership Committee greets attendees at meetings, supports new members, arranges New Member Coffees, and assists with recruitment events. Co-directors have been doing all membership tasks, which are essential to our branch. Karen Pickelshimer and Gay Birchard will co-chair this committee in 2022-23. There are lots of jobs to do; Karen and Gay need lots of committee members.

Nominating Committee develops the slate of officers for branch elections. It is a short-term committee that requires three (3) members and one (1) alternate, including a former branch president, a member of the board of directors, and a member of the branch. Their work is short-term and done primarily in the winter for announcement of the slate in the spring.

Programs Committee plans presentations for General Meetings and helps make meeting arrangements and meeting plans; it also collaborates with Fundraising Committee to plan fundraisers. In 2022-23, Carolyn Pasquale and Bonnie Weaver will chair this committee. This busy committee needs additional members.

Scholarship Committee notifies local colleges, reviews applications, and follows up by mentoring recipients. Kathy Mason currently chairs this committee. Contact her to learn if she needs more committee members.

Social Media Committee maintains the branch website and Facebook page, and it considers other options as needed. This new committee needs people who are familiar with various social media platforms who can provide guidance for the branch.

Tech Trek Committee contacts schools, interviews candidates, and follows up by mentoring recipients. Liz Schweers and Laura McLaughlin currently co-chair this committee and will continue in 2022-23, but they will need help with candidate interviews and final recommendations.

The best way to feel a part of the branch is to participate actively and collaboratively in branch operations. We hope you all will heed the call and volunteer.

Linda Carpenter, Co-President-Elect and Joanie Schmidt, Co-Membership Director

Programs

May 21 Celebration Breakfast Meeting



It's hard to believe that our year-end meeting is just around the corner! Please join us on May 21st in Allamanda Recreation Center and join with others for lively conversations! Doors open at 9:15 for a 9:30 start.

You're welcome to purchase a Panera bagel and fruit cup box breakfast, along with coffee, tea, and juices to enjoy throughout the program.

Because we need to give Panera's a headcount, you will receive an email asking you to RSVP and if you want to purchase the breakfast box for \$8.00. You can pay with cash or check at the meeting.

Our program will feature installation of incoming officers and other Branch business, as well as a few surprises. Also, plan to participate in a fun Mystery Bag silent auction by purchasing 10 tickets for \$5 (cash please). We have over 20 bags filled already!

We hope to see you at this, our final meeting as your Co-Program Directors, as we wish the incoming Board of Directors much success for the new year!

Ann Marie Lombardi and Diane Jacobson, Co-Program Directors

A Message from the Diversity Committee

Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee has been on hiatus for some time but will return soon.

Sadly, the issues of racism and "the other" have not resolved themselves. These issues are extremely relevant and affect us all whether we are aware or not. Our DEI Committee has offered opportunities for education, discussion, and change. We look forward to continuing along this path and would love for you to help shape the journey in this important work. We know we are educated women; we can continue to choose to be relevant.

Please contact Jacquie Latzer if you would like to join the DEI Committee. Her email is: jacquie.latzer@gmail.com

As we become more aware and committed, we can make the changes necessary to ensure every individual and group is valued. Imagine a world where each person's potential can be released. Let us remember that prosperity for all recognizes that the welfare of individuals rests in the welfare of society at large. We can continue to learn and to make personal adjustments to reinforce our better selves. Collectively, these adjustments have an impact in the world.

Scholarship News



We have been sharing letters from our current scholarship recipients for the past couple of months. It will help you understand how much of a difference we are making in these young women's lives. This month's thoughts come from Shelby Mulholland

"The AAUW's scholarship has helped me in so many ways. I feel that I have support and encouragement from you all, regardless of our locations. The scholarship has allowed me to buy my textbooks and pay for lab fees without financial worries. I cannot thank you enough for the scholarship and the opportunities it has created and will continue to create for my time at UF."

Kathy Mason
Scholarship Committee Chair and past Co-President

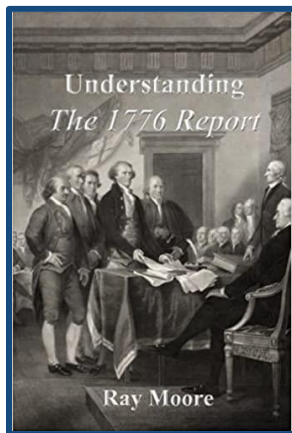
Membership

Please make a note of Karen Pickelsimer's phone number. She has cut the cord and has no land line...just her cell to contact her. Here's her cell number: 847-516-2877

Also, please make a note of Ginny Rivera's new landline number: 352 633 8043.

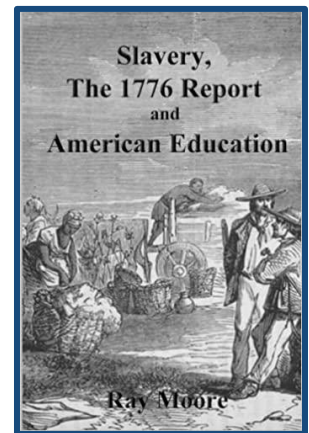
Karen Pickelsimer and Joanie Schmidt
Co-Directors for Membership

Great Read from the DEI Committee



The 1776 Report was published under the Trump administration in January, 2021 as a counter to The New York Times' **1619 Project**. The report argues the case for patriotic education and criticizes those who see America as a systemically and structurally racist country. Although it was withdrawn almost immediately by the Biden administration, the report *will* undoubtedly impact the writing of state education laws, school curricula, and textbooks for years to come.

Jill Moss Greenberg, friend of the DEI Committee, has recommended two recent books written by Villages resident Ray Moore to refute that report. As an immigrant with a keen interest in American history, Moore offers the unique perspective of someone who is not a product of the American education system. He is the author of numerous well-researched books, but these two specifically address issues currently being debated in regard to the curricula of the public schools. The books are available as inexpensive paperbacks at Amazon. com.



Understanding The 1776 Report is an analysis of the text in which Moore attempts to separate fact from myth and valid from invalid arguments. He looks for common ground and then focuses on differences between viewpoints. The book has three sections:

- A preface and introduction that give the author's perspective.
- A glossary that explains key terms used to talk about slavery and racism.
- A reader's guide to *The 1776 Report* that includes helpful questions and detailed commentary.

Slavery, The 1776 Report and American Education presents a fact-based history of slavery in America, placing it in its global and historical context. The book deals comprehensively with the arguments *The 1776 Report* and its implications for the future of American education--what schools and colleges teach about race and how they teach it.

Activities

Mah Jongg



The newly formed AAUW Mah Jongg group will play the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 1:00 p.m. The first meeting will be on May 11 at the home of Kate Manion at 583 Bradford Loop in the Village of Sanibel. After the first meeting, the group will rotate to the homes of various members. All members are welcome, regardless of skill level and anyone interested in playing should contact Kate Manion at kmanion52@gmail.com.

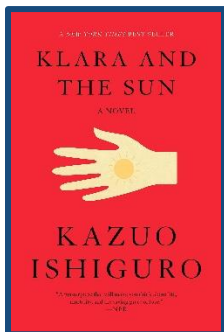
Dine Around

Dine around is scheduled the last week in May with more details to follow. Please email me your choice of restaurants for everyone to consider. At the present time I hope to have it at the Legacy restaurant at Lopez country club.

Judith Anderson (jcdukeirl@aol.com)

Dine Around Coordinator

Book Club



The AAUW book club will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 18 in the Peace Room of the North Lake Presbyterian Church to discuss *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro. Blanche Boyne will lead the discussion.

June's read will be *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. The meeting date is Wednesday, June 15 and the discussion leader will be Mary Place.

July's book is *The End of the Ocean* by Maja Lunde. Christine Loken-Kim will lead the discussion on July 20.

On August 17, the group will meet to select the books for 2022-23. All members are welcome.

Kate Manion
Book Club Coordinator

	Book	Author	Discussion Leader
May 18	<i>Klara and the Sun</i>	Kazuo Ishiro	Blanche Boyne
June 15	<i>The Personal Librarian</i>	Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray	Mary Place
July 20	<i>The End of the Ocean</i>	Maja Lunde	Christine Loken- Kim
Aug 17	SELECTION OF BOOKS FOR 2022-23		



Thank you for your support of this newsletter. Check out the many activities that are restarting and see if any interest you! Enjoy your summer....the next issue will be the September issue and the deadline will be August 20.

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AAUW Websites

National: <https://www.aauw.org>
State: <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net>
Local: <https://www.lakesumteraauw.org> (this is our NEW website)

