



American Association of University Women
Lake Sumter (FL) Branch
Learn – Connect - Support

October 2022

President's Message



As I write this column I'm thinking of the approaching hurricane and hoping that the impact is minimal. Hoping we all stay dry, and our homes are intact. By the time you read this, Ian will be just another past storm and hurricane season will be drawing to a close.

I would like to thank our Program Directors: Carolyn Pasquale and Bonnie Weaver. The September General Meeting was tailored perfectly to meet our branch needs: *Being an Active Member*. It was successful in so many ways and particularly in involving our members. I also liked the quotes, especially the one from Benjamin Franklin, "...engage me and I will learn." Perfect for lifelong learners.

Next on my calendar is forming a nominating committee. If anyone would like to be on this committee, please contact me. If you're on the committee, I don't think you can be nominated. But seriously, this is a good opportunity to be an active member as we discussed at the September General Meeting. Please step forward and be active.

I must, and I do not hesitate to bring up our ongoing difficulties in getting members to volunteer to fill our vacancies. They are all necessary, but what we need most at this point is a member to fill the Fundraising Director

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position. Please don't wait to be asked. You are needed now. And we will need a few of you to be on a committee to flesh out plans and many of you to work events. We must get fundraising started now or we will be in a very precarious position next year. Need I say more?

I would be remiss to not acknowledge our board members, the elected and appointed directors, the appointed committee chairs, and the learning and social interest group leaders. You are all essential to our organization. Many of you have held multiple positions though the years. Thank you for the support you provide our AAUW Lake/Sumter Branch.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the October General Meeting. Please attend and share the morning with friends.

Anne Sobocinski
President
AAUW Lake/Sumter (FL) Branch
Learn – Connect – Support
(815) 210 - 3450

LEARN

2022-2023 General Meeting Programs

Learning of Self, Learning of Others, Learning of Your World!

- October 15, 2021 – Education in our backyard
- November 19, 2022 – Scams and scares: Protecting yourself financially and emotionally
- December 10, 2022- Happy Holidays! The Oaks on 44
- January 21, 2023 – It is a brave new world! Tech Trek
- February 18, 2023 – Our past, our present, our future
- March 18, 2023- Real women in the real world
- April 15, 2023- New beginnings
- May 20, 2023 – Celebrating our Branch; luncheon to be announced

General Meeting: Saturday, October 15

Allamanda Recreation Center

Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

“Education is not the filling of a pot but the lighting of a fire.”
W.B. Yeats



The October 15 meeting will offer members and guests a presentation by Geneva Jones, Lake Sumter State College Assistant Director of Admissions for Diversity and Outreach. She will discuss a history of the college, the degrees offered, and special programs for grade school and high school students. We will also learn of the advantages for students, faculty, and staff of being in the State system.

The League of Women Voters will also present a program about the three constitutional amendments that will be on the November ballot. They concern property taxes, abolishing the Florida Constitutional Revision Commission, and granting the legislature authority to grant additional homestead exemptions for specific employees.



We invite all members and guests to join in this meeting at the Allamanda Recreation Center on Saturday, October 15, 2022. The doors open at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. This is your opportunity to learn about the College and the Florida government.

Bonnie Weaver & Carolyn Pasquale
Co-Directors of Programs

September General Meeting Recap



Our first General Meeting of our new year was held in person at the Allamanda Recreation Center in the Villages on Saturday, September 17. This year the theme for programs is “Learning of self; learning of others; learning of your world.”

The Saturday program’s title, “You can be an active member,” involved over 60 members and guests, who divided into eight groups to brainstorm ideas to be considered by the various branch committees. These ideas will be used in the coming year to enhance our branch and inform our members as well as reach out to our guests.

Those attending also had the opportunity to receive information on our various branch social and learning groups, which meet regularly during the year.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Committee

With a desire to open and expand hearts and minds in the context of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, for our personal growth as well as that of our Branch, this month we want to be sure we all understand the definitions of these terms as a foundation for our travels as we continue on this journey.

Diversity

The condition of having or being composed of differing elements; variety especially the inclusion of different types of people (such as people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization, such as promoting diversity in our Branch. Diversity refers to characteristics, the dimensions that make each of us unique.

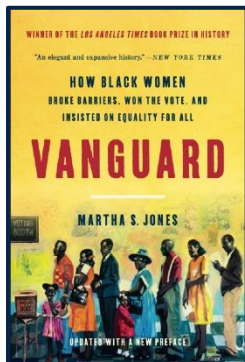
Equity

Justice according to natural law or right specifically; freedom from bias or favoritism. Equity is about everyone having equal access to what they need to be successful.

Inclusion

The act or practice of including and accommodating people who have historically been excluded (as because of their race, gender, sexuality or ability). Inclusion entails behaviors and actions that make us feel welcomed or not.

Great Read From DEI



Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All by Martha S. Jones (published Sept. 8, 2020). The following information is provided by the book's publisher, Basic Books.

In the standard story, the suffrage crusade began in Seneca Falls in 1848 and ended with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. But this overwhelmingly White women's movement did not win the vote for most Black women. Securing their rights required a movement of their own.

In *Vanguard*, acclaimed historian Martha S. Jones offers a new history of Black women's political lives in America. She recounts how they defied both racism and sexism to fight for the ballot, and how they wielded political power to secure the equality and dignity of all persons. From the earliest days of the republic to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and beyond, Jones excavates the lives and work of Black women—Maria Stewart, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Fannie Lou Hamer, and more—who were at the forefront of women's rights, calling on America to realize its best ideals. This is a thorough history of Black women and their unceasing work to secure the right to vote. It fills in pages that were omitted from our history books. We all need to read and learn!

Vanguard is a well-researched book that highlights the work of many formerly unnamed Black women who worked for equality. It is well-written, interesting, informative, and inspirational. These women were amazing.

Linda Carpenter

Public Policy



“AAUW is committed to open and fair elections that are broadly accessible to all voters, nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in appointed and elected office, and expanding voting rights.”

Elected officials make decisions impacting all of us—from our paychecks to paid leave, from reproductive health care to education. Our Vote is Our Voice. We must ensure everyone who is eligible is registered to vote!

Background

1965 - The Voting Rights Act of 1965 made it illegal for any election law or practice to discriminate against or prevent anyone from voting. Protecting the right to vote continues today.

2013 - the *Shelby County v. Holder* decision from the U.S. Supreme Court gutted key protections in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 making way for many new discriminatory and restrictive voting laws. The impact was seen within 24 hours. We need new legislation.

2021 -The Freedom to Vote Act (also known as The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act) passed in the House in 2021 and remains under consideration in the Senate. This Act will modernize The Voting Rights Act formula to counter anti-voter bills sweeping the nation and determine where patterns of discrimination exist; increase transparency and ensure last-minute voting changes do not adversely affect voters; and expand government authority to send Federal observers to the polls. The Act will also:

- **Require** every state to have automatic voter registration
- **Establish** Election Day as a federal holiday
- **Ensure** the ability to vote by mail
- **Protect** communities vulnerable to disenfranchisement
- **Ban** partisan gerrymandering

Our democracy works best when everyone fully participates! Be the change you want to see! Become a 2-Minute Activist by contacting your senators today:

- Rick Scott, 202-224-5274, rickscott.senate.gov/contact_rick
- Marco Rubio, 202-224-3041, rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact

PLEASE VOTE!

Susan Gold & Jeannie Hamilton
Public Policy Co-Directors

Day Trips



On Saturday, September 24, eight ladies from our AAUW Branch traveled by bus to Sanford, FL, to enjoy lunch at Hollerbach's Willow Tree German Restaurant and to do a little shopping. The menu included a wide variety of authentic German food and beer, and lunch was accompanied by talented performers playing and singing German music. The photo at left shows those who attended this event. They are (L to R) Ann

Marie Lombardi, Gay Birchard, Cynthia Snavely, Cathy Cirocco, Terri Slotterback, Kate Manion, Angela Vickers, and Jacquie Latzer.

Great Decisions

Although Diane Jacobson will not be available to lead the Great Decisions discussion group this year, we are hoping to sponsor this program again. The Foreign Policy Association is busy writing and editing the 2023 version so we do not know what the topics will be for this year. In 2022, we discussed “Putin’s Russia” just in time for the invasion of Ukraine. Our readings and discussions certainly gave us a deeper understanding of the situation there.

The Sumter Country Villages Annex Conference Room at 8033 East CR 466 has been reserved for Monday mornings, Jan.24, 31, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28, and March 7, 14, 21. We will have one or two groups that meet for one hour and twenty minutes each. The books will be available in early January.



All we need now is to know how many of you, and your friends, would like to participate this year. If you are interested in joining us, please send an email (subject line: Great Decisions) to Christine Loken-Kim at kurusu99@hotmail.com.

Please send names and email addresses of anyone who is interested. Please include if they are members of AAUW or not, and if they have been part of Great Decisions groups before.

Christine Loken-Kim
Great Decisions

Book Club

This month, the book club is reading *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. The group will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 19 at the North Lake Presbyterian

Church in the Faith Room. (Note the room change – we previously met in the Peace Room.) Anne Wilkins will lead the discussion. All members are welcome. To join the group, contact kmanion52@gmail.com.

2022-23 Book Club Selections				
<i>Date</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Summary</i>	<i>Discussion Leader</i>
10/19/22	<i>West with Giraffes</i>	Lynda Rutledge	Transporting giraffes across country in 1920 depression; racism	Anne Wilkins
11/16/22	<i>When the Apricots Bloom</i>	Gina Wilkinson	Three diverse women in Saddam Hussein's reign	Katie Haviland
12/14/22	<i>Holiday Luncheon</i>			
1/18/23	<i>The Lost Apothecary</i>	Sarah Penner	Historical novel...18 th C. and today; mysterious poisons	Barb Blatchfold
2/15/23	<i>The Lincoln Highway</i>	Amor Towles	1950s cross country trip gone awry.	Ginny Rivera
3/15/23	<i>Her Hidden Genius</i>	Marie Benedict	DNA Scientist	Jeannie Hamilton
4/19/23	<i>The Rose Code</i>	Kate Quinn	WWII Code Breakers	Joanie Schmidt
5/17/23	<i>The Lions of Fifth Avenue</i>	Fiona Davis	New York Library and living there	Cathy Cirocco
6/21/23	<i>Salt to the Sea</i>	Ruta Sepetys	WWII German escapees on the Wilhelm Gustloff	Kate Manion

CONNECT

Membership

We have 90 paid members, and we welcome to two new members!

Lisa French

3143 Abana Path
 The Villages, FL 32163
Lfrench508@hotmail.com 214.697.7477
 BA. Emory University
 MBA, Georgia State University

Elizabeth White

3425 Bloomington Place
The Villages, FL 32162
Elizabethwhite2002@yahoo.com 201.749.0845
BBA, Pace University
MBA, Fordham University
PhD, New York University

If you have printed a *Members' Handbook and Directory*, please add Lisa and Elizabeth to your booklets. Their information has been added to the online directory.

Karen Pickelsimer and Gay Birchard
Co-Directors of Membership

Help Wanted

There are several open positions in our organizations which must be filled.

- Director for Fundraising
- Committee Chair for Hospitality
- Committee Chairs for Social Media and Publicity
- Computer Assistant team at General Meetings. You may volunteer for one or two meetings of your choice



These are critical positions that our branch needs to be filled. Please step forward to support us. You and a friend may take on any position as a team. Contact Anne Sobocinski at annesobocinski@yahoo.com or (815)210-3450.

Social Interest Groups

Dine Around will be held in October at the Legacy Restaurant. Please indicate your preference of a date the last week in October through email to me (jcdukeirl@aol.com). I will go with the majority for a date and confirm it to everyone by October 15.

Finger food and Fun will meet in November as soon as we have a home to host this party. Please email me (jckukeril@aol.com) if you are interested in hosting this event in November.

Mah Jongg was cancelled on September 28 due to hurricane Ian. The next game is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, at the home of Kate Manion. Any member wishing to play may contact Kate Manion at kmanion52@gmail.com. All skill levels are welcome, and if you don't know how to play mah jongg, we'll teach you!

SUPPORT

Fund Raising

We are in need of a director or co-directors, as well as committee members, for the Fundraising Committee. As Diane Jacobson, former Fundraising Director, commented: you aren't actually responsible for each fund raiser, you oversee the committee that does the work. Or, you can be more actively involved if you desire. Check out the description of the Fundraising Director position in the Members' Pages of our website (www.lakesumteraauw.org).

A lot of great ideas were garnered at the September meeting so there is a clear path to follow, or you can certainly develop unique programs and activities.

If you have an interest in contributing to our fundraising efforts, please contact Anne Sobocinski!

Tech Trek

With the General Election approaching in November, your AAUW poll workers will once again staff the Sea Breeze Rec Center site. The money our members earn will go toward funding next summer's STEM camperships.

Meanwhile the Tech Trek committee is preparing to connect with school STEM coordinators in Lake and Sumter Counties. We have been delayed a bit by school closings but expect to be in full active mode as soon as county offices reopen.

Liz Schweers
Tech Trek Chair

Scholarships



Help worthy young women complete their college education with \$4,000 AAUW scholarships, while giving yourself and your friends a chance to receive this stunning 14 karat yellow gold 20mm ribbed tapered bangle bracelet.

Someone will be gifted with this exquisite \$6,600 bracelet, which has been donated by **Gold in Art Jewelers**. Why shouldn't it be you?

For each \$10 you donate, a ticket in your name will be entered into a chance drawing.

Please ask your friends to participate as well. Remember: the more money we raise, the more scholarships we can give.

To enter the drawing, download this page to print the form below. Clearly write your name, phone number, and email address on it. Then for each person contributing to the scholarship fund, yourself included, indicate the number of tickets to be entered into the drawing, and the amount donated.

Mail the form with your check(s) made payable to **AAUW Lake/Sumter** to:

Katherine Mason
 2444 Lay Lane
 The Villages, FL 32163

We will email you a *thank you* as a receipt for your donation and will call on February 18, 2023, to tell you if you or one of your friends will receive the bracelet. To be entered in the drawing, submit your donations with this form by **February 8, 2023**. Extra forms are available on our website (www.lakesumteraauw.org).

QUESTIONS: (850) 556-7986

===== Cut along this line =====

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Your Email: _____

Name on Ticket	#Tickets	Amount	Check #
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Form# _____	Date Received _____	Date Confirmed _____	Totals _____



**American Association of University Women
Lake/Sumter (FL) Branch**
Learn – Connect - Support

Please consider where you can fit in to make our branch succeed in its mission! No matter your interest, we can fit you in! Deadline for the November issue will be October 20. Please continue to use the newsletter email address.

Editor: Beth Hicks
aauwlsnews@gmail.com

AAUW Websites

Local: <https://lakesumteraauw.org>
State: <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net>
National: <https://www.aauw.org>