



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

September 2022

President’s Message



Greetings to everyone. I hope you all enjoyed your summer and are ready for a change in the weather. I am excited about moving into our new AAUW calendar year, much like the energy that comes with beginning a new school year.

We all owe Linda Carpenter a big expression of gratitude for getting us to the beginning of the 2022 - 2023 AAUW year. She had been working throughout the summer, behind the scenes, getting us to today. As you know, in late July, Linda reluctantly resigned her position as co-President due to health issues. I am saddened that we will not be going forward together. I am sure she will appreciate our continued prayers.

We have some interesting plans ahead, starting with the programs that Carolyn and Bonnie have arranged for us. We will continue to move forward with our strategic plan that was developed last spring. There will be new colors in our branch with updated materials bringing us in line with AAUW National and State branding.

We also have challenges. Due to the lack of fundraising opportunities during the Covid 19 quarantine, our financial resources are low. As a cohesive organization, we are going to attack that head on. We will be working together to refill our coffers to

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continue to robustly support our signature program of Tech Trek for girls and scholarships for woman completing their college education.

Also, as part of the strategic plan, we are being challenged to make our branch a conduit for social activities which will promote new and continuing friendships. These social interactions are key to our well-being. But as research shows, it is not enough to attend interesting programs. We must also engage with others. So, let's get this year started by connecting at the General Meetings with someone new or someone you want to know better. Perhaps invite them to lunch or coffee. Follow up with a phone call. The better we get to know one another, the better we will be able to support each other.

Membership is the backbone of any organization. To have a strong backbone we need active members as well as new members. We need all of you to be active members, active at the level that works for you. If you cannot be a Board member this year, perhaps you can join or lead a committee. Hopefully, everyone can commit to doing something once or twice, such as being a greeter at a General Meeting.

We also have to recharge our branch with new members. To do this we are actively seeking ways to get our organization recognized, known to the community. Ads are being placed, updated literature is being developed, and a membership drive will be held in early 2023.

I am looking forward to working with you and getting to know all of you much better. Let's get started!

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!

- September 17 – You can be an active member!
- October 15 – Education in our backyard.
- November 19 – Scams and scares: Protecting yourself financially and emotionally
- December 10- Happy Holidays! Luncheon at The Oaks on 44
- January 21 – It is a brave new world! Tech Trek
- February 18 – Our past, our present, our future
- March 18 - Real women in the real world
- April 15 - New beginnings
- May 20 – Celebrating our Branch; luncheon location to be announced

General Meeting: Saturday, September 17
Allamanda Recreation Center
Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

You Can Be an Active Member!

Our theme for this year's General Meeting programs is *Learning of self, learning of others, and learning of your world*. And a quote from Ben Franklin captures the essence of our September meeting.

Tell me I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.
Benjamin Franklin

You will have the opportunity to help organize our Branch for the coming year at our September meeting.

You will have the opportunity to review the Learning and Social groups that are available for our Branch. Explore new interests, and meet new people, sign up for new adventures.

You will have the opportunity to brainstorm with a number of our Operational Committees: Diversity, Scholarship, Tech Trek, Membership, and Programs or the Standing Committees: Communications, Fund Raising, and Public Policy.

Your input is vital to shape our Branch – all of you have outstanding experience, learning and leadership skills, so share them with the Branch! What can we do better? How to do it? How can we brand our name? How can we work with other community groups? How can we recruit new members? What do you want to learn? How can we have better communication? Can you help with just one meeting or event? AAUW plays an important role in our lives and the lives of the many women that we help along their educational path.

This will be a working program, and a sharing program, a guide to our future! We're looking forward to seeing everyone there and reconnecting.

Bonnie Weaver & Carolyn Pasquale
Co-Directors of Programs

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI)

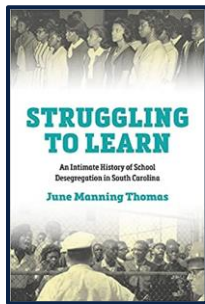
The Diversity Committee is regrouping after a year on hiatus and would appreciate additional branch members' input and involvement as we move forward. Please visit our table at the General Meeting on September 17 to share your ideas and suggestions as to what topics and activities our committee should pursue to continue our mission to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. If you don't want to wait that long to share your ideas and suggestions or if you will not be able to attend the meeting, we encourage

you to email us your ideas. Send them to: divcomaauw@gmail.com and also let us know if you'd like to join the Committee and assist in this important opportunity.

We offered a full season of Zoom discussions about race and racism during the 2020-2021 year. That program addressed: Understanding Race and Racism, White Privilege, Anti-Racism, Implicit Bias, Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome, Microaggressions, Implications and Impact of Confederate Monuments, Systemic Racism in Housing, and Systemic Racism in Voting. Our sessions are still available on YouTube and search for us under AAUW Diversity Discussions on Race. You will find weeks 1, and 3-10 there. Session can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIpf90ttfps&t=34s>

Jacquie Latzer
DEI Chair

Great Read From DEI



Struggling to Learn: An Intimate History of School Desegregation in South Carolina

by June M. Thomas (published March 31, 2022)

In 1964 14-year-old June Manning Thomas walked into Orangeburg High School as one of 13 Black students selected to integrate the all-White school. *Struggling to Learn* revisits her life growing up in the midst of the civil rights movement before, during, and after desegregation. Through poignant personal narrative and supported by meticulous research, Thomas traces the history of Black education in South Carolina from the post-Civil War era to the present. (Despite the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that declared school segregation illegal, South Carolina officials did not integrate any public schools until 1963, and the majority of them refused to admit Black students until the intervention of the federal government forced all schools to start desegregating in the fall of 1970.)

Now a Professor Emerita of Urban Planning at the University of Michigan, Thomas reveals how local leaders, educators, parents, and the NAACP joined forces to improve the quality of education for Black students in K-12 schools and higher education and why Black people persisted despite opposition and hostility from White citizens. In the final chapters, she explores the current state of education for Black children and young adults in South Carolina and assesses what has been achieved and learned through this collective struggle.

This book is part memoir, part well-researched history...from reconstruction to the present time...of efforts to provide quality education to Black students in South Carolina. I found it well-written and engaging as well as interesting, informative, and chilling.

Linda Carpenter

Public Policy



To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW advocates the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution designed to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex. It states:

"Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

"Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."

The majority of Americans mistakenly believe that women and men have equal rights *under the Constitution*.

The first version of ERA was written in the 1920s by Alice Paul, a suffragist. Kate Kelly, an attorney and ERA advocate states, "We will not have permanent protections if we are not in the Constitution."

The time for constitutional protections for gender has never been more urgent. The lack of constitutional equality reaches every aspect of women's lives. The ERA will clarify, once and for all, that sex discrimination in employment and wages, reproductive rights, insurance, Social Security, education, and more is a violation of constitutional rights. The Constitutional Amendment will outlast every person on the Supreme Court.

Women in the United States have waited long enough for the ERA to be fully ratified. We cannot wait for equality any longer! Send a message to your Senators urging their support for the ratification of the EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT!

Rick Scott, 202-224-5274, rickscott.senate.gov/contact_rick

Marco Rubio, 202-224-3041, rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact

Susan Gold & Jeannie Hamilton
Public Policy Co-Directors

Book Club

The Book Club will meet via Zoom at 10:30 am on September 21. The book we will be discussing is *You Have Arrived at Your Destination* by Amor Towles, author of *A*

Gentleman in Moscow. Linda Carpenter will lead the discussion. Whether we continue meeting by Zoom or go back to meeting in-person at the Northlake Presbyterian Church will also be discussed. All members are welcome to join the Book Club. To become a member, contact Kate Manion at kmanion52@gmail.com.

Kate Manion
Book Club Chair

2022-23 Book Club Selections				
Date	Book	Author	Summary	Discussion Leader
9/21/22	<i>You Have Arrived at Your Destination</i>	Amor Towles	Futuristic nature vs. nurture. Creating the Perfect Child.	Linda Carpenter
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	Wife of diplomat, Iranian artist, secretary of diplomat, during Saddam Hussein's reign	Katie Haviland
12/14/22	<i>Holiday Luncheon</i>			
1/18/23	<i>The Lost Apothecary</i>	Sarah Penner	In 1791 London, Nella owns a secret apothecary shop where she sells poisons. Present day, Caroline learns of her husband's infidelity and finds a clue about the old apothecary shop.	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
7/19/23	<i>The World Played Chess</i>	Robert Dugoni	HS grad works with Vietnam vets. 40 years later, he reflects on lessons learned.	TBD

Day Trips

Our fall day trip is planned for Saturday, September 24. We will be traveling to Sanford, FL, for a fun-filled lunch at Hollerbach's German restaurant. While all the seats on the bus are presently filled, interested members may contact Workman Transportation at 352-258-9398 to be added to the wait list.



CONNECT

Membership News

Just a friendly reminder to either send a check or bring it to the September 17, 2022, meeting to renew your membership. The dues are \$98.00 for 2022-2023: \$59.00 is tax deductible.

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 Chair for Publicity
- Committee Chair for Social Media
- Committee co-Chair for Tech Trek with Liz Schweers
- Computer Assistant team at General Meetings. You may volunteer for one or two meetings of your choice



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

Farewell Letter from Long Time Member Diane Jacobson

Dear Ladies of AAUW,

Moving to The Villages in 2002 I was introduced to AAUW by Rona Gold who was a force, and no one ever had to guess how she felt about things. As an example of her chutzpah when she left The Villages some 12 years ago, she said goodbye, adios and made it clear not to expect to ever hear from her again. While I admired her truthfulness, I am not interested in never hearing from my many friends I've made at AAUW. Since joining Lake/Sumter AAUW in 2003 I've held the office of President,

Finance Director, Program Director, and Membership Director. I've also headed many fundraising projects, introduced Great Decisions to the branch, was a member of the scholarship committee and generally did what I could to help keep our branch a thriving organization.

I think the AAUW mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research is a worthy cause that makes a difference. Being a graduate of a college or university is the key to open doors to career opportunity. Our scholarship program that supports women who have completed their second year of study helps them to realize their four-year degree is dynamic. Promoting STEM through the Tech Trek summer program while fairly new to Florida is important for our young girls planting the seed for possibility is so important and the support of the program by our Lake/Sumter Branch is phenomenal.

Leaving The Villages for The Village at Gainesville has been a challenge in downsizing and a lifestyle change. My husband, Charlie and I are looking forward to a less hectic lifestyle concentrating on our personal health and well-being as we adjust to our cozy new home.

With deep appreciation to all my dear friends at AAUW throughout the years I wish you all the best.

Take care and be safe,

Diane Jacobson
8050 NW 25th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32606
diandchas@gmail.com
(352) 750 0032

Branch “Club Connections” Advertising in *The Daily Sun*



AAUW has purchased color ads in *The Daily Sun*. These ads give us a unique opportunity to communicate our key strategic initiatives and create awareness towards increased membership.

Mid-September, newspaper subscribers and advertisers will receive the *Newcomers Guide Book*. Look for our ad in the “Club Connections” section.

And, in the September 6 and October 4 “Club Connections” sections of the newspaper, our ads will feature open invitations to attend our September and October meetings. Share this information with your friends and be on the lookout for them!

Social Interest Groups

Our social activities will soon be starting up after a summer break. Look for information about Bridge, Mah Jongg, Dine Around, Finger Food and Fun, and other social interest groups at our September meeting or on our website (www.lakesumteraauw.org).

SUPPORT

Straight Talk About Fund Raising

In our branch, we talk about fundraising in the hushed tones folks use when they're talking about distasteful topics. We just don't like raising money. But the facts suggest that our branch is in dire straits and will be challenged to meet our obligations this year if we don't plan and carry out some events to raise funds.

We can thank the COVID-19 pandemic to a certain extent: We haven't run major fundraisers in the past two years. Our branch leaders also haven't been able to identify a member willing to serve as Fundraising Director this year, and there are no plans on the table for raising money to operate our branch and support the young women and girls in their STEM education endeavors. As a result, our coffers are perilously close to empty.

A Call to Action

We are turning to you, our members, for help. You may ask, "But what can I do?" Glad you asked.

- A member (or two) could step up to coordinate fundraising efforts. The expectation is NOT for these volunteers to design and implement major fundraisers; the expectation IS that they will solicit ideas and plans from other members for small fundraising events during the year that those members will carry out. You can find the description of the Fundraising Director position in the Board Handbook, which is on the Members' Page of our website (www.lakesumteraauw.org).
- A group of members could come together to organize a small fundraiser. We have, for example, detailed plans for a "Farewell to the Old Card Mah Jongg Night," which could be implemented easily. We ran that back in 2019 and raised just under \$1,500...this year, that would cover one campership to Tech Trek or one college scholarship. Or members could develop their own plans and implement them. Plans could be submitted to the Board for approval and coordination, in the absence of a Fundraising Director.
- You may not see yourself in either of the above options but still resonate with our plight and would like to help. Money talks. If each of our 118 members donated \$50, the total of \$5,900 would send five girls to Tech Trek. So, send checks, made out to

Lake/Sumter AAUW, to Lois Venus, 2637 Day Lily Run, The Villages, FL 32162-2050.

Tech Trek

Primary Election Day found Gay Birchard, Judy Bonn, Stan Carpenter, Nancy Hartshorn, Katie Haviland, Jacquie Latzer, Judy Reinhardt, Liz Schweers, Jennifer Thompson, and Angela Vickers busy at the Sea Breeze election site facilitating the election process and having a great time getting to know one another. Note that Stan Carpenter (Linda's husband) was terrific in providing every voter a "Q tip" stylus with which to validate a signature. You can imagine the comments voters made! And we processed over 400 voters! Not only did we help with the democratic voting process, but we also raised money toward providing summer camperships for Tech Trek for summer 2023. The group will be back, working the polls again on election day in November. Way to go!



Scholarship

Funds from the jewelry drawing last year are supporting six women as they complete their bachelors' degrees in college. Their dreams and goals for their future careers are in reach. Four of these young women are entering their senior year and will graduate in the spring of 2023. They are enrolled at the University of Florida, the University of Central Florida, or Lake Sumter State College. The two who are juniors are enrolled at the University of Central Florida and Beacon College.

Over the next few months, we look forward to introducing you to the two new awardees and greeting the four who are continuing their education. Meanwhile, *thank you* for your generous contributions to the jewelry drawings and our other fundraisers.

We are pleased to announce that Gold in Art Jewelers will be donating another piece of jewelry for our 2022-23 drawing. More news ahead....



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

Long time readers should see lots of changes with this edition! We have taken our **Learn – Connect - Support** tagline into the structure of the newsletter. All the same articles, but in a new format. This organization mirrors our website. The listing shows most of our activities. If there is nothing in the newsletter on a specific topic, check out the website for more details. Our color palette now matches the colors of National.

Editor: Beth Hicks
aauwlsnews@gmail.com

Branch Commitment to Diversity

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.

AAUW Websites

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