

The American Association of University Women

The TORCH

September, 2020

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Peggy Cihl, Editor

Questions about vote by mail may be addressed by phoning **239.533.8683**. If you have any questions about voting at all, such as your precinct location (some have been changed) consult lee.vote.org

Whether by mail or in person...VOTE EARLY! Register by October 5; request a paper ballot by October 24. This can all be done online.

Several factors have coalesced to make voting in this presidential election, one of the most crucial in our history as a nation, more difficult than usual. First, the number of polling stations has been drastically reduced nationwide. Second, there is a severe shortage of poll workers due to Covid-19 fears. Third, lines will be longer due to the 6-foot rule. Four, the post office has undergone cuts in staffing and service: boxes and counting machines that were removed will not be replaced. Five, when a mail in-ballot is considered late is no longer the date of the postmark. While a precinct may decide to bend the rules, the actual requirement is that the ballot be received by the end of voting day to be on time and therefore count.

If you need to hand deliver your ballot, you may do so no later than 3 p.m. on Election Day. After 3 p.m. up to 7 p.m. vote by mail ballots may be turned in only at the Main Office, which is in the Melvin Morgan Constitutional Complex, located at the corner of Fowler Street and MLK Jr. Blvd in Fort Myers.

If you use a cane or walker, note there is always a handicapped entrance. REMEMBER your I.D.



Our annual AAUW membership renewal period continued through the summer. If you have not rejoined, please use the forms found on the last two pages of the TORCH.

PLEASE PRINT THE FORMS and mail them to our treasurer:

Carolyn Nance
6021 Silver King Blvd Unit 104
Cape Coral, FL 33914

If you need the form mailed to you or are having difficulty renewing, please contact

Carolyn Nance
cnance5240@gmail.com

Adopt-A-Precinct

We have concluded the August 18, 2020 Election for AAUW. Many thanks to the following members and friends for helping us earn monies for our scholarships: Ron Glasgow, Carolyn Nance, Sam O'Briant, Judith Sims, Colleen Wheeler and me. We hope to earn about \$1,300 for the work. We worked with others from Precinct 47 that usually work at the Boy Scout Conference Center. They also had six workers. It was a great time of meeting new friends to assist the Lee County Elections Board.

As we look to the November 3rd Election Day, I am encouraging you to assist us to make a full team of workers at Precinct #90 at St. Cecelia's Catholic Church. COVID-19 has affected all of us in our outside-of-home experiences. In both elections we have worked this year, every effort has been made for the volunteers to be in a safe environment. The Elections Board provides masks, shields, gloves, and wipes to constantly clean surfaces and items used by workers and voters. I hope as we move forward with elections this year, everyone will feel comfortable participating in this opportunity for AAUW.

At this time I have received interest from the following people in working the November Election: Liz Foster, Janet George, Ron Glasgow, Jemetta Hunt, Kathy Jones, Mary Kellner, Carolyn Nance, Faye O'Briant, Sam O'Briant, Judy Sims, Pat Tillis, and Colleen Wheeler. Kath Haibach offered to help bring us food. Please let me know if there is a change in your interest to work. We are also in need of someone to speak Spanish. I will keep you informed of any changes from the Elections Board.

If you are not on the list, but now would like to participate, please contact me by email, or phone.

Thank you for your continued interest in our Adopt-A-Precinct endeavors to earn monies for scholarships.

Faye O'Briant]

Nanagrams6@gmail.com

239-994-9864

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc. Officers 2020-2021

Elected – Executive Board

President – Jemetta Hunt

Vice-President Elect – Kathleen Haibach

Out-Going President – Tina Hoegler

Co-Vice-Presidents Programs – Jill Jennings

Phyllis Wayco

Vice-President Membership – Lisa Crotty

Co-Secretary – Liz Foster and Pat Crowe

Co-Treasurer – Mary Kellner and

Judith Sims

Appointed Officers – Board Members

Public Policy – Susan Harden

Co-Chair Scholarship – Cheryl Tromley,

Marcia Howard and Devera Graf

Communications – Open

Ways and Means – Peggy Cihl

Standing Committees

Website – Lisa Crotty

Torch Editor – Peggy Cihl; Circulation ---

Historian – Judith Sims

Photographer – Jemetta Hunt

Records Retention – Executive Board

K.T.E.R Science/Engineering Fair–

Cathy Tucker

Adopt-A-Precinct – Faye O'Briant

Ancillary Positions:

AAUW Name Tags – Lisa Crotty

Carolyn Nance

Greeters – Board Members

Reservations – Faye O'Briant

Sunshine – Ann Compton

Torch Circulation – Faye O'Briant (US Mail)

Kathy Jones (e-mail)

President's Message

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your President for 2020-2021. Thank you for your vote of confidence and support. I am grateful to be working with such a dedicated and highly experienced leadership team. While guided by AAUW's mission, the Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc., will continue to develop programs that support community involvement, intellectual growth for our members, and educational opportunities for women and girls.

This year, AAUW joins the nation in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which is remembered for giving women the right to vote. Some of the same issues that women faced then continue to exist today. Inequality, sexism, racism and voting rights are common issues of our times. We have come a long way but there is more work to be done.

"Awareness is the greatest agent for change."

Eckhart Tolle

Our Adopt-A-Precinct program has been very successful raising thousands of dollars for scholarships. This year's trifecta, Presidential Preference in March, Primary in August and General Election in November, has afforded us an increased earning opportunity. We thank our Adopt-A-Precinct chair and volunteers for their civic duty, hard work and generosity.

The COVID 19 global pandemic has changed the way we live our lives. Social distancing and wearing masks is our "new norm." Staying safe and remaining healthy has become our #1 priority, as we learn to live with this virus. To protect the health and safety of our membership, the board has unanimously decided to suspend our monthly (in-person) luncheon/meetings until further notice.

We will continue to stay connected and conduct our business virtually via Zoom. Technical assistants will be available to all who may not be familiar with Zoom Go-to-meetings. Staying connected electronically gives us a new way to keep in touch, stay on mission and meet our goals.

Although our monthly programs will not be in-person, they will continue to be inspiring, relevant and informative. In many ways, virtual learning has created more opportunities to connect with a wider and more diverse audience.

Interest Groups are another excellent way to stay connected and get to know your colleagues. For further information, specific dates and meeting times, please contact the group coordinator, listed in this TORCH.

The Branch Directory will be mailed to all members in September. The Torch will be e-mailed and/or mailed monthly. A notice for all meetings will be sent to all members in accordance with our Bylaws. Please visit our branch website for more resources and updated information.

Thank you, for your continued dedication and commitment to AAUW.

Stay safe and be well.

Jemetta Hunt

AAUW MEETING:

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020

ON LINE MEETING VIA ZOOM

BOARD MEETING - 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

ONE-HOUR LUNCH BREAK

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND PROGRAM - 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

The Zoom Meeting Link will be emailed to all members one week in advance of meeting.

The Agenda, Minutes and Budget will be emailed 10 days prior to September 19.



Woman of Interest

Activist SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Born Susan Brownell Anthony on February 15, 1820, in Adams, Massachusetts. Anthony was the daughter of Daniel Anthony, a cotton mill owner, and his wife, Lucy Read Anthony. She grew up in a politically active family who worked to end slavery as part of the abolitionist movement. When they moved to Rochester, New York in 1845, the Anthony's social circle included anti-slavery activist and escaped slave Frederick Douglass, who would later join Anthony in the fight for women's rights, and William Lloyd Garrison. The Anthonys were also part of the temperance movement, which attempted to cease the production and sale of alcohol in the United States.

When Susan B. Anthony was denied a chance to speak at a temperance convention because of her gender, she was inspired to shift her focus to the fight for women's rights. She realized that no one would take women in politics seriously unless they had the right to vote, writing: "There never will be complete

INTEREST GROUPS & COORDINATORS

BOOK GROUPS

Marilyn Myli, Coordinator

Cover Girls

Meets 2nd Wednesday, 1 PM

Classy Ladies & Literature

Meets 3rd Wednesday, 2 PM

Eat, Share, Read

Meets 3rd Thursday, 11:30 AM

BRIDGE

Marilyn Myli, Coordinator

HAND & FOOT

Carolyn Nance, Coordinator

MAHJONGG

Jean Schoenthaler, Coordinator
Meets – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 1 PM

GREAT DECISIONS

Suzan Harden

PHOTO WALKS

Jemetta Hunt, Coordinator

DAY TRIPS

Robin Tuthill, Coordinator

WRITING / POETRY

Jill Jennings and Judith Sims,

New Interest Groups are always welcome.
Jemetta Hunt, Facilitator



Using Zoom

If you are not familiar with Zoom, it is a video conferencing app that will allow us to meet together.

Each video conference meeting has a unique 9, 10, or 11-digit number called a meeting ID that will be required to join a Zoom meeting.

(If you are joining via telephone, you will need the teleconferencing number provided below.)

Getting Started

For questions about Zoom and your particular computer set-up, check out the Zoom site (it's impossible to know every combination of computer, hardware, software everyone is running). There are free resources available:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697>

To learn about joining a meeting and to download the Zoom app:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

If you want to practice with Zoom and verify that your system works:

<https://zoom.us/test>

Prefer to Call In?

If you don't have a computer with video conference capabilities or you prefer to call in, you can use one of the following numbers. Dial by your location

1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

1 301 715 8592 US

1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 850 7704 4359

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/keG0bLvlDB>

In the Spotlight.

If you know of one of our members who has distinguished herself in community service or a personal accomplishment, nominate her for this column. This is a way to recognize our members as they live out AAUW's mission of service to women and girls. Identify the person and give a brief description of her contribution. Include a photo if possible.

Send the information to V.P. Program programs@aaup.org via email at



New Jersey Suffragettes tour the city on the final round of “stump speeches” for the 19th Amendment (Hutton-Archive/Getty Images)

[Three Lessons Learned and Lots of Stories From The History of Women Getting the Vote – One Hundred Years of Voting](#)

This 58 minute video produced by Flagler County, Florida AUWW member Kimble Medley, will kick off our 2020-2021 year at Fort Myers AAUW branch with a bang, although it will be soft one because all of us will be watching via Zoom! Kimble has compiled and narrated an outstanding overview of the struggle and victory of the women’s suffrage movement, which culminated in passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, one that prohibited denying any citizen the right to vote based on gender. Three persistent ladies, Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and Inez Milholland, endured endless travel, demonstrations in the cold and rain, the ridicule of most men and many women, the reluctance of President Woodrow Wilson, and even imprisonment, illness, and hunger strikes. Through cleverness, persistence and sheer determination they piloted a movement that succeeded where others had failed in restoring to women the dignity of rightful participation in a democracy that only voting can confer. In her research for this stunning program, Kimble even unearthed the names of three local Florida suffragists active in the movement. Celebrate the One Hundred Year Centennial of Women’s Suffrage with us by participating in our September 19 AAUW meeting. ;---Jill Jennings



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