



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I hope you had a safe and enjoyable summer. I am honored to be serving as your president and look forward to working with our dedicated board and members. We survived a challenging past year due to Covid and now look forward to in-person meetings to begin in October, as well as our Fashion Show fundraiser in February.

Unfortunately, we do not have clear sailing yet due to the Covid surge. Our priority continues to be the safety of our members. Input from all members is crucial in determining safety protocols. Lisa Crotty and Tamara Pigott have developed a survey to address your thoughts on how to proceed with in-person meetings. The link for this survey is included in this Torch. Simply click onto the link, complete the survey and press Submit. Please complete before the September meeting since we will be discussing the results in our small breakout sessions on the 18th.

Our September 18th meeting will be via Zoom. The Board meeting begins at 11am which all members are invited to attend. Immediately following the Board meeting will be small group breakout sessions to discuss safety protocol for in-person meetings, including the survey results. Lisa Crotty will be emailing to all members the link to the Zoom meeting, as well as the Agenda, May Minutes and Treasurer Report the Wednesday before the Saturday 18th meeting. Please be looking for this email. I hope all members will attend this important meeting.

Other news to report. Our chapter is one of 35 in the State of Florida. Our branch had one of the higher participation rates in the vote for eliminating the college degree requirement. 50% of our members voted with 35% voting to eliminate the degree requirement. The ballot initiative did not receive the two-thirds vote required to enact the bylaws change.

While some Florida AAUW chapters saw a decline in membership this past year; I am proud to announce our membership retention continues to remain strong. This speaks to our members' strong commitment. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible to ensure your name will be in this years' Directory.

The Directory will be available at the October meeting.

Stay safe and be well.

Kathleen Haibach, President AAUW
Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc.



AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County
<https://fmfc-fl.aauw.net>
Our local e-mail address:
aauwleecounty@gmail.com
Our National Organization
<https://www.aauw.org>



For questions about Zoom and your particular computer set-up, check out

Link to Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86943049784?pwd=UTVRbXVQaDViNjZXQWpvMIIVRTlwQT09>

Meeting ID: 869 4304 9784

Passcode: 131216

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,86943049784#,,,,*131216# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,86943049784#,,,,*131216# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 869 4304 9784

Passcode: 131216

Find your local

number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/keG0bLvIDB>

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

1 312 626 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/keG0bLvIDB>



We need your input!

Membership Survey

Our September meeting will be held on Zoom (meeting details available above). However, we want your thoughts on meeting in person for small groups, our October meeting, etc. Please give us your thoughts using this link for our ... Safety Protocol Survey:

- <https://forms.gle/4Ms9dWyUzR9wUXP26>

A special thank you to AAUW member Tamara Pigott for putting together the survey. Tamara will also be collecting the results for discussion at the September meeting. Please complete the survey and click submit to help us plan for upcoming meetings. The responses are anonymous.



FOCUS ON OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

**Scholarship Committee: Cheryl Tromley,
Devera Graf, Marcia Howard**

AAUW Star Bright Scholarship: This scholarship was established in 2005, by one of our Book Clubs to provide branch members with the opportunity to make donations honoring friends and commemorating special events. As funds accrue, a \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a female student attending the second semester at Fort Myers or Cape Coral Technical College.

AAUW Lee County High School Scholarship: Established in 2011 in memory of Jane Wagner, a three-term branch president. It awards one \$1,000 scholarship per year to a graduating female student with financial need and few other scholarships, chosen by the school counselor. It is paid to the college of the recipient's choice.

AAUW STEM Award: Established in 2011 to encourage middle and high school girls in STEM fields. It awards one \$500 prize to a top female entrant in the Thomas Alva Edison & Kiwanis Regional Science and Engineering Fair. A "First Time" award of \$100 is also given to a female entrant for an outstanding first entry. All Lee County female high school entrants in the Edison Regional Science Fair are eligible.

Marie Glasgow and AAUW STEM Award Fund: Established in 2019 in honor of Marie Glasgow, a two-term president of AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co Branch for three years. It is awarded each year with the goal of improving educational opportunities by rewarding young Middle School girl(s) who are winners at the Junior Division of Edison-Kiwanis Science Fair or Thomas Edison Festival of Light Regional Inventors' Fair.

Girls in Engineering, Math and Science (GEMS): This hands-on program is dedicated to science education for regional middle school girls by enthusiastic professionals and undergraduates as facilitators and role models in a girls-only environment.

AAUW FGCU Endowed Scholarship: Established in 2000, with member and matching funds from the state, it awards one scholarship to a female student who resides in the five-county (Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry) area with financial need pursuing an undergraduate degree at FGCU. Priority is given to the current awardee.

AAUW Sue Gottcent Memorial Endowed Scholarship: Established in 2006 with a bequest from the estate of member Sue Gottcent who was an avid supporter of AAUW's mission. It awards one \$2,000 scholarship to a Lee County female student age 25 or older with demonstrated financial need who attends an institute of higher education that is part of the Florida State University system. Priority is given to the current awardee.

AAUW FSW State College Endowed Scholarship: Established in 2000, with member and matching funds from the state, it awards one \$1,000 scholarship to a female Lee County student with financial need attending the Fort Myers Campus of FSW. Priority is given to the current awardee.

What can you do to help?

Did you know that our branch receives only \$9 of your annual dues? This means that we need all our members' help to continue to offer our scholarships. Please consider donating to our scholarship fund. You can donate in either of two ways:

Download the Branch Donation Form from the website (<https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net/donate/>) print and return with your tax deductible gift. Or you can use the form that appears in this edition of the Torch. Please make checks payable to AAUW Fort Myers / Lee County, Inc., and mail to:

AAUW – Attn: Treasurer
PO Box 2115

Fort Myers, FL 33901-2115

Thank you very much for whatever you can do to help.



The next Great Decisions discussion will be held via Zoom on Friday, September 10, at 12:30 p.m. (This was originally scheduled for September 3; but because of the Labor Day holiday, we decided at the June discussion to reschedule.) We will be discussing Topic 6, **The Two Koreas**. Discussion group participants, please check your email for a message from Suzan Harden with further details.

PUBLIC POLICY

An important part of AAUW's mission is to inform members of public policy issues, debates, and decisions that affect the lives of women throughout the lifespan and to actively engage with legislators to provide information as issues arise. The following statement taken directly from the AAUW national website explains AAUW's philosophy of advocacy succinctly:

"Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral: We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles. And we advocate for federal, state and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination."

AAUW members approved by a 92 percent vote the Public Policy Agenda presented last spring by our national Board. The priorities that were approved are: 1) Supporting a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness; 2) To achieve economic security for all women; 3) To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society. To read about AAUW's Public Policy Agenda, you can click on the following link: [AAUW Public Policy Priorities – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#). You will find much more detailed information about the Public Policy Agenda.

In addition, the AAUW Board-recommended ballot initiative to remove the college degree membership requirement did not receive the two-thirds vote required to change the by-laws. The initiative received a 63 percent approval rate by members, up from around 50 percent received in previous ballots.

If anyone would like to work with Chairperson Suzan Harden on the Public Policy Committee, please contact her at skh062653@gmail.com.

Submitted by Suzan Harden



2021-22 Torch Production Schedule

(No in-person meeting is scheduled for September 2021 due to health precautions. April and May meetings are the second week of the month due to a conflict with the Helm Club.)

SEND ARTICLES TO peggychi@comcast.net

Meeting Date		Deadline for Articles		Mail Torch Date
<i>September 18, 2021*</i>		August 27, 2021		September 8, 2021
October 16, 2021		September 27, 2021		October 6, 2021
November 20, 2021		October 30, 2021		November 10, 2021
December 18, 2021		November 27, 2021		December 8, 2021
January 15, 2022		December 27, 2021		January 5, 2022
February 19, 2022 Fashion Show		January 30, 2022		February 9, 2022
March 19, 2022		February 28, 2022		March 9, 2022
April 9, 2022		March 16, 2022		May 30, 2022
May 14, 2022		April 20, 2022		May 5, 2022

*September will be using Zoom and will be a Board Meeting/General Membership Meeting

Woman of Interest

Jane Addams



A progressive social reformer and activist, [Jane Addams](#) was on the frontline of the settlement house movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



She later became internationally respected for the peace activism that ultimately won her a Nobel Peace Prize in 1931, the first American woman to receive this honor. In 1889, Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr founded Hull House in Chicago's poor, industrial west side, the first settlement house in the United States based on a model they had seen in London. The goal was for educated women to share all kinds of knowledge, from basic skills to arts and literature with poorer people in the neighborhood. They also envisioned women living in the community center, among the people they served. Hull House is now a museum in Chicago.

<https://www.womenshistory.org>

INTEREST GROUPS/COORDINATORS

BOOK GROUPS

Marilyn Myli, Coordinator

Marilynmy7@hotmail.com

Club	Meets
Cover Girls	2nd Wednesday, 1 PM
Classy Ladies & Literature	3rd Wednesday, 2 PM
Eat, Share, Read	3rd Thursday, 11:30 AM

BRIDGE

Marilyn Myli, Coordinator

marilynmy7@hotmail.com

HAND & FOOT

Carolyn Nance, Coordinator

cnance5240@gmail.com

MAHJONGG

Jean Schoenthaler, Coordinator

jeanschoenthaler8102@comcast.net

Meets – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 1 PM

GREAT DECISIONS

Suzan Harden skh062653@gmail.com

PHOTO WALKS

Jemetta Hunt, Coordinator

Jemetta@aol.com

DAY TRIPS

Robin Tuthill, Coordinator rtuthill12@aol.com

WRITING / POETRY

Jill Jennings and Judith Sims, Coordinators

Magistra_jennings@yahoo.com

judithssims@gmail.com

New Interest Groups Are Welcome

Jemetta Hunt, Facilitator

Jemetta@aol.com

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc.

2021-2022 Officers

Elected – Executive Board

President – Kathleen Haibach

Past President – Jemetta Hunt

*Co-Vice-Presidents – Bonnie Ryan
and Janet George*

*Vice-President of Programs –
Jill Jennings*

Vice-President Membership – Lisa Crotty

Secretary – Pat Crowe

*Co-Treasurers –
Mary Kellner and Judith Sims.*

Appointed Officers – Board Members

Public Policy – Suzan Harden

Co-Chairs of Scholarship –

*Cheryl Tromley, Marcia Howard and
Devera Graf*

Communications – Tina Hoegler

Ways and Means – Peggy Cihl

Standing Committees

*Website/Directory—Lisa Crotty,
assisted by Tamara Pignott*

Torch Editor – Peggy Cihl

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

Reservations – Carolyn Nance

Sunshine – Ann Compton

Torch Circulation – Jemetta Hunt (US Mail)

Kathy Jones (e-mail)



What can we do to raise funds for our scholarships?

We have three ways we can help.

- Creative crafts can be part of the silent auction at our future fashion show in February of 2022. Stores continually give discounts to attract customers. Pick up something to save. Devera Graf is keeping track of these items. Please let her know what you have available. Fill in the form, on page 10, “Donation of Items for Fund Raising” and send it in. Please include a photo if possible.
- Donations can be made in honor of or in memory of someone special. Be thinking of who you would like to honor. Fill in the attached for “AAUW” form and send it in with your donation.
- AAUW (our chapter) is planning to compile a cookbook. Choose some of your favorite tested recipes and send them to peggycihi@comcast.net. Include your name, title and category of the recipe, ingredients and instructions. When submitting a recipe, please include a list of ingredients and a step-by-step list of how to prepare it. Do not worry about copyright. Since the cookbook would be for our group and not sold or advertised publicly, we can add our favorite recipes. See sample recipe:

Air Fryer Zucchini Fries

Prep Time 5 minutes

Cook Time 10 minutes

Total Time 15 minutes

Servings 4 people

Ingredients

- 2 medium zucchini
- 1 large egg beaten
- ½ cup almond flour or panko/Italian breadcrumbs
- ½ cup parmesan cheese grated
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning or seasoning of choice
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder optional
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- Oil for spraying olive or oil of choice

Instructions

1. Cut the zucchini in half and into sticks (aka fries) about 1/2 inch thick and 3-4 inches long.
2. In a shallow bowl, combine the almond flour (or breadcrumbs), grated parmesan, spices and a pinch of salt and pepper. Mix to combine.
3. Dredge zucchini in egg and then in the almond flour mixture and place on a plate or baking sheet. Generously spray zucchini with cooking spray.
4. Working in batches, place the zucchini fries in a single layer in the air fryer. Cook for 10 minutes at 400F, or until crispy.

Donation of Items for Fund Raising

List your donations on the attached donations sheet. Include a photo if possible. Store all items at your home.



Member's Name:

Member's Phone(s):

Donor's Name:

Donation Amount /Value:

Description of Donation:



Member's Name:

Member's Phone(s):

Donor's Name:

Donation Amount /Value:

Description of Donation:

For your donations, make a copy of the list for yourself. Send the original and photo to:
Devera Graf (Phone: (440-554-7786))



Fort Myers / Lee County Branch, Inc.

P.O. Box 2115

Fort Myers, FL 33901-2115

Donate Today help the Ft. Myers Branch to Advance Equity for Women

Use my gift for:

☐

Operating Expenses

☐

Scholarships

☐

Unrestricted

Name:

Street Address:

City, State & Zip:

Phone: (Mobile)

Phone: (Home)

Email:

Donation Amount \$25 \$50 \$100 Other Amount \$

Is gift in honor or in memory of someone? If the answer is "Yes," please provide the following:

In honor of:

In memory of:

Please provide contact information for the person honored or family of the person remembered:

Name:

Street Address:

City, State & Zip:

Please make checks payable to AAUW For Myers / Lee County, Inc. and mail to: AAUW - Attn:
Treasurer
PO Box 2115
Fort Myers, FL 33901-2115

As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, donations to the Branch may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc., is registered as a not-for-profit charity with the State of Florida, #CH39730. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling Toll-Free (800-435-7352) within the State of Florida or online by visiting www.800helpfla.com. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.



**AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM
July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 Membership Year**

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____

Florida Address (is this new or edited Y / N)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP code _____

Dates usually in Lee County: ☐ Full Time ☐ Or from _____ to _____

Out-of-Season Address (Is this new or edited? Y / N)

Street Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Contact Information

Will be included in the directory and used to send branch communications such as the Torch

Email: _____

Phone _____

(Home): _____ Phone (Cell): _____

Birthdate Month/Day _____ / _____

Education

As you would prefer to be included in the directory

College/Degree: _____

Membership

Level of Membership

Dues Amount

Amount Paid

- | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Branch Member | \$ 83.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dual Member – Primary membership with another branch | \$ 21.00 | _____ |
| Primary branch: _____ | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member of AAUW National | \$ 21.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Life (50+ Years of Membership) | \$ 0.00 | _____ |

Payment [Please pay online using the personalized email link provided or mail a check payable to:](#)

**AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co Branch, Inc.
P.O. Box 2115
Fort Myers, FL 33901-2115**

Membership Interests

I would like to participate in the following committees:

- ☐ Accounting/Finance ☐ Adopt-A-Precinct (Elections) ☐ Communications ☐ Fashion Show
- ☐ Fundraising ☐ Membership Directory ☐ Scholarships ☐ Torch Newsletter Production
- ☐ Other (Please describe) _____

Interest Groups and Coordinators

I am interested in learning more / joining the following interest groups:

- ☐ Book Groups - Marilyn Myli
- ☐ Bridge – Marilyn Myli
- ☐ Day Trips – Robin Tuthill
- ☐ Great Decisions – Suzan Harden
- ☐ Hand and Foot – Carolyn Nance
- ☐ Mahjongg – Jean Schoenthaler
- ☐ Photo Walks - Jemetta Hunt
- ☐ Writing / Poetry - Judith Sims and Jill Jennings
- ☐ Suggestions for New Group (Please describe) _____



AAUW FORT MYERS/LEE CO. BRANCH
Jemetta Hunt Torch Distributor
7361 Twin Eagle Lane
Fort Myers, FL 33912