



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

There will be NO FEBRUARY IN PERSON MEETING. We are very disappointed to announce our long-awaited return to in-person meetings has been postponed again. Unfortunately, Covid numbers continue to rise resulting in unsafe conditions for our members to attend in person. We are hopeful our March meeting can be in person. We appreciate members' understanding and continued support during this challenging time. A special thanks to Bonnie Ryan and Janet George for so many last-minute Luncheon changes; Jill Jennings for constant rescheduling Speaker Presentations; Lisa Crotty for many email redo's regarding meeting changes; and Peggy Cihl for frequent Torch changes.

Our FEBRUARY 19th MEETING WILL BE ZOOM. Board Meeting will be at 11:00 to which all members are invited, followed by our Membership Meeting at 12:30. Lisa Crotty will email the Zoom Invite, Treasurer's Report, January Minutes; as well as a sheet on Committee Volunteer Needs. This email will be sent out the Wednesday prior to the Saturday meeting. Please print these out for your use during the meeting.

Our Strategic Planning Committee has been working with Committee Chairs to identify areas that each Committee can benefit from, by expanding member participation. The more members participant, the more our Branch can accomplish. If you have a desire, we have a job for you.

The FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM will be small-group chat rooms. The topic will be how members can participate on various Committees. This is an opportunity to include more members serving on Committees. We need your input on how to engage member participation and promote community outreach during these difficult times. All your ideas and suggestions are needed. Please consider attending this important meeting.

Here is a CHANCE TO WIN A FREE LUNCHEON VOUCHER. 2 members (Board members not included) who attend the February Zoom meeting at 12:30 will be randomly chosen, to receive one complimentary Luncheon voucher. Just a little something to make this meeting more interesting.

See you all at the February Zoom meeting.

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



**AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County**

<https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net>

Our local e-mail address:

[aauwleecounty@gmail.com](mailto:aauwleecounty@gmail.com)

**Our National Organization**

<https://www.aauw.org>

## FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

## Join Us!



The February Zoom meeting will break into small-group chat rooms. The main topic will be how members can participate on various Committees. Committee Chairs will provide information about their committees and how they operate.

This is an opportunity to include more members serving on Committees.

If you have a desire,  
we have a job for you.

Serving on a committee is another way  
you can support our club and help  
support our cause of providing  
scholarships for women.

AAUW Lee County / Fort Myers February Meeting  
Time: Feb 19, 2022 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84370628847?pwd=QkJLNVJJU3cvSWhQaFdPVkhhdjlxZz09>

Meeting ID: 843 7062 8847

Passcode: 312348

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84370628847#,,,,\*312348# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,84370628847#,,,,\*312348# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 843 7062 8847

Passcode: 312348

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kboOnPTdfS>

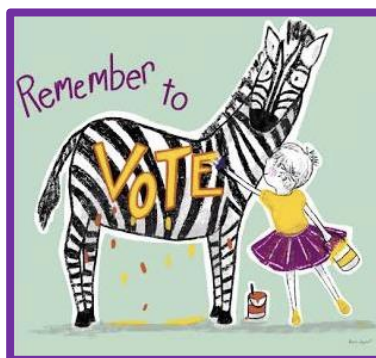
**We need your vote!**

**All members are expected to vote.**

**We need a high percentage for our vote to count!**

**Dear Members.**

**The board approved the following addition to our Bylaws, Article XIV at our January 2022 meeting.**



**Section 2. Membership Meetings**

**The branch shall hold at least 7 meetings during the fiscal year. The branch board of directors shall determine the time and place for these meetings.**

**Any general meeting or meeting of the board, committees, task forces or other sub-groups may be conducted in whole or in part by electronic means as long as. all persons participating whether in person or electronically can hear each other and speak in real time. Participation in an electronic meeting constitutes attendance and any official actions shall be recorded in minutes.**

**AAUW Florida requires approval of ALL MEMBERS to changes to the bylaws.**

**Please vote YES or NO electronically @  
<https://forms.gle/yf5AyVfyGvghY4sZA>**

(Just click on the link above and register your vote)



## Happy Valentine's Day

Please help make a contribution to our fund-raising for our scholarships so we can continue with these worthy benefits!

Our donation form is on page 10

### 2021-22 MEETING DATES and Torch Production Schedules

END ARTICLES TO [peggychihi@comcast.net](mailto:peggychihi@comcast.net)

Meeting Date	Deadline for Articles	Mail Torch Date
March 19, 2022	February 26, 2022	March 9, 2022
April 9, 2022	March 16, 2022	March 28, 2022
May 14, 2022	April 22, 2022	May 3, 2022
September 17, 2022	August 25, 2022	September 6, 2022

April and May meetings are the second week of the month due to a conflict with the Helm Club.

### Woman of Interest

### Rosa Parks



Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955, after she refused to give up her seat on a crowded bus to a white passenger. Contrary to some reports, Parks wasn't physically tired and was able to leave her seat. She refused on principle to surrender her seat because of her race, which was required by the law in Montgomery at the time.

Parks was briefly jailed and paid a fine. But she was also a long-time member of the NAACP and highly respected in her community.

The NAACP realized that Parks was the right person to work on its battle against the system of segregation in Montgomery. It also worked with another group of local leaders to stage a one-day boycott of passenger buses, on the day when Parks went to court.

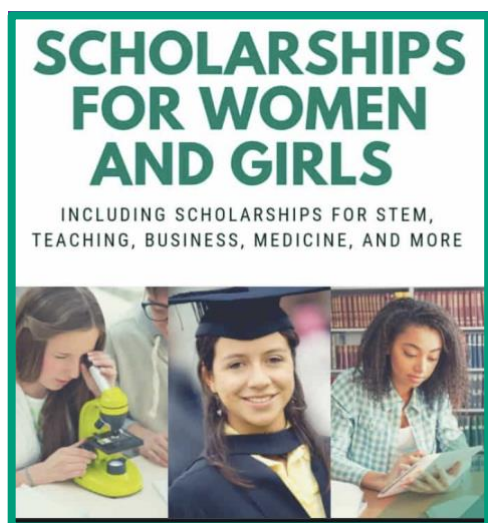
The group expanded to include other people, chose a name (the Montgomery Improvement Association), and planned an extended boycott.

But the MIA also needed a public spokesman with leadership qualities to make their fight into a wide-ranging cause.

Their pick was a little-known pastor who had recently arrived in Montgomery:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.!

<https://constitutioncenter.org/>



## EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS: OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

### Scholarship Committee:

**Cheryl Tromley, Chair,  
Devera Graf,  
Marcia Howard**

**DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN.....or is it  
Groundhog Day?**

## DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN.....or is it Groundhog Day?

Just when we thought we were getting back to normal, WHAM, Omicron. What a disappointment—and what an understatement that is!! We were so looking forward to meeting in person, but NO, back to Zoom. We were so looking forward to our Fashion Show, but NO. So, we are now in the position of having to rely, yet again, on the generosity of you, our members, to make it possible for us to offer our scholarships this year. Everyone was so generous last year that it is hard to come back to you and say, “We really need your help...again.” Nonetheless we have no choice because we remain committed to our primary focus “empowering women and girls” through our scholarships.

We are still planning to have our luncheon honoring our scholarship recipients in April. I was motivated to Chair the Scholarship Committee because I was so moved by their stories and the gratitude they feel. They are particularly grateful not only for the material support, but for our demonstrated confidence in their future success. Because of the difference we make in young women’s lives, we are asking you, on their behalf, to please help us continue to support the growth and development of future women leaders. We are hopeful that, with your generosity, we will be able to award all our scholarships this year. If you can help, directions for doing so appear on the donation sheet on the final page of the TORCH.

**AAUW Star Bright Scholarship:** This scholarship was established in 2005, by Book Club 3, 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. The award is paid to the college of the recipient’s choice.

**AAUW STEM Award:** Established in 2001 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, president of AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co Branch for two 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.



### You Can Help Preserve History

Many of us are looking for volunteer opportunities while staying safe. The Library of Congress may have just the opportunity for you. Many of the materials donated to the library are archives, journals and personal items from historical collections. These materials have been scanned and now need to be transcribed so they are searchable and available to scholars around the world.

The Library offers collections online with instructions for virtual volunteers to enter or review materials. Information is available on the *By The People* page -

<https://crowd.loc.gov/?loclr=eacwd>

Current projects that may be of particular interest to members include:

Clara Barton's papers - <https://crowd.loc.gov/campaigns/clara-barton-angel-of-the-battlefield/>

Organizing for Women's Suffrage - <https://crowd.loc.gov/campaigns/organizing-for-womens-suffrage-the-nawsa-records/> (mostly requires review of transcribed pages)

Walt Whitman - <https://crowd.loc.gov/campaigns/walt-whitman/>

Recently completed projects include papers from Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Anna E. Dickinson.

To learn how to get started, read the Welcome Guide and select a campaign.

<https://crowd.loc.gov/help-center/welcome-guide/>



Check your Contact Information in our  
DIRECTORY

Have you moved recently?  
Have you changed your e-mail or  
phone number?

If any of your contact information has changed  
since our membership directory was published,  
please email Lisa Crotty at

[lisajcrotty@gmail.com](mailto:lisajcrotty@gmail.com).

Lisa will be compiling an update to distribute at  
our February meeting.



Did you know that, as an AAUW member, you have the right to comment on any proposed changes to our organization's bylaws before they are put up for a member vote? As we prepare for AAUW's national election in the spring, now is the time to share your thoughts! **The comment period is open, and we invite members to weigh in through February 2, 2022, at 5 p.m. ET.** The changes recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee this year would streamline two important organizational functions: nominations for the board and timing for those eligible to vote in AAUW elections.

To learn more about the proposed changes and submit your feedback, please  
visit the election page on the AAUW website. [aauw-fl.aauw.net](http://aauw-fl.aauw.net)

We encourage your participation and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Best regards,  
Julia T. Brown, Esq  
Board Chair



Suzan Harden, Coordinator Public Policy  
[skh062653@gmail.com](mailto:skh062653@gmail.com)

## PUBLIC POLICY

### AAUW FORT MYERS/LEE COUNTY February 2022 Public Policy Report

Here is an update on the bills AAUW FL is following in the 2022 Legislative Session. To find out more information about these bills, go to [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov). You can search by bill number to read the complete text of each bill, see its progress through the legislative process, and track any bills you are interested in. Go to [aauf-fl.aauw.net](http://aauf-fl.aauw.net) to get AAUW's latest updates on this year's legislative session, including talking points for these bills.

Senate Bill	House Bill	Name and Brief Description	Mission	AAUW FL Position	February Update
SB322	HB293	<b>Discrimination in Labor and Employment</b>	Economic Security	Support	1 <sup>st</sup> reading in House 1/11/22. Introduced in Senate 1/11/22.
SJR244	HJR35	<b>Partisan Elections for Members of District School Boards:</b>	Education	Oppose	1 <sup>st</sup> reading in House 1/11/22. Introduced in Senate 1/11/22.
SJR192	HJR77	<b>Commissioner of Education</b>	Education	No Position	1 <sup>st</sup> reading in House 1/11/22. Introduced in Senate 1/11/22.
SB242	HB57	<b>Racial and Sexual Discrimination:</b> list.	Education	Oppose	1 <sup>st</sup> reading in House 1/11/22. Introduced in Senate 1/11/22.
SB388	HB221	<b>Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:</b>	Civil/Human Rights	Support	1 <sup>st</sup> reading in House 1/11/22. Introduced in Senate 1/11/22.
SB628	HB6023	<b>Abortion Clinic Regulations:</b>	Civil/Human Rights	Support	1 <sup>st</sup> reading in House 1/11/22. Introduced in Senate 1/11/22.
SB368		<b>Voter Registration:</b>	Civil/Human Rights	Support	No companion HB, yet. Introduced in Senate 1/11/22.
SB760	HB521	<b>Human Trafficking:</b>	Civil/Human Rights	Support	1 <sup>st</sup> reading in House 1/11/22. Introduced in Senate 1/11/22. Went to Criminal Justice Com. CS (Committee Substitute) was developed. Sent to Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice. The CS read 1 <sup>st</sup> time in Senate on 1/18/22.
SB652		<b>Human Trafficking Public Awareness Signs:</b>	Civil/Human Rights	Support	No companion bill in House, yet. Introduced in Senate 1/11/22.
SB756	CS/HB 1439 CS/HB 1441	<b>Public Records/Human Trafficking Victims</b>	Civil/Human Rights	Support	Introduced in Senate 1/11/22. CS developed by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs. Sent to Governmental Oversight and Accountability, where it was favorable. Now has passed to Rules.



## INTEREST GROUPS/COORDINATORS

### BOOK GROUPS

Marilyn Myli, Coordinator  
[Marilynmy7@hotmail.com](mailto:Marilynmy7@hotmail.com)

#### Club

#### Meets

Cover Girls                      2nd Wednesday, 1 PM  
Eat, Share, Read                3rd Thursday, 11:30 AM

### BRIDGE

Marilyn Myli, Coordinator  
[marilynmy7@hotmail.com](mailto:marilynmy7@hotmail.com)

### HAND & FOOT

Carolyn Nance, Coordinator  
[cnance5240@gmail.com](mailto:cnance5240@gmail.com)

### MAHJONGG

Carolyn Nance, Coordinator  
Meets – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 1 PM  
[cnance5240@gmail.com](mailto:cnance5240@gmail.com)

### GREAT DECISIONS

Suzan Harden, Coordinator  
[skh062653@gmail.com](mailto:skh062653@gmail.com)

### PHOTO WALKS

Jemetta Hunt, Coordinator  
[Jemetta@aol.com](mailto:Jemetta@aol.com)

### DAY TRIPS

Robin Tuthill, Coordinator [rtuthill12@aol.com](mailto:rtuthill12@aol.com)

### WRITING / POETRY

Jill Jennings and Judith Sims, Coordinators  
[Magistra\\_jennings@yahoo.com](mailto:Magistra_jennings@yahoo.com)  
[judithssims@gmail.com](mailto:judithssims@gmail.com)

### COCKTAILS AND CONVERSATIONS

Bonnie Ryan, Coordinator  
[bonniemarieryan@aol.com](mailto:bonniemarieryan@aol.com)

New Interest Groups Are Welcome  
Jemetta Hunt, Facilitator  
[Jemetta@aol.com](mailto: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)



**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](http://www.800helpfla.com). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.



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