

The American Association of University Women

The TORCH

September, 2022

AAUW. Vol. 61 No. 1

Peggy Drennan Cihl, Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Welcome to our Branch 2022-2023 year. We hope you are looking forward to our September 17th Luncheon where we can exchange news on our summer travels and activities. This month, one of AAUW's themes is *Women's Health*. Naturally that is a broad topic; but thanks to Jemetta Hunt, with her *Ellio* business background, the program will be tailored for us on the topic of preventing many common problems that arise from our everyday activities, or as the *Ellio* motto states, "Move It - Don't Lose It."

A Board meeting was held via Zoom on August 20 to get a head start for the year and our annual fund raiser. Briefly, the agenda addressed setting up a proposed budget, a review of exciting programs planned for the coming year and updates on Membership, Public Policy, Scholarships and the December 3 Bingo fund raiser. A copy of the minutes will be distributed at the luncheon and our September TORCH has the latest news on all this, especially the Bingo event. As new Presidents we felt well supported by our strong experienced Board!

Membership numbers are a concern. We need to grow. While we can blame COVID for our current low numbers, we must now reach out as never before and promote all our efforts in support of "Empowering Women and Girls" who need our support more than ever. Please consider inviting a friend or neighbor, especially for this first luncheon, as we have committed to a contracted number. "A woman's health is her capital."

– Harriet Beecher Stowe

Bonnie Ryan and Janet George Co-Presidents
Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc.



AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County

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

Our local e-mail address:

aauwleecounty@gmail.com

Our National Organization

<https://www.aauw.org>



**Join us for
Our Luncheon and Program**

**The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis
Club, 5200 South Landings Drive**

OUR MEETING DATE:

**Saturday, September 17, 2022
Gathering: 11:30 A.M.
Location: In The Garden Room**

Luncheon Menu:

Rolls, Coffee, Tea

*Choice 1: PAR 3 SALAD- mixed greens w/
scoop egg salad, scoop albacore tuna salad
and scoop of grilled chicken salad, cucumber,
carrot, onions and heirloom tomatoes served
with balsamic vinaigrette dressing*

*Choice 2: MEAT LASAGNA
with Haricot Verts.*

Choice 3: Vegan Meal. Chef's choice

Dessert: Chef's Choice or Fruit Cup

*Beverages are available. Wait staff will accept
charge cards for beverages.*

***Reservations are required
and please indicate choice of menu.***



For luncheon reservations, contact
Carolyn Nance. She'll acknowledge
your reservation by return e-mail. If
you do not receive a note, please contact
her again.

Carolyn's contact is:
cnance5240@gmail.com
or at
(239) 785-9993

Please title your e-mail
AAUW Reservations
and contact Carolyn Nance no later than
Monday September 12.
Cancellations must be made no later than
Tuesday, September 13, using the same
method of communication, otherwise,
payment is expected.

The value of luncheon is \$27.00

**(Meetings end in May and begin again the
third Saturday in September.)**

**AAUW Speaker for September:
Jemetta Hunt
*What You Can Do To Improve Your Balance
And Prevent Falls***

Our September 17th luncheon meeting will feature Jemetta Hunt (right), Past President and current Vice President for Membership of our own AAUW. Originally from Indiana, Jemetta earned a B.A from Purdue University in Health and Physical Education and an M.Ed. in Urban Education Administration from the University of Massachusetts.

After a career in education, both as a licensed Physical Education and Health teacher, and later as a School Administrator, Jemetta retired in 1995, and launched a new career as a fitness instructor, personal trainer and coach, which she has enjoyed for over 25 years. Currently she holds a staggering number of certifications, including Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention; Buff Bones; Longevity Wellness; Holistic Fitness; and Balance Progression Training, to name just a few. She is currently teaching several classes at **ELLIO** here in Fort Myers.



Jemetta's presentation will focus on problems often faced by retirees. Some facts to make you sit up and take note: One of every two people aged 65 or older falls each year. Of five falls, one of them will cause a serious injury such as a broken bone. Some 32,000 people will die from a fall each year. Jemetta will show us some balance exercises from Chinese Tai Chi, gentle warm-up exercises done on a chair or standing, and other strategies to literally keep us on our feet and prevent falling. This is one meeting you'll want to attend for your health and fitness!

Woman of Interest : Rebecca Latimer Felton

Rebecca Latimer Felton lived a life that was as full as it was long. A writer and tireless campaigner for Progressive Era reforms, especially women's rights, she was the first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate.

A Suffragette and activist in the early twentieth century, Felton embraced the reform with which she is most associated: **Women's Suffrage**. She became the South's best known and most effective champion of women's right to vote.

Rebecca Felton was appointed the first woman U.S. Senator at 87-years-old, but she served for only two days.

Rebecca Felton was a complex figure: in some ways she was very progressive, an exceptional Georgian; in other ways, she was very much a person of her time and place. She died on January 24, 1930 at the age of ninety -four.



***American Association of University Women
Welcomes You to
Bingo for Scholarships!***



***Buffet Dinner and Bingo Games
Saturday, December 3, 2022***

We have an exciting evening planned for you and your spouse, significant other and friends! The dinner will be an extensive buffet; and there will be a silent auction, a live auction and \$\$\$\$ prizes for the bingo games! Mark your calendars, invite your guests and make a reservation as soon as possible for this fun-filled evening!

To reserve a space for you and your party, contact

**Carolyn Nance at
cnance5240@gmail.com
or at
(239) 785-9993**



The next Great Decisions meeting will be held Friday, September 9, at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. We will be discussing Topic 6, No End in Sight: A Century of Drug Wars. Marcia Howard is the discussion leader.

Orders for books for the 2023 discussion year will be due sometime in October. If you are not a current Great Decisions participant but would like to be a guest for this discussion to decide if you would like to participate in 2023, please let Suzan Harden know.

Suzan Harden Skh062653@gmail.com

AAUW Adopt-A-Precinct

Adopt-A-Precinct Information

Things have changed for our participation this year. For the primary, Lee County is not using precinct 90, our previous precinct of participation for AAUW. This year we had to take a precinct assignment from the clerk's office. We were individually assigned as needed, with our trained positions from previous elections. For the primary election, we were all assigned to different precincts. We will work the election, collect our payments, deposit in our personal accounts, and write a personal check for our donation. The members participating are Carolyn Nance, Judith Sims, and Colleen Wheeler.

If you are interested in participating in the November 8 election, please notify me at Nanagrams6@gmail.com or 239-994-9864. I already have the following volunteers:

Carolyn Nance, Janet George, Jemetta Hunt, Judith Sims, Kathy Jones, Mary Kellner, Ron Glasgow, Faye O'Briant, and Sam O'Briant,

Thank you for assisting with earning funds for scholarships through being a poll worker. It's a great way to be civic minded and earn funds for AAUW.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye O'Briant
Chairperson
239-994-9864
Nanagrams6@gmail.com

PUBLIC POLICY

PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

Important Dates

Tuesday, November 8 – General Election

Tuesday, October 11 – Deadline to register to vote or to change party affiliation

Saturday, October 29, 5 p.m. – Deadline to request Vote-by-Mail Ballot

Tuesday, November 8, 7 p.m. – Deadline to return Vote-by-Mail Ballot

(Ballots received after that deadline will not be counted.)

The Board of Elections recommends mailing your Vote-by-Mail ballot by Saturday, October 29.

For further information, go to

www.lee.vote

The AAUW FL Public Policy Committee met via Zoom in July. The primary topic of conversation was to share voter information with committee members to share with their Branch members. We established tentative dates for Lobby Days 2023 as March 14 and 15. In years following an election, Lobby Days are held in March. The new legislature convenes in January, and they need time to make committee assignments, etc. Therefore, Lobby Days are in March. In the off years, Lobby Days are held in January.

Legislators are starting to submit bills for consideration in 2023. Lobby Days 2023 will be held in person in Tallahassee. Much more information to come over the next few months!

NEW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

A new special interest group, *[Tools for Advocacy](#)*, has been created based on interest expressed by members. This group is open to anyone in the Branch who would like to know more about advocating with legislators at all levels.

Lisa Crotty and Suzan Harden are co-leaders of this group. An introductory meeting will be held Friday, September 23, at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. Suggested topics to be discussed will be using the AAUW website to research AAUW's position on topics related to our mission; using AAUW's Two-Minute Activist; tracking bills through the legislature; tips for communicating with legislators; resources related to voting and political issues. The group will evolve depending on participants' areas of interest.

Please let Lisa or Suzan know if you plan to attend the introductory meeting or if you have questions.

Lisa Crotty lisajcrotty@gmail.com and Suzan Harden Skh062653@gmail.com

Woman of Interest : **YOU** the voter!

September 23 - National Voter Registration Day



To register or update your voter registration:

Use this website to submit an application online or to prefill and print a voter registration application form to sign and mail or deliver to your supervisor of elections. Voter registration application forms are also available for download if you do not wish to use this website.

To submit an online application, you will need:

- Your Florida driver license (Florida DL) or Florida identification card (Florida ID card)
- The issued date of your Florida DL or Florida ID card; and
- The last four digits of your Social Security Number (SSN4).

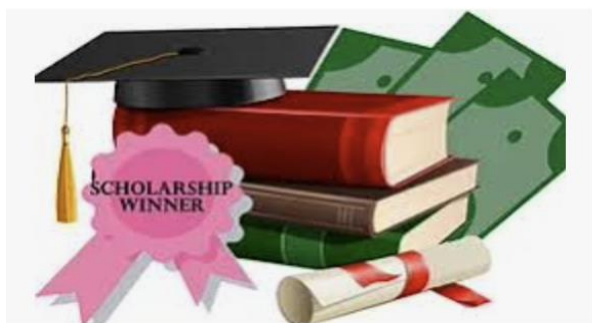
Note: If you do not have any of the information above, you may still use the online system to prefill a voter registration application form. However, you will have to print, sign, and then mail or deliver your completed voter registration application to your county Supervisor of Elections' office.

2022-2023 MEETING DATES and Torch Production Schedule

SEND ARTICLES TO peggycihi@comcast.net

Please note: Not all our meetings are on the third Saturday (exceptions are Nov., Dec., Jan.)

Meeting Date	Deadline for Articles	Mail Torch Date
September 17, 2022	August 25, 2022	September 7, 2022
October 15, 2022	September 20, 2022	October 4, 2022
November 12, 2022	October 17, 2022	November 1, 2022
Bingo Dinner Dec. 3	November 15, 2022	November 24, 2022
January 14, 2023	December 17, 2022	January 5, 2023
February 18, 2023	January 25, 2023	February 8, 2023
March 18, 2023	February 22, 2023	March 8, 2023
April 15, 2023	March 22, 2023	April 5, 2023
May 20, 2023	April 26, 2023	May 10, 2023



Our Scholarships

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 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 aged 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

INTEREST GROUPS/COORDINATORS

BOOK GROUPS

Carol Fuechsel, Coordinator
cbfuechysel@gmail.com

Book Club Meets
Cover Girls 2nd Wednesday, 1 PM
Eat, Share, Read 4th Thursday, 12:45 AM
(The book clubs are very interested in new members. If interested, please contact Carol.)

BRIDGE

Kathy Jones, Coordinator
Kathy1972@hotmail.com

HAND & FOOT

Carolyn Nance, Coordinator
Meets –1st Monday each month
cnance5240@gmail.com

MAHJONGG

Carolyn Nance, Coordinator
Meets –3rd Thursday each month
cnance5240@gmail.com

GREAT DECISIONS

Suzan Harden, Coordinator
Meets 1st Friday of the month
skh062653@gmail.com

NATURE WALKS and DAY TRIPS

Jemetta Hunt, Coordinator
jemetta@aol.com

TOOLS FOR ADVOCACY

Susan Harden Coordinator
Skh062653@gmail.com

New Interest Groups Are Welcome

Contact: Bonnie Ryan
bonniemarieryan@aol.com
Janet George
bfjegeorge@comcast.net

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc.

2021-2022 Officers

Elected – Executive Board

Co-Presidents – Bonnie Ryan
and Janet George
Past President – Kathleen Haibach
Vice-President Elect – Cecile Brennan
Vice-President of Programs –
Jill Jennings
Vice-President Membership –
Jemetta Hunt
Secretary – Patricia Crowe
Treasurer – Mary Kellner

Appointed Officers – Board Members

Public Policy – Suzan Harden
Co-Chairs of Scholarship –
Cheryl Tromley and
Devera Graf
Communications/Website/Facebook – Mary
Lou Chamberlain
Ways and Means – Peggy Cihl

Standing Committees

Torch Editor – Peggy Cihl
Records Retention – Executive Board
Science Fair - Cathy Tucker
Adopt-A-Precinct – Faye O'Briant
Diversity Officer - Lisa Crotty
Strategic Plan -

Ancillary Positions

Reservations – Carolyn Nance assisted by
Lynn Felice
Sunshine – Mary Jane McDowell
Greeters – Board Members
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. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.



Volunteer Interest Form

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell): _____

I would like to participate in the following committees:

- Finance Adopt-A-Precinct (Elections) Communications Fashion Show
- Fundraising Membership Directory Scholarships Torch Newsletter Production
- Public Policy Other (*Please describe*) _____

Interest Groups and Coordinators

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

- Book Groups - Carol Fuechsel.
- Bridge – Kathy Jones
- Day Trips – Jemetta Hunt
- Great Decisions – Suzan Harden
- Hand and Foot – Carolyn Nance
- Mahjongg – Carolyn Nance
- Nature Walks and Day Trips - Jemetta Hunt
- Tools for Advocacy - Suzan Harden
- Suggestions for New Group (*Please describe*) _____



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