

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greeting Members,

December can be a hectic month: Holiday parties, gift-giving, over-eating, contending with increased traffic. Amid all of this, we want to offer you some relaxing fun and a way to help support our scholarship fund. On December 14 we will be holding a bingo fundraiser.

This fundraiser is one of the primary ways we support our scholarship commitments. Yes, paying \$75.00 per person for a dinner buffet and bingo can seem like a lot of money---but when you consider the enjoyment of being with friends, the fun of playing bingo, the silent auction and the contribution you are making to the education of young women—what could be better?

Fundraising is an integral part of what we do. Funding scholarships and supporting students requires money. I know that our membership fee of \$99.00 seems like a lot but consider for a moment that our branch receives just \$15.00 from that amount.\* Twelve dollars times each of you does not result in much money to conduct all our activities! A similar calculation occurs when we consider the luncheons. Each luncheon costs \$27.00; we charge \$30.00. This gives us a profit of \$3.00 per person. If thirty people attend, we raise \$90.00. This amount also helps pay the speaker's fee, and often a pays for their spouse or a guest we have invited to honor. Every dollar is important, but not many scholarships will be funded with this amount of money!

This is a bit of a long-winded way of saying please join us—we can't continue our efforts on the behalf of women without your support.

Cecile Brennan Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc.

\* AAUW National receives \$72.00 and AAUW State receives \$12.00.



#### Get your reservation in

# for the ..... Bingo Gala

At the Helm Club at The Landings

Admission of \$75 includes: Bingo Cards & Cash Prizes

This is our annual fundraiser for SCHOLARSHIPS.

We will have a fantastic buffet dinner and 8 Bingo Games with cash prizes! You could win \$100 + The silent auction will include many wonderful baskets of marvelous items to help you celebrate the holidays. There will be a money tree to win. Tickets to the Florida Rep will be up for auction.

The activities will begin at 5:00 p.m. (Doors open at 4:30 p.m. to peruse the fabulous silent auction prizes and make bids.)

## mark your calendars for our Thursday Dec. 14.

<u>Payment of \$75 per person</u> is expected to insure your reservation.

Payment is made in advance by mail with a check made out to AAUW. To make your payment, contact Carolyn Nance by e-mail, phone, or when you send in your check. Carolyn's contact is: cnance5240@gmail.com or at (239) 785-9993 Send your check to Carolyn Nance 11674 Lady Anne Circle Cape Coral, FL 33991

Our Silent Auction items will consist of a variety of baskets on which to bid. Each basket will be worth more than \$100. Themes for the baskets are such categories as: Key West Express Holiday, Day at the Pool, Put on a Lovely Face, Taste of Italy, Holiday Cookies, Honey Lovers, Vera Bradley Tote, Mysteries and Puzzles, Nature Lover, Appetizers, Chocolate Lovers



# Money doesn't grow on trees,

except when it is used to support scholarships. The Money Tree will be sprouting....

### **\$100!**

...that you can win along with a real tree.

We want our scholarship money to

### GROW...

and GROW... and GROW....

For chance а to contribute to the scholarship funds and win this money tree at the December 14 CHRISTMAS GALA. purchase raffle tickets at the November luncheon or the evening of the Gala.

Tickets are available for a minimum of \$5.00 for five tickets.

#### WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD to raising funds for our SCHOLARSHIPS



Thursday, December 14, 2023 Buffet Dinner and Bingo Games Bingo Cards, Daubers and Cash Prizes Admission cost: \$75.00

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Gather your friends, neighbors and relatives to make up a table to attend the Bingo Gala
- Volunteer to help set up the room on Bingo night.
- Put together a raffle basket. <u>Contact Peggy Cihi, 239-980-4794,</u> peggycihi@comcast.net\_for questions and to let us know you will do this.

We are collecting themed baskets worth a minimum of \$100 for the raffle. Samples of themes:

Chocolate	Gardening	Board games	Tennis
Wine	Correspondence	Candles	Hurricane Prep
Dining gift	Handbags	Holiday	Taste of Italy
cards	Dog Lovers	Travel	First Aid
Jewelry	Holiday Cookies	Bath	Pamper the Chef
Art supplies	Mysteries &	Beach	"As seen on
Card players	Puzzles	Crafts	TV."
Yoga	Flower Arranging	Golf	Greeting Cards
-			Cat Lovers

Cut out and use the form below to accompany your basket. Give your basket a title and list the contents and the final value. Send a copy of the form below to

Peggy Cihi, 4605 S. Landings Drive, Fort Myers, 33919 or email it to peggycihi@comcast.net.

≽	 		
It's			
BINGO			
time			
Your name:	 		
Contact			
Information:			

## Luncheon Event January 13, 2024

#### Queen Elizabeth II, Portrayed by Sheryl Faye BRAND NEW! Queen Elizabeth II - "Her Majesty"



Queen Elizabeth II was a true icon, inspiring people around the world with her strength, courage, resilience, and dedication to a life of service. Her reign of 70 years and 214 days was the longest of any British monarch and the longest verified reign of any female head of state in history.

#### MENU

Luncheon Buffet Tomato basil soup & chicken noodle soup Build your own salad bar w/ assorted toppings, plus egg salad & chicken salad Mini croissants Cookie & brownie platter Coffee \$40 inclusive for members \$50 for non-members

> RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED Payment is made in advance by mail with a check made out to AAUW. To make your RESERVATION and PAYMENT, contact Carolyn Nance by e-mail, phone, or when you send in your check. Carolyn Nance's contact is: cnance5240@gmail.com or at (239) 785-9993 Send your check to Carolyn Nance 11674 Lady Anne Circle

#### Cape Coral, FL 33991



#### WE HAVE ANOTHER EXCITING SPEAKER COMING UP IN FEBRUARY.

At our February luncheon we will hear from a former Chief of Police, Kristin Ziman. Chief Ziman's extensive police background in Aurora, Illinois and her years on the police force have made her a perfect candidate to author a book on policing. Entitled *Reimagining Blue: Thoughts on Life, Leadership and A New Way Forward in Policing*, it is a passionate and personal look into a misunderstood profession from the vantage point of the first female to break the brass ceiling and become a chief of police in her own hometown. Now retired, the Naples native has waived her considerable speaker's fee in the hopes that some of our members will order her book and bring it to her February 17 luncheon presentation and engage with her in a discussion. The book would also be great for a book club selection.

You can order your copy from this link:

<u>https://amplifypublishinggroup.com/product/bookstore/timely-politics-and-current-affairs/reimagining-blue-thoughts-on-life-leadership-and-a-new-way-forward-in-policing/</u>



Engineering Fair will be held this year on February 17, 2024 at Alico Arena on the campus of FGCU. This is the first in-person fair since 2020. As always, we are looking for members to help with the judging. If you want to be part of the fun, please contact Cheryl Tromley, Devera Graf or Cathy Tucker, and we will be able to walk you through the judging process. Contact information can found in the AAUW directory.

## Guided Nature Adventures 2023-2024

Fall in love with Southwest Florida all over again! Explore the surrounding nature that your winter home has to offer. Join AAUW's Master Naturalist, Cathy Tucker, Nature Photographer, Jemetta Hunt, along with guest experts from Southwest Florida. On the fourth Wednesday of the month, be prepared to have an exclusive experience, that is Florida.

Please contact:

Cathy Tucker 239- 634-7414 or Jemetta Hunt 239-249-6545 to reserve your spot or to answer any questions you may have. Below is a list of adventures we have planned for this year. Most are free, but some fees may be incurred. Lunch will be after each adventure at a unique location.

December 27, 2023	The Past and Future of Lee County-Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
January 24, 2024	Expanding Your Horizons- Charlotte Educational Centerer
February 28, 2024	Future of Sea Cows -Manatee Park
March 27, 2024	The Original Snowbirds- Location TBA
April 24, 2024	Ten Thousand Islands- Everglades National Park
May 22, 2024	Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary or Guided Kayak Tour

Take a Walk in the Preserve

Call now to reserve your spot.



#### Meet one of our SCHOLARS: SOPHIA PEREZ Scholarship Co-Chairs: Cheryl Tromley and Devera Graf

Devera and I have the best job in our AAUW Lee County branch!! We are the ones who have the privilege of having the most direct contact with our scholars and can most closely observe the difference we make in their lives. This is particularly true of our *High School Scholarship* winners. We go visit their high schools, have the pleasure of meeting their counselors, and, most wonderfully, give our scholars the happy news.

The AAUW Lee County High School Scholarship awards two \$1,000 scholarships per year to a graduating female student who is highly motivated, high achieving, and with financial need. The scholarship rotates among all the high schools in Lee County. The young women do not apply for the scholarships but are chosen by their school counselors and advisors, so winning is a complete surprise to them. In 2023 one of the winners was Sophia Perez from North Fort Myers High School.



## Sophia Perez and her mother Alexandra Perez.

Let me tell you about the day we first met Sophia. Devera and I drove to North Fort Myers High School and, after getting a bit lost and being helped by a very friendly security guard, were able to park right at the entrance to the school. They had been expecting us and we were treated as honored guests. When we walked in the door we were greeted by Sophia's advisor and ushered to her guidance counselor's office. Sophia was called out of class and the four of us awaited her arrival. While we waited, her advisor and counselor told us more about what a wonderful and deserving young woman she was. Sophia walked in with some trepidation. What high school student wants to be called out of her class to see her advisor??? Something had to be wrong!! She sat down slowly, and we then told her about her scholarship. She was astonished, and her mouth literally dropped open. We explained that she had been chosen by her advisor and counselor from among all the girls in her senior class as the one they thought was most deserving and most likely to succeed. She said disbelievingly, at least twice, "I was the only one?" Devera and I both teared up and spent the drive home talking about how wonderful and important the work that we all do together is. Let's be clear, we could not do any of this without your continuous and generous support. THANK YOU!!!!!

Just an update, Devera has been in touch with Sophia, and she is now successfully attending classes at the University of Miami. She reports that all is going well and that the scholarship money she received has helped immensely with college expenses. She is very thankful for the help she received from AAUW.

Please help us keep this important work going. Come to the Bingo Gala on December 14. Get a table and bring your friends. If you do get a table, everyone at the table will get an extra bingo card!! Remember that this is an "all welcome" event, so grab all your friends, family, mates, etc. If your male friends and mates are worried about there not being any men, you can assure them that that will **not** be the case. I have over 8 men at my two tables, and that is just my tables. Your President Cecile and I (Cheryl) will again be the Bingo callers, and we need your smiling faces out there!

This is our major fundraiser and without your generous support I will have to go back to begging for funds again....If you aren't sure about participating, remember Sophia and the other wonderful young women you met last spring who were so moving in their appreciation. We really do change lives, and not everyone can say that!



School girl(s) who are winners at the Junior Division of Edison-Kiwanis Science Fair or

#### AAUW Star Bright Scholarship

The AAUW Star Bright Memorial Scholarship was established in 2005 by Book Club 3. It provides 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 Awards:** Established in 2001 to encourage middle and high school girls in STEM fields. It awards two \$300 prizes based on those projects submitted to the Thomas Alva Edison & Kiwanis Regional Science and Engineering Fair: The AAUW Thomas Edison and Kiwanis Regional Science & Engineering Fair Award goes to a top female entrant; The AAUW Thomas Edison and Kiwanis Regional Science & Engineering Fair Emerging Research Scholar Award goes to a female entrant whose skills are laudable, but still developing.

*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

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 fivecounty (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.





# **SAVE THE DATE FOR GEMS!**

SAT. SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 SAT. DECEMBER 2, 2023 SAT. FEBRUARY 24, 2024 SAT. APRIL 20, 2024

GIRLS IN ENGINEERING, MATH, & SCIENCE

A HALF-DAY EVENT FOR ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS. REGARDLESS OF GENDER. TO ENGAGE IN HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ENGINEERING. MATH, & SCIENCE.

DOES THE PROGRAM COST ANYTHING?

This program is FREE to all participants. Group registration is required.

DO PARENTS/GUARDIANS NEED TO BE THERE?

No. All activities are supervised by university personnel. WHERE IS IT HELD?

FGCU's campus in Fort Myers.

#### WHAT WILL HAPPEN THE DAY OF THE PROGRAM?

Participants will engage in hands-on STEM activities with FGCU professors and students in actual university classroom laboratories.

#### WHAT TO WEAR?

Comfortable clothes that you would wear to school with close-toed shoes.

#### DETAILS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS TO FOLLOW

YOUR SCHOOL IS NEITHER ENDORSING NOR SPONSORING THIS EVENT NOR ENDORSING THE VIEWS OF FGCU.

#### 2023-2024 MEETING DATES and Torch Production Schedule

#### SEND ARTICLES TO peggycihi@comcast.net

<b>Meeting Date</b>	Deadline for Articles	<u>Mail Torch Date</u>
September 16, 2023	August 24, 2023	September 6, 2023
October 21, 2023	September 27, 2023	October 11, 2022
November 18, 2023	October 24, 2023	November 8, 2023
*Bingo Dinner		
Thursday, Dec. 14	November 14, 2023	November 23, 2023
*January 13, 2024	December 18, 2023	January 6, 2024
February 17, 2024	January 24, 2024	February 7, 2024
March 16, 2024	February 20, 2024	March 6, 2024
April 20. 2024	March 27, 2024	April 10, 2024
May 18, 2024	April 24, 2024	May 8, 2024
*unusual date		

### Mail-In Ballots DID YOU KNOW?

All mail-in ballot requests <u>expired at the end of 2022</u>. This has nothing to do with your voter registration. If you were registered to vote in FL/Lee County prior to



#### What is it?

PayPal is a payment platform with a website and a phone app that enables payments between parties through online money transfers.

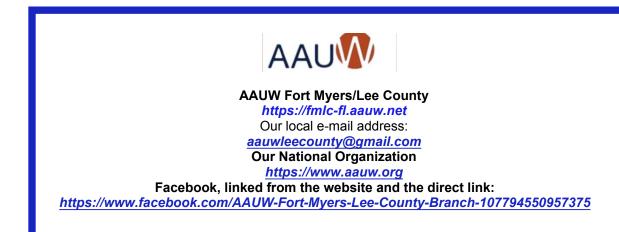
Why does the Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc. have an account?

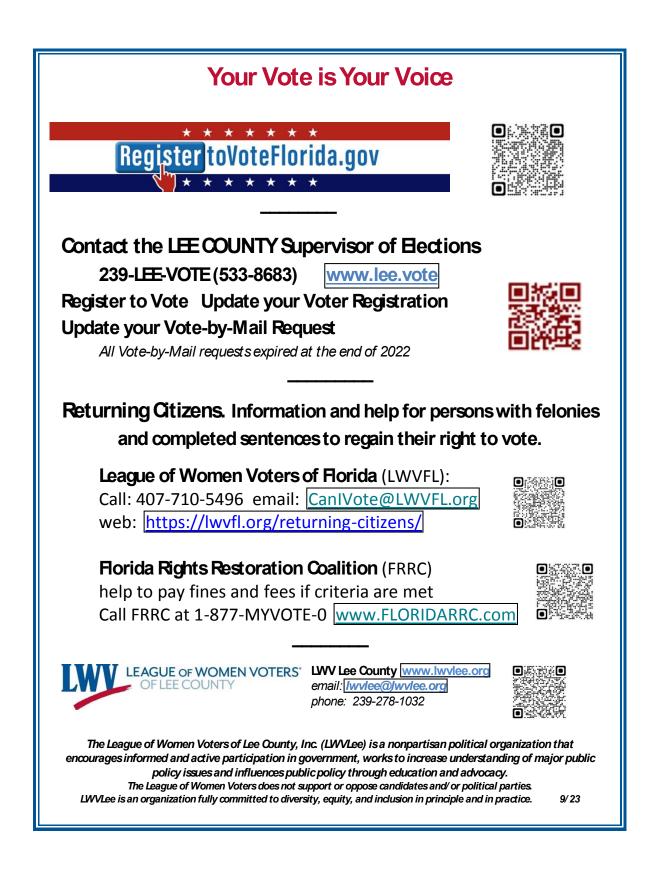
The Branch can manage payment for Donations, Membership, Luncheon and Events. *Will I have to set up a PayPal account?* 

No. You have options to pay by credit card, use your own PayPal account, or by check. *How will it work?* 

We have PayPal set up on our web page: https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net









#### The AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forums

Wouldn't you like more in-depth information on the important issues facing Florida from a nonpartisan but equity-focused viewpoint? Would you like to be able to ask your own questions of experts regarding these issues? Then be sure to attend as many AAUW Florida Issue Forums this year as you can. All sessions will start at 6:00 PM and last for an hour. The series is open to AAUW members and guests.

TITLE	DATE	SPEAKERS	RSVP
Reproductive Rights	Sept. 14, 2023	Moné Holder, Florida Rising	Click here to register for this session
Title IX and Dress Codes in Schools	Oct. 5, 2023	Nancy Tray, Change the Dress Code Movement, St Johns County	Click here to register for this session
Gender Studies and DEI Initiatives at Colleges	Nov. 2 2023	Dr. Elizabeth Brown, Past President of the United Faculty of Florida, University of North Florida	Click here to register for this session
Florida 2024 Legislative Preview	Nov.16, 2023	Dr. Pat DeWitt, AAUW Co-Public Policy Director and Public Policy Committee Members	Click here to register for this session
Public Education and Book Bans	Jan. 11, 2024	Dr. Marvin Dunn, Professor Emeritus at Florida International University and Miami Center for Racial Justice	Click here to register for this session
Gender Pay Gap and Economic Security	March 7, 2024	Dr. Mary Gatta, AAUW FL Co- Public Policy Director and Director of Research and Public Policy, National Association of Colleges and Employers	Click here to register for this session
Voting Rights	April 18, 2024	Debbie Chandler, Co-President, League of Women's Voters. Florida	<u>Click here to</u> <u>register for</u> <u>this session</u>

You will need to RSVP for each session individually. Once you RSVP you will receive a Zoom link for the session. If you have any questions, contact Mary Gatta, Co-Public Policy Director, AAUW Florida at gatta.mary@gmail.com

#### Please note: You will need to go to the AAUW FLORIDA website to register for these sessions. https://aauw-fl.aauw.net

#### **INTEREST GROUPS/COORDINATORS**

#### **BOOK GROUPS**

Carol Fuechsel, Coordinator *cbfuechsel@gmail.com* Book Club Meets Cover Girls 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 1 PM Page Turners 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 12:45 PM (The book clubs accept new members. If interested, please contact Carol Fuechsel.)

#### **BRIDGE**

Patricia Crowe, Coordinator pwc@world.std.com

#### HAND & FOOT

Carolyn Nance, Coordinator Meets –1<sup>st</sup> Monday each month *cnance5240@gmail.com* 

#### MAHJONGG Carolyn Nance, Coordinator Meets –3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month *cnance5240@gmail.com*

#### GREAT DECISIONS Suzan Harden, Coordinator Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Friday each month. *skh062653@gmail.com*

#### GUIDED NATURE EXCURSIONS Jemetta Hunt, Coordinator <u>jemetta@aol.com</u> Cathy Tucker, Master Naturalist <u>cptucker@embarqmail.com</u>

#### TOOLS FOR ADVOCACY Suzan Harden Coordinator <u>Skh062653@gmail.com</u>

New Interest Groups Are Welcome Contact: Jametta Hunt <u>jemetta@aol.com</u>

#### AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc. 2023-2024 Officers

#### **Elected** – **Executive Board**

President – Cecile Brennan Past Presidents – Bonnie Ryan and Janet George Vice President, Elect – Nancy Schoenstein 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 — Astoria Aviles and Perry Doubt Ways and Means – Peggy Drennan Cihi

#### **Standing Committees**

Torch Editor – Peggy Drennan Cihi Records Retention – Executive Board Science Fair - Cathy Tucker Diversity Officer - Lisa Crotty Strategic Planning— Kathleen Haibach and Tamara Pigott

#### Ancillary Positions

Reservations – Carolyn Nance assisted by Lynn Felice Sunshine – Mary Jane McDowell Greeters – Board Members Torch Proofreaders: Jill Jennings and Carolyn Nance Torch Circulation – Jemetta Hunt (US Mail) Kathy Jones (E-mail)

AAUW American Association of University Wome	an
Fort Myers / Lee County (FL) Branch Inc.	PO Box 2115
	Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115
υοnate Γoday to help the Fort Myers Branch Adva	nce Equity for Women
Use my Gift for: Operating Expenses Unrestricted _	Scholarships*
Name:	
Street Address:	
City, State & Zip	
Phone: (Mobile) (Home)	
Email:	
Donation Amount\$25\$50\$100 or	Other Amount \$
Is the gift in honor or memory of someone? If so please	e complete the following:
In Memory of	
In Honor of	
Contact information for person honored or family of person	remembered:
Name:	
Street Address:	
City, State & Zip:	
Note: Should you want to specify a specific Branch scholar (See list under: <u>https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net</u> under tab F	• •
Awards Scholarship/ Award:	
Please make checks payable to AAUW Fort Myers / Lee AAUW – ATTN: Treasurer, PO Box 2115, Fort Myers, FL	
AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co FL is a 501 (c) 3 not for profit organization and gif allowed by the law.	<b>33902</b>
A CORV OF THE OFFICIAL RECORDATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAN	

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 OR <u>www.800helpfla.com</u>. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE." CH39730



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AAUW Facebook Page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070887894617</u>

