

The American Association of University Women

The TORCH

November, 2025

AAUW. Vol. 64, No. 3

Peggy Drennan Cihl, Editor.

NOVEMBER

Happy November Everyone,

Having grown up in upstate New York, I'm not sure I'll ever get used to the holiday season in Florida. Wrapping the palms in holiday lights isn't quite the same as enjoying hot chocolate by the fire. But December trips to the beach are a fair trade off. And it's the time of year when we welcome back all our seasonal friends.

Please take the time to reach out to your AAUW friends and reconnect, sit with someone new at lunch, and join one of our small groups. I also hope you will make plans to attend one (or more) of our upcoming events and bring a friend. We have a great slate of events from the director of CROW, the Christmas play at Player's Circle, Sheryl Faye performing Abigail Adams and our Gala Fundraiser on February 4.

If you would like to be more involved in planning our upcoming year of events, and shaping the future of the branch, we have several positions open or coming open on the board and committees. Please let me know if you would like to share your talents.

I hope to see you on November 8 at Lexington for our monthly meeting and at our upcoming events.

Happy
Thanksgiving,
Lisa

Lisa Crotty
Branch
President

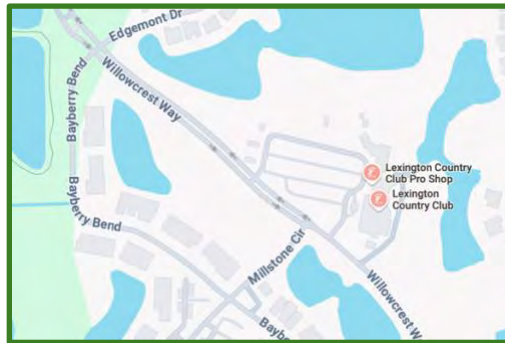


**Join us for our NOVEMBER Luncheon and Program
at the Lexington Country Club in the Main Dining Room**



**16257 Willowcrest Way
Fort Myers, FL**

**(Near the Intersection of Bass Road & Summerlin;
follow the entrance road to the turn-in for the Country Club to the left.)**



Our Meeting Date:

Saturday, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

Gathering: 11:30 AM

**We will order from the “Club Favorites” menu rather than ordering in advance.
We ask that you make a reservation to allow us to have the proper size area
assigned and for Lexington to allot the proper staffing.**

For your reservation, please email:

aauwleecounty@gmail.com no later than Monday, November 3.



**AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County
P.O. Box 2115**

Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115

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

Our local e-mail address:

aauwleecounty@gmail.com

Our National Organization

<https://www.aauw.org>

Facebook, linked from the website and the direct link:

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Fort-Myers-Lee-County-Branch-107794550957375>

NOVEMBER's Speaker is

**Alison Hussey, Executive Director of the
Clinic for the Rehabilitation of
Wildlife (CROW)**



As Executive Director, Alison Charney Hussey works with the Board of Directors, the Hospital and Visitor Education Staff, the wonderful volunteers, and the community in an effort to further CROW's mission. Overseeing the day-to-day operations of the CROW campus as well as involving herself in community outreach, she works to create a sense of collaboration and attitude of teamwork throughout the organization, the

donors, and community partners.

A lifelong resident of Lee County, Alison brings her professional and legal background with her to CROW. Prior to her career at CROW, Alison was a partner at Pavese Law Firm serving in the LaBelle and Cape Coral offices. She is also a Supreme Court Certified Circuit and Family Mediator and has helped resolve disputes for more than a decade. She earned her law degree from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University and her undergraduate degree from Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. Alison brings enthusiasm to her role as a teambuilder, manager, fundraiser, and animal lover. She is proud to both lead and serve with the professionals at CROW to promote and educate the local and global communities in order to protect, heal, and conserve wildlife.

NOVEMBER Woman of Interest

First Lady: MELANIA TRUMP

- **Wildlife Conservation:** During her 2018 solo tour of Africa, Melania Trump visited the Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage in Kenya to raise awareness for wildlife conservation.
- **Panda Diplomacy:** She visited the Beijing Zoo in 2017 to see the pandas, participating in the tradition of "panda diplomacy".
- **Fur-Free Fashion:** She adopted a "fur-free" fashion stance in 2017. Her spokeswoman confirmed she would no longer wear fur, and on one occasion, she wore a Stella McCartney coat to a turkey pardoning—a symbolic gesture, as McCartney is a well-known animal rights advocate.





November Meeting - Bylaws Vote

At our monthly meeting on November 8, we will also vote on a provision to amend our branch by-laws.

Currently the by-laws state that our board must meet at least seven times per year. We are proposed to amend that requirement to four times per year. This will be in line with other branches in the area. We can meet more often, but will be required to meet at least four times.

If passed, the amended provision will read:

Section 3. Meetings. Meetings of the board of directors shall be held at least four times per year.

If you have any questions about the vote or the proposed change, please reach out to

Lisa Crotty (lisajcrotty@gmail.com)

Jemetta Hunt (jemetta@aol.com)

Bonnie Ryan (bonniemarieryan@aol.com)



We extend a warm welcome to our new branch members:

Mary Barter
Rebecca Ruth Gill
Amy Rothenberg



Our November 8 meeting is the only meeting we will have before our Dec. 9 fundraiser. We would like to have you be able to pick up your tickets at this meeting!

The ticket order form and information about the event and ordering tickets can be found on pages 6 and 7.

(Tickets can still be ordered by mail after November 8.)

**Theater Event for Tuesday,
December 9.**
Entertain your family and visiting friends



ATTEND THE AAUW HOLIDAY EVENT

**DECEMBER 9 AT 3:15 PM
PERFORMANCE AT 4:00**

13211 M^CGREGOR BLVD



Exclusively for AAUW members and guests.

- Tickets for a **MATINEE PERFORMANCE** are available to order ahead.
- You can reserve seating by sending in your request for seats right now and support our scholarship program.
- We are limited to 110 seats, so reserve early. If you turn in your order now, you can pick the tickets at the next meeting. We can also mail them to you if ordering.
- Reservations are by mail, email or at our meeting.

Payment needs to be made to hold your reservation.

aauwleecounty@gmail.com

Make the subject of your e-mail *Players Circle*.

If reserving by mail, include the information on the form below.

	Number of tickets @ \$55.00	Total owed.
	Handicap accommodation needed?	
	Name	
	Local Address	
	Phone Number(s)	
	Email	

Further details about the Dec. 9 Holiday Event:



Happy Holidays

The doors of the Circle Theater Open at 3:15 for a treat of Christmas cookies with other guests, beer and wine and snacks for purchase, and Bob Cihi performing on the piano for your enjoyment .



The show lasts for 90 minutes, just in time to head to a neighborhood restaurant for dinner.

Our suggestion: CIBO Italian Restaurant & Bar, [\(239\) 454-3700](tel:2394543700), (see photo below)

To make a reservation, please call 239-454-3700. Be sure to include the DATE, TIME, NAME, and NUMBER of SEATS you'd like to reserve

Cibo's is a modern, upscale Italian restaurant offering delicious plates, diverse wines & happy hour specials. The food itself is a delightful representation of classic Italian cooking. Everything tastes fresh and uses quality ingredients.



Other restaurants nearby:

Cristof's

The Melting Pot

Prawnbroker Restaurant and Fish Market

Deep Lagoon Seafood and Oyster House

Lazy Flamingo

Bellini's Fort Myers



Fort Myers/Lee Co. Branch, Inc.

How to Donate to the American Association of University Women Fort Myers Lee County Branch Inc.

Visit our website - <https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net/> and click on **DONATE**
Use the online arrow to designate how your gift will support our programs.
You can this donation procedure for

- **Players Circle Theatre Tickets**
- **Membership Dues**
- **Scholarship Funds General Donation**
- **Bingo Fundraiser**

Donate with PayPal or with Debit or Credit Card

The illustration below is what you will see when going online.

AAUW
Fort Myers/Lee Co. Branch, Inc.

Donate to
**American Association of University
Women Fort Myers Lee County Branch
Inc**

AAUW has been working to empower women since 1881. Use the
arrow below to designate how your gift will support our
programs.

\$ 55 USD \$ 75 USD \$ 101 USD Other

Use this donation for
Players Circle Theatre Tickets

☐ Add \$0.00 USD to help cover the fees.

Next

[Cancel and return to American Association of University Women](#)

or go directly to our PayPal link –
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=HV5UFNRAWBGZJ

or use the QR code





AAUW BRANCH MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026

National AAUW will be sending out reminders for your membership renewal. Do not ignore them. Your membership renewal date is one year from the date you joined.

Renewal by Credit Card:

- Go to the AAUW National Website: <http://aauw.org>
- You will need your AAUW ID#
- If you do not know your ID# , contact: Jemetta Hunt, VP Membership.
- Members' contact information is in your Branch Directory.
- If this is your first time connecting on the AAUW Community Website, you will need to
- create a new password by clicking the "Forgot Password". Once you log-in, click "My Profile", located in the menu on the left side of the screen. You can update your profile at any time.
- The annual dues for 2025-2026 are \$101. (National 74, State, 12, Branch15)
- Make sure you click the Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc,
- If the total is more than \$101., you may have clicked on more than one branch. Delete and start over.

Paying by Check:

- **Complete the AAUW Membership Form on the next page.**
- Write a check for \$101.00, payable to AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, inc.
- Mail check and form to our AAUW Branch PO Box. (address on form)
- If you are a dual member and your primary branch is out-of-state, you will owe \$27.00 (State of FL \$12, Branch \$15.)



Our AAUW Board has approved an exciting new opportunity for our members to support our scholarships. Beginning in 2024/2025 fiscal year, anyone will be able to sponsor and name a scholarship “*in honor of*” someone.

For example, Cheryl Tromley intends to fund the Fort Myers Technical College Star Bright Scholarship and name it “The Violet Roberts FMTC Star Bright Scholarship” in honor of her grandmother. You can do this as an individual or partner with others.

This offer would apply to the following scholarships:

- AAUW Star Bright Scholarship (Cape Coral Technical College): \$1,000 per year.
- AAUW Lee County High School Scholarships: 2 @ \$1,500 per year.
- AAUW Thomas Edison and Kiwanis Regional Science & Engineering Fair Award: \$300 per year.
- AAUW Thomas Edison and Kiwanis Regional Science & Engineering Fair Emerging Research Scholar Award: \$300 per year.

This opportunity does not change any of our normal donation processes. All opportunities for donating will remain the same, and this is just an ***additional way*** to contribute to our scholarships and an ***additional way*** to honor someone. The normal channels will still be available.

In addition, if anyone wants to donate “*in honor of...*” but does not want to commit to a sponsorship, as has always been the case, they may elect to target that donation to a specific scholarship or the scholarship fund. If the latter, the Scholarship Committee and/or Chairs will allocate it where the need is greatest.

If anyone is interested in exploring this opportunity, please contact Cheryl Tromley, Scholarship Committee Co-Chair at 203-530-9147 or email cltromley@gmail.com.



Our Scholarships

AAUW Star Bright Scholarships: Established in 2005, by Book Club 3, to provide branch members with the opportunity to make donations honoring friends and commemorating special events, this scholarship awards two \$2,000 scholarships to female students attending their second semesters at Cape Coral Technical College and Fort Myers Technical College. The latter is a sponsored scholarship, the “AAUW Violet Roberts Star Bright Scholarship.”

AAUW Lee County High School Scholarship: Established in 2011 in memory of Jane Wagner, a three-term branch president. It awards two \$2,000 scholarships per year to graduating female students 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 high school girls in STEM fields, it awards two entrants in the Thomas Alva Edison & Kiwanis Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Recipients must present a unique, quality topic, and conduct their own research. Judging is done by members of the Scholarship Committee. The first award, the ***AAUW Thomas Edison and Kiwanis Regional Science & Engineering Fair Award***, provides a \$500 prize to a promising female entrant. The second award, the ***AAUW Thomas Edison and Kiwanis Regional Science & Engineering Fair Emerging Research Scholar Award***, provides a \$500 prize to a female entrant for a project that shows promise with the goal of encouraging her participation in future years. Established in 2025 to encourage middle school girls in STEM fields, this scholarship awards \$200 to three entrants (one each in grades six, seven, and eight) in the Junior Division of the *Thomas Edison Festival of Light Regional Inventors Fair*.

Marie Glasgow and AAUW Friends STEM Award

Fund: Established in 2019 in honor of Marie Glasgow, president of AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co. branch for two terms, 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. In even numbered years the award will go to a Lee County Middle School girl (grades 6-8) participating in the Junior Division of the Edison-Kiwanis **Regional Science Fair**. The winner should demonstrate meritorious effort

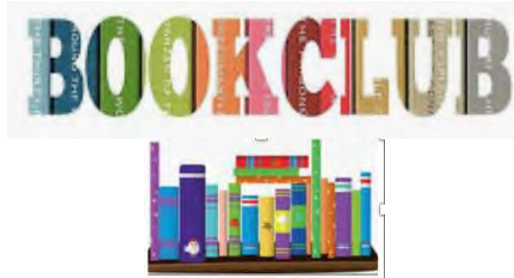
AAUW FGCU Endowed Scholarship: Established in 2000, it awards one (approximately) \$2,000 scholarship to a female student who resides in the five-county (Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry) area, with financial need, pursuing an undergraduate degree at FGCU. Priority is given to the current awardee.

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:

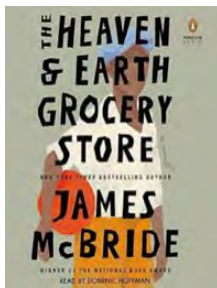
Established in 2000, it awards one (approximately) \$1,000 scholarship to a female Lee County student with financial need attending the Fort Myers Campus of FSW. Priority is given to the current awardee.



***We have two book clubs.
Each welcomes new members***

Cover Girls Book Club

Cover Girls is meeting in members' homes. Zoom will be available for those who are out of town or unable to otherwise attend. The meeting time is usually the second Wednesday of each month from 1 pm to 3 pm. Contact Carol Fuechsel at cbfuechsel@gmail.com for more information.



The selection for October was the ***Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*** by James McBride and was held at the home of Pat Tillis. In November, the group will be reading ***The River is Waiting*** by Wally Lamb. The group will meet at the home of Ginny Parsons.



Page Turners' Book Club

We welcome new members. We anticipate a meeting later in the year. If interested, contact Lois Benedetto, benedetl@georgetown.edu

News from AAUW Florida

Virtual/Online Book Club

Members keep engaged all year long with our statewide AAUW Florida Online Book Club! It's open to all and a great way to connect, reflect, and recharge through shared reading. Contact Doris at dorismoble20016@yahoo.com to get involved.



Membership Form
AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc.
July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

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

Florida Address (Is this a new or edited prior address in Florida? Circle: Y or N)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Dates usually in Lee County: ☐ Full Time or ☐ Seasonal, from: _____ to: _____

Out of Season Address. (Is this a new or edited out of season address? Circle: Y or N)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Information--Included in the directory and used to send branch communications such as the Torch.

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Birthdate: Month/Day: _____ / _____

Education—As you prefer it to be included in the directory. Education: Degree(s)/Year/College/University(s):

Degree _____ Year _____ College/University _____

Degree _____ Year _____ College/University _____

Level of Membership

\$65.00 ☐ New Member (Reduced cost for first year membership! Welcome!)

\$101.00 ☐ Renewing Branch Member (National \$74, State \$12, Branch \$15)

\$27.00 ☐ Dual Member—Primary membership through another branch

Primary branch: _____

\$27.00 ☐ Paid Life Member

\$0.00 ☐ Honorary Life Member (50+ Years of Membership)

Payment

Mail this form with your check, payable to **AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch Inc.**

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co Branch, Inc.

P.O. Box 2115

Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115

Send any questions regarding membership Jemetta Hunt, Membership VP, jemetta@aol.com

Get Involved! I'm interested in learning about the following Committees and Interest Groups

Check	Committees	Check	Interest Groups
	Membership/Directory		Book Group
	Public Policy		Bridge
	Scholarships		Hand and Foot
	Communications		Mahjongg
	Ways and Means/Fundraising		Nature Walks
	Torch Newsletter Production Editing		Tools for Advocacy
	Strategic Planning		Great Decisions
			Field Trips
			Other: _____



SAVE THE DATE!

JANUARY 10, 2026

SHERYL FAYE WILL HELP US CELEBRATE THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTION WITH HER PORTRAYAL OF ABIGAIL ADAMS.

Woman of Interest

Abigail Adams was the wife and closest advisor of John Adams, the second president of the United States. Hailed for admonition that the “*remember the ladies*” in Adams was not only an women's rights, but she and advisor to her nation's second president. She opposed slavery and supported women's education.



ABIGAIL ADAMS

States, and the mother of sixth president of the her now-famous Founding Fathers their new laws, Abigail early advocate for was also a vital confidant husband John Adams, the



The final Great Decisions discussion for the 2025 program year is scheduled for Friday, November 7, at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. Colleen Wheeler will lead our discussion on the topic of “American Policy in the Middle East: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead.” Great Decisions coordinator Suzan Harden thanks everyone who participated in the discussions this year and the members who volunteered to take the lead on one of the topics. The discussions were lively and informative and so timely. A new Great Decisions group coordinator is needed for 2026. Please contact Lisa Crotty if you are interested.

PUBLIC POLICY

As many of you know, I moved to Tennessee over the summer to live closer to family. I went through hundreds (thousands?) of pictures, trying to be ruthless and save only those that commemorated very special occasions. In the process, though, I found the picture that accompanies this article.

In 1990, I traveled through the West for the first time. Because I had been in Angel Flight in college (any other Angels out there?), I really wanted to go to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. On our tour, I saw this poster. I was completely taken in by the contrast between the “Bring Me Men” sign on the wall and the happy, excited young woman who I expect was a new cadet. Based on her hairstyle, her bias-cut dress, and her suitcase (no wheels!), I guessed this photo was taken in the mid- to late-70’s. That was the time when I was just graduating from college and starting my career. I was as happy and optimistic as that young woman looks in the picture—about my future, about all our futures.

I have concerns about the future of my sister’s granddaughters and yours. There are policies being enacted and actions taken to roll back the progress of our working years, which bothers me greatly. Because it is November and because I found the picture, I am going to concentrate on the military. Please bear with me as I share a brief (and incomplete) history of women in the military.

Pre-WWII - Women have always served “with” the military if not officially “in” the military. We all know the stories of the brave women who served as nurses during our country’s military conflicts. We know they also served as morale boosters, cooks, sewers, laundresses, and spies. They even cleaned cannons! But certainly, the last 80 years have been a time of great progress for women who wanted to serve in the Armed Forces.

1942 – The Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps was founded. In 1943, it became the Women’s Army Corps (WAC). Women now had active-duty status.

1946 – Army leaders began actively campaigning for enlisted women to become a permanent part of the Army.

1948 – Congress passed the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act, which gave women the right to serve as permanent and regular members of all four branches of the military. African-American women could now serve. However, the number of women who could serve in each branch was limited. This Act also contained the Combat Exclusion Policy, which prohibited women from serving in combat positions.

1951 – The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services was established to seek fair and equal treatment for women in the Armed Forces.

1975 – President Ford signed Public Law 94-106 which allowed women to be admitted to the military colleges. In the summer of 1976, 119 female cadets reported to West Point; 157 to the Air Force Academy; and 80 to the Naval Academy.

1988 – The Department of Defense issued the “risk rule,” barring women from serving in non-combat roles if the risk of exposure to direct combat, hostile fire, or capture was equal to or greater than the risk in the combat units they supported.

1993 – The combat exclusion was lifted from aviation positions. Restrictions remained in place for units in direct support of ground units and special operations aviation units.

1994 – Secretary of Defense Aspin rescinded the “risk rule.” Also, the National Defense Authorization Act explicitly prohibits using gender quotas, goals, or ceilings in any military role that is open to both men and women.

2010 – Women are approved to serve on submarines.

2013 – The Combat Exclusion Policy was repealed, allowing women to serve in all combat roles.

You may wonder what any of this has to do with AAUW and its mission. Here it is.

The U.S. military has led the way in breaking down barriers for women which has then spread across all aspects of society. As the Armed Forces opened more positions to women and women demonstrated success in positions of responsibility and leadership, the broader society followed along. There are glaring warning signs in 2025 that that progress is slipping away. Some examples:

The Pentagon terminated the Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, citing its “divisive agenda” as the reason for the termination.

Admiral Lisa Franchetti, the Navy’s first female Chief of Naval Operations and the first woman to serve on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was relieved of command. She was the first commander to ever be fired. No reason was given, and she was replaced by a man. Her termination means there are no women in 4-star general or admiral leadership positions.

Vice Admiral Yvette Davis was removed from her assignment as the first woman (and Hispanic) to lead the U.S. Naval Academy. No reason was given, and she was replaced by a man.

Admiral Linda Fagan, commandant of the Coast Guard and the first woman to lead a military service, was relieved of command. She learned of her dismissal at the Commander-in-Chief Ball, while waiting in line to have her picture taken with the president. She was given three hours' notice to vacate her residence. While there were some concerns about her overall performance, her dedication to DEI activities was cited as a primary reason to relieve her of duty. Admiral Fagan was the first commandant of the Coast Guard to be fired. She was replaced by a man.

Air Force Lt. General Jennifer Short, senior military assistant to the Secretary of Defense, was removed from her position shortly after Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth was confirmed. No specific reason was given. She was replaced by a man.

Admiral Shoshana Chatfield, the U.S. military representative to the NATO Military Committee, was fired. The official position was that the decision was made "due to a loss of confidence in her ability to lead"; but there were rumors that she was fired in part because of a presentation she gave on Women's Equality Day 10 years ago. She was replaced by a man.

It is unfathomable that the military is looking to discourage the participation of women. In recent years, the enlistment of women in the military has allowed the Services to meet or exceed their recruitment goals. This, from AI Overview on Google, "The increase in female enlistment is notable, as it occurred while male recruitment has been stagnant or declining, partially due to factors like higher education and fewer criminal records among female applicants." The current administration implies that women weaken the capabilities of our Armed Forces because they are allowed to participate in select positions without meeting the same physical requirements as men. While that is true at the entry level of the military, it is not true for the elite forces. Female Army Rangers and Navy SEALs and females in Marine Corps infantry roles must meet the same physical requirements as men.

When you look at the history I shared, you see this is progress made during the course of our lifetime. Our mothers and grandmothers fought for these opportunities. We cannot dishonor them by letting these rights slip away. Look at what has happened already. Roe v. Wade overturned in 2022. Affirmative action gone in 2023. The Voting Rights Act hanging by a thread. A current administration advocating that women in leadership positions are there only due to DEI.

If the military has a significant impact on the direction of the social values of our country, this worries me. We will never be the strongest country we can be until everyone is allowed to participate in jobs they desire at the level they can achieve. Women's rights are in terrible jeopardy right now. Organizations like AAUW are more important than ever to assure steady progress. Follow the public policy updates from national and state. Become a 2-Minute Activist. Know your legislators. Run for office. VOTE. You can make a difference!

I encourage any of you who served to share your stories at your tables at the November luncheon meeting, in observance of Veteran's Day. I wish I could be there to hear them! Know that I appreciate your service and am proud to have known you.

This was my last Torch update for Public Policy. If you are interested in assuming the duties of the Public Policy Chair, let Lisa Crotty know. I have loved my time in the Fort Myers/Lee County Branch of AAUW. It was a pleasure to get to know all of you and to serve in several leadership positions. I wish you the best!





AAUW

BINGO FUNDRAISER

Supporting Scholarships for Women!

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, February 4th

Lexington Country Club

**BUFFET DINNER | BINGO GAMES |
SILENT AUCTION & MORE!**



2025-2026 MEETING DATES and TORCH PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

SEND ARTICLES TO peggycihi@comcast.net

Meeting Date (September Zoom Meeting Cancelled)	Deadline for Articles	Mail Torch Date
October 18, 2025 *November 8, 2025	September 3, 2025 September 25, 2025 October 13, 2025	September 11, 2025 October 8, 2025 October 20, 2025
*Theater Musical December 9	November 19, 2025	November 29 2025
*January 10, 2026 *February 4, 2026 March 21, 2026 April 18, 2026 May 16, 2026	December 20 January 14, 2026 February 28, 2026 March 25, 2026 April 22, 2026	December 27, 2025 January 25, 2026 March 11, 2026 April 8, 2026 May 6, 2026

**Unusual Day and/or Date.*

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Christine Dixon

6 Julie Iverson

11 Rita Schneider

INTEREST GROUPS/COORDINATORS

Interest Groups meet monthly for social activities.
For details on joining, see contact information for
the coordinator of each group.

Bridge Group

Coordinator: Lois McDougall
lois.mcdougall@yahoo.com

Cover Girls Book Club

Carol Fueschsel cbfuechsel@gmail.com

Page Turners Book Club

Lois Benedetto
benedetl@georgetown.edu

Great Decisions

For information, see

[Foreign Policy Association website](#)

Coordinator: Open

Hand & Foot

Coordinator: Carolyn Nance
cnance5240@gmail.com

(Instruction is available for new players
interested in Hand and Foot and Mahjong.
Contact Carolyn Nance for details.)

Mahjong

Coordinator: Carolyn Nance
cnance5204@gmail.com

To create a new group,
reach out to Jemetta Hunt
jemetta@aol.com

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc. 2024-2025 Officers

Elected – Executive Board

President – Lisa Crotty
Past President – Bonnie Ryan
President Elect –
Open
Vice President of Programs –
Tamara Pigott
Vice President of Membership –
Jemetta Hunt
Secretary – Patricia Crowe
Treasurer – Mary Kellner

Appointed Officers – Board Members

Public Policy – Open
Co-Chairs of Scholarship —
Cheryl Tromley and Devera Graf
Communications (Torch/Website/Facebook)
Peggy Drennan Cihl, Astoria Aviles
Ways and Means – Astoria Aviles

Standing Committees

Records Retention – Executive Board
Science Fair - Cathy Tucker
Strategic Planning—
Kathleen Haibach and Tamara Pigott

Ancillary Positions

Reservations – Janet George and
Bonnie Ryan
Sunshine – Margot Flinn
Greeters – Board Members
Torch Proofreaders – Lisa Crotty,
Carolyn Nance
Torch Circulation –
Jemetta Hunt (US Mail)
Lisa Crotty (E-mail)



American Association of University Women

Fort Myers / Lee County (FL) Branch Inc.

PO Box 2115
Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115

Donate Today to help the Fort Myers Branch Advance 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 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 scholarship or award please name below: (See list under: <https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net> under tab Philanthropy; Scholarships, Awards

Scholarship/ Award: _____

**Please make checks payable to AAUW Fort Myers / Lee County, Inc. and mail to:
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