

LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020



Lake/Sumter branch of AAUW is committed to a diverse community that stimulates a culture of learning and understanding and enhances a member's experience. We aspire to create an inclusive and equitable branch that represents, supports, and celebrates diversity of all kinds.

President's Message

Greetings to our members,

As summer moves along and we look forward to the coming year, we continue planning for the fall. Meeting in person, face-to-face, may not happen for several months. No matter. Our commitment to the advancement of women and girls continues to make a difference in their lives. We have heard from the college scholarship recipients, and the impact our support has had on them. We have seen the Tech Trek 8th grade girls excited about their summer camp experiences and their opportunities to see and hear women in STEM positions. Although the summer experiences have been cancelled for this year, the 2020 girls as well as the new recruits for 2021 will all have that special opportunity next year.

As we build our budget for next year, we want to continue our support to college scholarship and Tech Trek. But we need your membership and involvement. This not only keeps our chapter strong but makes a powerful statement to our community. The Covid-19 pandemic has necessitated the cancellation of our Spring fundraisers. We will need to be creative in figuring out how to make up for this money in the coming year. Whatever we do and however we do it, it all starts with your membership.

What we do to support all of them matters. Believing in these values reminds us it is time for us all to step up and renew our membership in AAUW. If you have renewed your membership – Thank you. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, this newsletter will tell you how.

Opportunities to participate in leadership positions for Hospitality, Branch Historian, and Tech Trek (co-chair with Sharron Albrecht) are open and await your positive response. Please give a call to Anne (201 317-1991) or Katie (518 275-9466) and join our team.

Looking Ahead

As we plan for the coming year, we are exploring how our chapter can make use of technology to connect with our members and continue our work of supporting girls and women. By taking advantage of new ways of communicating we can offer distance presentations, virtual coffees, and other programs to our members. It's a new world out there and we are figuring out how to be more active participants in it.

Several members of AAUW interest groups and committees are using Zoom to keep in touch with their members, family, and friends, with both audio and video. The AAUW Book group, Speakers Bureau, and the Diversity Committee are among those members. Their positive experiences are encouraging us to explore how best to use Zoom for our meetings and presentations. We are forming a Technology Committee and we invite your participation.

Stay tuned. We look forward to working with all of you to continue our strong support for women and girls.



Katie Haviland and Anne Wilkins, Co-Presidents 2020

Membership

Hello from your Membership Co-Chairs. On July 1, our new officers officially began to assume their duties. Welcome to Karen Pickelsimer as our new Membership Co-Chair!

We hope that you all are still managing to smile as you continue to practice social distancing and that you are all staying safe. Please let someone on our Board know if there is something you need or if we can do anything for you.

As of today, we have 101 members. That number includes six who are Life Members. For those of you who have not yet renewed, your membership will remain active through November 1. Please mail your renewals to Terri Slotterback, 922 Tarrson Boulevard, Lady Lake, FL 32159. You can contact Terri at maryslotterback@yahoo.com for more information.

You may be hesitant to renew your membership because of the restrictions against gatherings indoors at the Rec Centers for meetings or even in homes to play bridge or mah jongg. Your Board is researching ways to hold virtual general meetings, committee meetings, and social meetings until it is safe to meet in person again. In the meantime, there is much we can do as members of AAUW.

Some ideas that have been discussed during State level membership phone calls include sending emails to our National, State, and Local representatives regarding AAUW's positions on legislative issues such as the gender pay gap, reading blogs and watching YouTube on these topics to keep you up-to-date, and reading articles on our State and National websites.

If you have questions regarding membership, please do not hesitate to call either of us.

Stay Safe.

Diversity Committee

Members' Lunch Postponed

The Diversity Committee met via Zoom to discuss the *Members' Lunch: Exploring Diversity in Our Branch* which is scheduled for October 22 of this year. Because the coronavirus is not under control, the committee was not comfortable planning an indoor event for 50 or more people this fall. And we questioned if branch members would be more ready for such an event in the spring. As a result, the committee decided to postpone the event until the fall of 2021.

Racism Discussion Series

In the wake of George Floyd's murder, and in the absence of in-person meetings, the Diversity Committee is launching a *Racism Discussion Series* online via Zoom. Discussions will be held once a month for 90 minutes and will be open to all members as well as the public.

The plan is to base discussions on short articles or videos, links to which will be sent ahead of time. The first discussion will be on July 22 from 10:30 'til noon. Participation is open to the first 100 people who register. To register, send an email to divcomaauw@gmail.com indicating that you are an AAUW Lake / Sumter member and including the following information:

- Your name
- Email address
- Phone number

The reading for the first meeting of the series is *Racism 101: Understanding Race and Racism*, which can be accessed at <https://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/racism-101.html>. We encourage participants to review the reading and be prepared to discuss the information it offers.

Once you have registered, we will send an email with a link to the preparatory materials, dates, times, and Zoom access information. If you have questions about this discussion series, contact Linda Carpenter or Jacquie Latzer.

Speakers' Bureau

With virtually no effort on the part of the Speakers' Bureau Steering Committee, we have scheduled three presentations to Villages groups. All presentations will be via Zoom.

- *The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap*, Freethinkers Club at 1:00 p.m. on July 9. The presentation was well-received.
- *Florida's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program*, Evening Rotary Club at 4:00 p.m. on September 2.
- *The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap*, Civil Discourse at 10:30 a.m. on September 7.

The Steering Committee is in dire need of a third person to replace Rose Boeckman as scheduler. Please contact either Jeannie Hamilton or Linda Carpenter if you would like to join the committee and help shape the future of our branch Speakers' Bureau.

Stay safe, stay well!

EDITOR'S MUSINGS



We hunker down in our homes and feel isolated. Don't forget to reach out to someone who might need a call! The newsletter will be back in September... remember the deadline is August 20. By then perhaps we will be able to write about real and not virtual activities!

Editor: Beth Hicks
aauwlsnews@gmail.com

AAUW Websites

National: <https://www.aauw.org>
State: <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net>
Local: <https://lakesumter-fl.aauw.net>