

# Lake/Sumter Hi-Lites



## Presidents' Letter

As we look around the corner toward Women's History Month, we remember our own deeply embedded AAUW roots. Since 1881 AAUW has been breaking through educational and economic barriers for women and girls. Our organization began by addressing educational obstacles and has grown to include other issues facing women such as workplace discrimination and pay inequity.

At our January General meeting, speaker Dr. Donald Wyman took us on a journey back in time to the Civil War. His PowerPoint presentation and discussion brought to life a summary of how one woman, Elizabeth VanLew, brave and intelligent, became a spy for the Union and made significant contributions to the military establishment in Washington. It was an excellent program!

We can be proud of the many local accomplishments at our Lake/ Sumter branch. We continue to financially support AAUW's nationwide Action Fund that uses its influence to network and disseminate information, raise awareness, and effect change on women's issues. Through Diane Geach's sale of 50/50 raffle tickets at each monthly General Meeting, we support AAUW National's Legal Advocacy Fund. This fund supports plaintiffs in sex discrimination cases and provides grants to help colleges and universities fight sexual harassment and assault on campus (see page 4 for more information about AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund and Lake / Sumter's efforts to support it).

AAUW Lake / Sumter branch is always committed to our mission to empower all women and girls to reach their highest potential. At the local level, our capable members, leading various committees, exhibit the finest and highest levels of principle and leadership. Always in the forefront on our minds is Tech Trek led by Cathy Cirocco, Judy Bonn, Linda Carpenter, and Carmel Leese; STEM 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Awards, led by Kathleen Buckley and Diane Starr; and Local Scholarships led by Rosella Valentine, Joyce Tisovec, and Patti Weasel. We respect and appreciate the efforts of these members to bring us the best and most capable candidates for our awards.

At our January meeting, Rosella Valentine introduced Amber Sode, one of our current scholarship winners. Once again we have a student who needs our financial assistance as she pursues her degree during her final year of college. Belk's Charity Sale helped us to raise \$718.00 to supplement Amber's loss of income during

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Inside this issue:

Meetings and Programs	2
Special Interest Groups	3
Branch News	4
State and National News	8
General Meeting Minutes	10
Calendar	11



Co-Presidents Margaret Kaufman (L) and Beverly Grappy

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## Presidents' Message *(Continued from page 1)*

this current five-month semester. It is a start! See page 6 for more information on Amber's needs and ways you, personally, can help her.

As 2015 moves forward, we look toward the new slate of officers announced at the January meeting by Joyce Tisovec, chairperson of our Nominating Committee. In addition to Joyce, Diane Geach, Linda Macleod, and alternate Pam Cobb served on the committee. See page 5 for the slate and be sure to attend our March meeting for voting. At that time, nominations will be accepted from the floor; installation will be held at the May meeting.

Our AAUW Lake / Sumter branch is a remarkable force, and will continue to strive to make a difference in the lives of girls and women. We wish each of you a Happy Valentine's Day!

*Beverly Grappy and Margaret Kaufman*

Co-Presidents

## Meetings and Programs

### February General Meeting: Pot Luck and Presidents



The February 14 AAUW General Meeting, from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at Allamanda Recreation Center, will feature a salad/dessert potluck. We are asking members whose last names begin **A-L** to bring salads (some with meat) and members whose last names begin **M-Z** to bring desserts. Drinks and rolls will be provided. **Reservations are required**, so please contact Liz Schweers (850-247-9489 or eas42\_mh@hotmail.com) to reserve your place. (Note: The time listed here is correct, although it is different than the time printed in the membership booklet.)

We will eat first and then have a short business meeting; the program will follow. Our speakers will be AAUW Florida's co-Presidents Susan Berlin and Virginia Farace. They will talk about initiatives at the state level and will field questions from the membership, so send your questions to Beverly Grappy or Margaret Kaufman in advance of the meeting.

**Directions:** Allamanda Recreation Center is located at 1515 St. Charles Place, The Villages. It is north of 466A and south of Lake Sumter Landing. From either north or south, take Buena Vista Boulevard to St. Charles Place at the Village of Liberty Park gate; Allamanda will be on the right.

### Future General Meetings

- ◆ Our annual branch elections will be held at the General Meeting on March 14 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon at Allamanda Recreation Center (see page 5 for slate), and guest speaker Jim Ukockis will talk with us about taxes.
- ◆ The April General Meeting will be on **Tuesday**, April 21 from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the **Polo Club**. Tickets for our meeting, which includes lunch and Polo 101, will be available at the February and March meetings for \$16.00. Or you can reserve tickets by calling Ginger Ryan at 518-421-4454.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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## Meetings and Programs *(Continued from page 2)*

### Board Meeting



The next meeting of the Lake / Sumter Executive Board will be from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon on Monday, February 9, 2015, at the Sumter County Sheriff's Annex, which is at the corner of 466 and Morse Boulevard. Board meetings are open; all members are welcome to attend.

## Special Interest Groups

### Bridge Groups

Lake / Sumter AAUW offers two Special Interest Bridge groups:

- ◆ The Monday Bridge group plays on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 1:00 P.M.; it is open to any interested member who wishes to play regularly. Location is scheduled on a date-to-date basis, with members volunteering to host in their homes. New members are welcome! And the group would appreciate hearing from those who might want to be substitutes. To join this group, as a regular player or as a substitute, contact Mary Ann Swisher at [mswiper@mindspring.com](mailto:mswiper@mindspring.com) or 352-259-3739. The Monday Bridge Group will play this month on February 9 and 23. Hosts will be announced before the meetings.
- ◆ The Thursday Bridge group meets on the first and third Thursdays every month at 1:00 P.M. This month, they will play on February 5 and 19. The group is comprised of 12 regular members. Currently they have openings and are always in need of substitutes. If you would like to join the group or substitute, please contact Carolyn Johnson at [cgljohnson@comcast.net](mailto:cgljohnson@comcast.net) or 352-751-4103.



### Diversity Book Club



The Diversity Book Club meets the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 A.M. at Freedom Pointe. This month's meeting is on February 18, and the book will be *The Paris Architect* by Charles Bel-foure. For more information, contact Pat Bays at 751-3777 or [stanbays@embarqmail.com](mailto:stanbays@embarqmail.com).

Because all visitors to Freedom Pointe must sign in, Pat has asked that club members arrive no later than 10:25 A.M. She will meet the group in the lobby to escort them to the meeting area. Parking may also be a challenge, so carpooling is encouraged. Club members often go out for lunch after the meeting.

### Conversational Mah Jongg

The Conversational Mah Jongg group — it's relaxed and talking is permitted — plays at 1:30 P.M. on the first and third Mondays of each month. This month, the group will play on February 2 at the home of Carol Sellers (372 Hengan Place in Mallory Square, 352-259-5410) and February 16 at the home of Kathy Howe (1391 Eagle Ridge Drive in Liberty Park, 631-219-4289). If you plan to play, it is very important to contact the host by the Friday prior to the game. Contact Anne Schlick ([aroyrogers@centurylink.net](mailto:aroyrogers@centurylink.net), 750-1027) for more information about this group.



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## Special Interest Groups *(Continued from page 3)*

### Golf Anyone?



Our group is golfing on Friday mornings, and our reservation is entered into the tee time system on the Sunday evening before we play. Contact Carmel Leese by Saturday evening if you are interested in playing. The requested time is based on the weather forecast during the winter season. It has been 11:30 A.M. with a window of 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. Golf courses we play alternate weekly between those north of Hwy 466 and those south of Hwy 466. We do not include the courses north of Hwy441 or south of Hwy 466A. If you are interested in joining, contact Carmel Leese (352-71-0119, crleese@gmail.com). You can participate weekly or when your schedule allows as there is no weekly commitment required. But if you haven't participated in the past, also please include your Villages ID number when you call since this is needed for entry into the tee time system.

### Educated Palates

The Educated Palates will meet at the home of Carolyn Moores at 9:30 A.M. on Thursday, February 5, to plan a February dinner. A Southwestern theme has been suggested. Please bring your suggestions, recipes, and your calendar so that a date and hostesses can be decided on. New members are always welcome. Please email Carolyn at hcmoores@aol.com or call 259-9955 to be included in the planning session.



## Branch News

### Spotlight on Philanthropy: Legal Advocacy Fund



AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) "works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. . .resources range from community outreach. . .to backing of major cases." Services funded include legal case support, assistance in finding legal help, information to help women know their rights at work and on campus, and grants to support travel and outreach programs. You can learn more about these services and AAUW's work in legal advocacy on the Web site at <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do-/legal-resources>. And you can sign up to receive AAUW's LAF Express, a monthly update on activities supported by the fund.

If you have ever bought 50/50 raffle tickets at one of our General Meetings, you've seen — and contributed to — Lake / Sumter AAUW's efforts to support National's LAF. Diane Geach, usually assisted by Linda Macleod, sells the 50/50 tickets, distributes winnings to lucky ticket-holders, and makes sure the remaining 50 per cent of ticket sales gets to National for deposit in the LAF. So as you buy your tickets and hope to be a winner, know that you already are because your contribution goes to challenge sexual discrimination in school and work settings.

### A Branch Facebook Page

Based on a presentation by Frankie Smith at the January Executive Board Meeting, our Branch is looking into creating a Facebook page. Here are five good reasons we should consider developing a Facebook page for our Branch:



*(Continued on page 5)*

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## Branch News *(Continued from page 4)*

1. **Engage and Connect** — Facebook offers a great opportunity for engaging in conversations as well as addressing questions about AAUW and its causes.
2. **Drive Traffic** — “Likes” on Facebook provide an opportunity to appear on news feeds and offer daily reminders of AAUW’s mission. Facebook is a great tool to help drive traffic to our Web site, and subsequently attract donations, volunteers, and members, and raise general awareness for our cause.
3. **Sharable Content** — The more sharable content we produce on social media, the more people will see what we are doing and be motivated to get behind it. Given how easy it is to share content online, social media is a great place to create momentum for any campaigns we may be running.
4. **Marketing Tool** — Social media is a great and affordable way to run a campaign that has potential for wide reach. Mix in press coverage, news about our organization, stories of people we’ve helped, spotlights on members, information on upcoming events, and reminders of how easy it is to become a member, donate, or contribute.
5. **Extend PR Reach** — We can include links to any press coverage our organization has received about Branch news and events, and we can also use social media as a way to work public relations. Contacting a journalist or someone from a media outlet through social media can be more successful as it is more direct than simply adding to the slew of emails they receive every day.

Our Branch members DO NOT need to have their own Facebook page to view a Lake / Sumter AAUW Branch Facebook page. A link can be provided to members who are not Facebook users; the link will take them to the Branch Facebook page to view information that is open to the public.

Efforts to create a Facebook page are currently exploratory in nature. So please contact Frankie Smith (352-259-4318, [frasmith2@gmail.com](mailto:frasmith2@gmail.com)) with your feedback on this proposal.

### Branch Elections

Our nominating committee members Joyce Tisovec, Diane Geach, and Linda Macleod developed the slate of officers for our Branch election in March:



Co-Presidents-elect	Anne Wilkins and Julee De La Rosa
Co-Membership Chairs-elect	Mary Ann Swisher and Diane Jacobson
Co-Secretary-elect	Diane Starr and Rosemary Scarfia

The election of officers will take place this year during our General Meeting in March, and installation of officers will take place at the May General Meeting.

### Scholarship Fundraiser

**Drawing to be Held at February Meeting.** Good news! On Saturday, February 14, at our Lake / Sumter AAUW General Meeting, Richie Kluesener, owner of Gold-in-Art Jewelers of Mount Dora and Lady Lake, will draw the winning ticket and announce the lucky winner of our fabulous gold and diamond ring (pictured at right).



*(Continued on page 6)*

## Branch News *(Continued from page 5)*

We hope to have a large turnout for this Valentine's Day meeting and the drawing. Many of you have taken and sold (or purchased) tickets for the ring throughout the year. Your support of our local scholarships has been outstanding and we thank you for all you've done!

What a sweet Valentine surprise some lucky person is in for at our February 14 drawing!

**Ring Ticket Sales.** Prior to the January 2015 Lake / Sumter AAUW General Meeting, the Scholarship Committee had taken in and deposited \$2,180 in ring ticket sales. Between the December and January meetings, the committee received sold tickets and checks from a few members in the amount of \$310.

At the January meeting, the membership really came through by returning sold tickets and money to the committee. Our January 2015 deposit in the amount of \$1,430 means we now have a grand total of \$3,610 in ticket sales money in our scholarship fund with the treasury! Rosella Valentine, Patti Weasel, and Joyce Tisovec anticipate realizing \$4,000 in total sales this year, when remaining outstanding ticket funds come in. Rosella Valentine, chair of the Scholarship Committee, reported that this will be the first year we've ever raised the entire amount we needed strictly through our ticket sales to cover the four (4) \$1,000 scholarships we award each year.

So remember: Together in AAUW, we are changing young women's lives, one scholarship at a time!

### **Scholarship Recipient Updates: An Open Letter from the Scholarship Committee.**

Rosella Valentine, chair of our Local Scholarship Committee, wrote this open letter to the Lake / Sumter AAUW membership:

*As you may recall, last year Lake / Sumter AAUW helped to financially support Evelyn Guzman, one of our AAUW scholarship students, through a very difficult year when she was required to complete two full-time, unpaid teaching internships for UCF. I'm pleased to report that Evelyn graduated in December 2014, received her BS in Elementary Education, and is now employed as a teacher at Triangle Elementary in Mt. Dora . . . thanks to the efforts of several AAUW members and other caring people and organizations in our community! A real success story we can all feel good about.*

*This year, we have another scholarship recipient who finds herself in the same situation. Amber Sode (pictured with me at our January General Meeting) needs your help to make it through those unpaid teaching internships to get to her December 2015 graduation, a BS degree, and her teaching certification. She, too, hopes to become an elementary teacher right here in Lake County.*

*Amber, 22, is from Groveland and is a Phi Beta Kappa student at UCF. Her parents are deceased and she has no family to help her financially so she works to support herself and to pay for her education. Her ability to work and survive will, of course, be taken away by UCF's unpaid teaching internship requirements.*

*I hope that you will want to be a part of Amber's success by contributing this year in the same way that several of our members did for Evelyn last year. We will have a donations box at each of our monthly meetings where you can leave a check (made payable to Amber Sode) if you feel you can, and would like to, help this young lady. We need your assistance to support a very deserving student who will become an excellent Lake County teacher, "with a little help from her friends."*



*(Continued on page 7)*

## Branch News *(Continued from page 6)*

### Neighborhood Coffees: Do I Smell Coffee Brewing?



Now that the bustle of the holidays is over, let's remember our Neighborhood Coffees.

If you have paused in your enjoyment of these get-togethers because there was too much going on, or if you were waiting to get started with your Neighborhood Coffees to allow our snowbird members to fly in, now is the time to get them going again.

It's a wonderful way to meet and get to know AAUW branch members in your immediate area, and often new people join because they see you having such a good time! It's still a chilly time of year, and a good cup of coffee or tea and a nice little nibble with friends is quite delightful. Barbara Jones and Judy Bonn, our co-Presidents-elect, would love to be invited to some coffees soon, so they may get to know you also.

So what are you waiting for? Let's put the coffee on!

### Member Updates

Please welcome the following new members and add their information to your membership booklet:

- ◆ Patricia Awood-Yates      2474 Ansley Path  
The Villages, FL 32162  
Village of Tamarind Grove  
pat\_awood@yahoo.com  
352-633-5263  
734-395-5700 (cell)  
Madonna University, BSN
  
- ◆ Dr. Bonita Marcoccia      755 Richfield Street  
The Villages, FL 32162  
Village of Sanibel  
bmarcoccia@aol.com  
352-633-0289  
315-559-4186  
Northern Illinois University, BA  
Syracuse University, PhD
  
- ◆ Harriett L. Nelson      7653 SE 170<sup>th</sup> Broughton Place  
The Villages, FL 32162  
Village of Calumet Grove  
hnelson1533@comcast.net  
352-693-2455  
856-616-8890 (cell)  
New York University, B?  
Rutgers University, MSW

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Branch News *(Continued from page 6)*

- ◆ Karen L. Pickelsimer      2237 Mossy Oak Drive  
The Villages, FL 32162  
Village of Pennecamp  
ksimer@hotmail.com  
847-516-2877  
847-516-6477 (cell)  
University of Akron, BS
  
- ◆ Lindy E. Voorhees      33116 Irongate Drive  
Leesburg, FL 34788  
lindyvoorhees@gmail.com  
352-250-4164  
University of Central Florida, BA

Condolences to the family and friends of Marilyn Watts who passed away in January. As is our custom, a \$50 donation will be made to National AAUW's Eleanor Roosevelt Fund in Marilyn's honor.

Richard Mayoras has made a \$100 contribution to our Local Scholarship Fund in honor of his late wife and long-time Lake / Sumter AAUW member Barbara.

## State and National News

### Tech Trek 2015



Our Branch Tech Trek Committee has received applications from 14 girls who were nominated by their teachers to consider attending Tech Trek this summer at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. The next step will be to interview each candidate to assess their qualifications for selection to attend. The committee will also be interviewing each girl's parents by phone to determine their interest in having their daughters attend the week-long camp. Upon completion of the interview process, the committee will recommend to the State AAUW Tech Trek Board those students who have shown that they are academically proficient in the STEM fields, are very enthusiastic about participating, and will gain the most knowledge and experience in determining which field they would be likely to pursue for a career. The committee's recommendations are due to the State Board by February 16, and girls will be notified sometime in March if they are selected to attend.

### Lobby Days

AAUW Florida Lobby Days in Tallahassee will be Tuesday, March 17 and Wednesday, March 18. As stated on the flyer on the back page of this newsletter, the purpose of Lobby Days is "to secure more seats at the table for women." So if you would like to assist with the planning of the lobby day, join our State Lobby Corps, or even get more information contact the AAUW FL Regional Field Rep, Char Singleton at [Singletonc@aauw.org](mailto:Singletonc@aauw.org).



*(Continued on page 9)*



## State and National News *(Continued from page 8)*

### AAUW Florida Meetings

AAUW Florida Leadership Conference and the 2015 AAUW Florida Annual Meeting and interesting workshops will be held at the Melbourne Hilton Rialto on Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19. This will be a two day event beginning late Friday afternoon and ending Saturday afternoon. For more information, go to the AAUW Florida Web site: <http://aauw-fl.aauw.net/activities/state-convention>.

### Eleanor's Hope



At our January General Meeting, members heard about a project entitled Eleanor's Hope and learned of presentations about this project that will be made in our area in February. Eleanor's Hope is an initiative of The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM), a non-partisan advocacy organization supported by membership. Named in honor of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Eleanor's Hope will raise awareness, recruit and train new activists, and bolster Congressional leaders who are making a difference on women's health and retirement security issues. The intent is to advocate for legislation that addresses the inequities threatening millions of retired women and to work to elect lawmakers who share our vision of retirement equity for women.

The retirement challenges facing millions of American women simply can't be ignored. On average, women live longer than men yet their lifetime earnings are generally lower. Pay inequity while they're working and often reduced benefits once they retire means millions of women face retirement and health insecurity in their old age.

The Eleanor's Hope initiative will be of interest to many Lake / Sumter AAUW members and several presentations will be made in the tri-county area during February. Laura Feldman, one of NCPSSM's most sought-after speakers, will speak about Eleanor's Hope: Income Security and Equality for Women at the following locations:

Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 5:30 P.M.  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
Summerfield

Thursday, February 12, 2015, 7:00 P.M.  
Tavares Civic Center  
Tavares

Friday, February 13, 2015, 11:30 A.M.  
Buffet City (lunch \$10.00)  
Ocala

For more information, contact Sue Michalson ([suube2@gmail.com](mailto:suube2@gmail.com); 516-581-4011), NCPSSM coordinator for Congressional District 11.

### AAUW National Convention

AAUW hosts its National Convention every two years. The 2015 AAUW National Convention will be Thursday, June 18 through Sunday, June 21 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina. For information about the convention, got to <http://convention.aauw.org/>.

# General Meeting Minutes

**AAUW Lake/Sumter Branch  
General Meeting  
January 17, 2015**

- Welcome** The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Margaret Kaufman welcomed members and guests. She then introduced new members and guests.
- Minutes** Minutes from the December General Meeting were accepted and passed unanimously.
- Finance** Carolee Litwinka reported:
- |                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Balance as of Nov. 8, 2015 | \$12,495.54 |
| Income                     | \$5,735.00  |
| Expenses                   | \$5699.83   |
| Balance as of Jan. 9, 2015 | \$12,530.71 |
- Membership** Connie Konatsotis announced that we now have 147 members.
- Program** Linda Ferens reminded that the February program will feature the co-presidents of the State AAUW, Susan Berlin and Virginia Farace. Questions for discussion by the co-presidents are requested.
- Information regarding the Pot Luck will be in the newsletter.
- Tickets are on-sale for the April meeting to be held at the Polo Club
- Scholarship** Rosella Valentine announced that the ring donated by Gold in Art will be raffled off at the February meeting. She also discussed the needs of one of the current scholarship members.
- Fashion Show** Carmel Leese reported that the fashion show was quite successful and made over \$3,000.00.
- Golf** See newsletter for information.
- Nominations** Joyce Tisovec announced the following slate of officers: which was voted on and passed unanimously.
- |                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Co-Secretaries-elect | Diane Starr and Rosemary Scarfia    |
| Co-Membership-elect  | Diane Jacobson and Mary Ann Swisher |
| Co-Presidents-elect  | Julee De La Rosa and Anne Wilkins   |
- Joyce reminded the membership that nominations could be made from the floor.
- Angel Books** Mary Ann Swisher reported that 240 books were donated to Lake County and Lake Sumter schools. Donations from Mira Mesa Women's Club were also included.
- Great Decisions** Books for this activity are available.
- Tech Trek** Cathy Cirocco described the Tech Trek program and announced that the committee was in the process of securing applications for the 2015 summer program from current local seventh grade middle school girls
- Speaker** Linda Ferens introduced the speaker, Dr. Paul Wyman, who spoke on the topic of **Elisabeth Van Lew, Union Spy in the civil War**
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Wilkins



Empowering Women  
Since 1881




**SAVE THE DATE**  
**LOBBY DAY**

**WOMEN NEED MORE SEATS!**

TO SECURE MORE SEATS AT THE TABLE FOR WOMEN WE HAVE TO TAKE ACTION! JOIN US AT THE CAPITOL. SAVE THE DATE:

**MARCH 18TH**

JOIN US MARCH 17TH FOR A PRE LOBBY DAY OF TRAINING, NETWORKING, & FUN



Send questions, comments, and suggestions  
about the newsletter to the editor, Linda Carpenter, at  
[Linda.J.Carpenter@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.J.Carpenter@gmail.com)

## February 2015 Calendar of Events (clip and save)

Mah Jongg	February 2	1:30 P.M.	Host: Carol Sellers
Educated Palates	February 5	9:30 A.M.	Host: Carolyn Moores
Thursday Bridge	February 5	1:00 P.M.	Host: TBA
Board Meeting	February 9	10:00 A.M.	Sumter County Sheriff's Annex
Monday Bridge	February 9	1:00 P.M.	Host: TBA
General Meeting	February 14	11:00 A.M.	Allamanda Recreation Center
Mah Jongg	February 16	2:30 P.M.	Host: Kathy Howe
Diversity Book Club	February 18	10:30 A.M.	Freedom Pointe
Thursday Bridge	February 19	1:00 P.M.	Host: TBA
Monday Bridge	February 23	1:00 P.M.	Host: TBA

Golf: February 6, 13, 20, 27; courses TBA

Great Decisions: February 3, 10, 17, 24; Sumter County Sheriff's Annex