



American Association of University Women
 Lake/Sumter Branch, Inc.
Learn – Connect – Support

April 2025

Presidents' Message



Greetings to all,

Spring has sprung all around us and is a busy time for our branch as we prepare our Tech Trek campers for summer camp and select our

new college scholarship awardees. Our program year ends in May and our fiscal year on June 30th. During this time, we reflect on accomplishments of the past year and what lies ahead for our branch in the Fall.

Our April meeting will be at Allamanda Recreation Center on Saturday April 26 at 10:00 a.m. Our program has changed. We will hear from Katina Stephens who is area coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Foundation.

This will be your last chance to purchase tickets for our year-end luncheon which will be held at the Legacy Restaurant at Nancy Lopez Country Club on Saturday, May 3. Remember, our luncheon is a special time since we get to meet our new scholarship recipients. See the luncheon flyer at the end of this newsletter

Thanks to our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and the generous donations we have received, we are able to fund 14 Lake and Sumter County girls for this summer's Tech Trek. Kudos to Sue Hanson-Otis, the Tech Trek committee, and all who have supported this wonderful program.

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The scholarship committee, led by Gretchen Lewis and Susan Gold, is currently hard at work reviewing applications and interviewing women to receive scholarships from our branch.

We appreciate each and every one of our members. Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and treasure with us!

We continue to be amazed by the talents and gifts our members bring to branch activities. All of you are valued members of Lake/Sumter AA UW!

Bonnie Weaver and Jennifer Thompson
Co-Presidents
Lake/Sumter AAUW

Learn – Connect – Support

501(c)(3) and You

your tax-deductible contributions contribute to the success of our Tech Trek and scholarship programs. Please keep AAUW in mind as you plan your annual donations from your RMD...or otherwise.

And, as we approach the tax season, keep in mind that your dues are now 100% deductible.

Beth Hicks
501(c)(3) Implementation Co Chair

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the slate for the coming year. We will vote during the April meeting and install new officers at the May Luncheon.

- Co- Presidents- Betty Rohan and Sarah Reagan
- Co-Presidents Elect – Sue Laluk and Elizabeth White
- Co-Membership Directors– Mary Anderson and Bobbie Peters
- Co-Programs Directors– Laura McLaughlin and Kathy Howe
- Co-Finance Directors – Barbara Fieldman and Diane Erickson
- Co-Secretaries – Dee Sherman and Sandy Plano



LEARN

General Meeting Programs

April Meeting: Saturday April 26, 2025

**Coffee and Conversation at 9:30 a.m.
Program at 10:00 a.m.**

Join us for the last General Meeting of the season. Our speaker will be Katina Stephens the area coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Foundation. Katina is a dynamic speaker who will talk with us about her work. Perhaps some of our members will remember her from International Women's Day as she gave the final charge as we concluded that day.



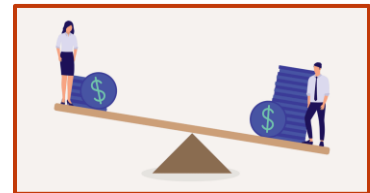
Annual Spring Luncheon: Saturday May 3, 2025, Lopez Country Club

We hope that you can join us at Lopez on May 3. Information can be found in the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Public Policy

Economic Security and the Gender Pay Gap for Women

Economic security is a concern to researchers and individuals alike. A single worker, in 2022 in Florida, needs to earn \$36,101 and a couple needs to earn \$52,886 to be economically secure. But the reality is that 56% of full-time working women in Florida were below economic security levels. Race, marital status, and gender play into these statistics. Over 50% of Black households, 40% of single adults, and 45% of women are below economic security levels.



Single mothers had the highest rate of economic insecurity with 76% of female headed households with children living below economic security. In 2022, women earned 83% of what men earned. The gender pay gap in Florida is less than national figures, not because women are paid better in Florida, but salaries in Florida are lower than the national averages.

The pay gap exists due to occupational gender and racial segregation, gender caregiving responsibilities, and discrimination in the labor market. Caregiving is performed overwhelmingly by women over a lifetime. Employment and care systems are not supportive of caregivers. These factors contribute to women earning less over their working years and ultimately to economic insecurity in retirement. Over a working life

women with children earn less than men with children. This gap is greatest among women ages 25 to 34 earning only 85% of men.

Two million women left the labor force in 2023 due to family obligations which is seven times the number of men who said the same. A third of caregivers end up having to quit their jobs to take care of children or an adult. Sixty percent of unpaid caregivers for the elderly are women. In 2023 this resulted in female caregivers losing an average of \$237,000 in lifetime earnings. Twenty percent of that total is lost retirement income from Social Security and employment-based plans.

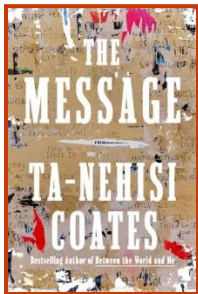
What can be done to support caregivers? Expand Medicaid, stipends for family caregivers, and support for training for family caregivers. New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand introduced the Social Security Caregivers Act in 2023. This act would provide retirement credits to individuals who are providing unpaid care and mitigate the economic loss in the caregivers' future social security income.

Elizabeth White and Susan Laluk
Public Policy Co-Chairs

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

DEI Great Reads

The Message by Ta-Nehisi Coates



A BEST BOOK of 2024: *N. Y. Times Book Review, NPR, Vanity Fair, Town & Country*

The renowned author of *Between the World and Me* journeys to three sites of conflict to explore how the stories we tell—and the ones we don't—shape our realities. Coates exhorts readers to challenge conventional narratives that can be used to justify ethnic cleansing or camouflage racist policing.

The book consists of three intertwining essays. On his first trip to Africa, Coates finds himself in two places at once: in Dakar, a modern city in Senegal, and in a mythic kingdom in his mind. Then he travels to Columbia, South Carolina, a capital of the Confederacy with statues of segregationists looming over its public squares, where he reports on his own book's banning and also explores the larger backlash to the nation's recent reckoning with history. Finally, Coates travels to Palestine, where he sees with devastating clarity how easily we are misled by nationalist narratives, and the tragedy that lies in the clash between the stories we tell and the reality of life on the ground.

Written at a dramatic moment in American and global life, this work is about the urgent need to untangle ourselves from the destructive myths that shape our world—and our own souls—and embrace the liberating power of even the most difficult truths.

Book summary courtesy of Amazon.com

Day Trips

Royal 40 Acres and a Mule Tour

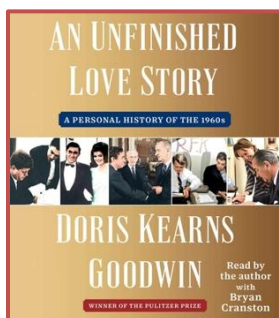


A lucky 13 AAUW members and guests toured the community known as Royal on the beautiful day of March 19. All were delighted by our November AAUW speaker Beverly Steele who led a two-hour tour which included a tobacco barn and a talk held in the Alonzo A. Young, Sr. Enrichment & Historical Center. Steele gave a passionate, entertaining summary of Royal with stories of tobacco – from planting to selling—produced on the land. AAUW members were lucky in

winning door prizes, and we left inspired to help Royal by getting involved through the websites (www.communityofroyal.org and www.youngperformingartists.org).

Be sure to check [our website](#) for more pictures of this and our other day trips.

Book Club



The Book Club will gather on Wednesday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m. at the Sheriff's Annex on 466. April's read will be *An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Katie Haviland will lead the discussion.

The book for May will be *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Marge McQuestion will lead the discussion. The club will meet on Wednesday, May 15 at 10:30 a.m. at the Annex. This will be our last meeting of the year.

For more information, please contact Kate Manion.

2024-2025 Book Club Selections			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Discussion Leader</i>
4/16/25	<i>An Unfinished Love Story</i>	Doris Kearns Goodwin	Katie Haviland
5/14/25	<i>Remarkably Bright Creatures</i>	Shelby Van Pelt	Marge McQuestion

CONNECT

Membership Directory

Printed Directory

We currently have 96 members. To accommodate member requests, we have printed the 2024-25 Membership Directory. It is available for \$5.00; contact Membership Co-Directors Leslie Flanders or Terri Slotterback to get yours. The printed directory is current as of October 14, 2024, and will not be re-printed this year.

Online Directory

Our online directory is updated regularly as we welcome new members to our Branch and edit contact when members renew. Please check your entry in the directory, located in the Members' Pages of our website (www.lakesumteraauw.org), to make sure your information is correct and complete. If you need the password for the Members' Pages, email Linda Carpenter to request it.

Members can also send a photo to go with their entry. The photo should be a headshot in .jpeg format; it can be sent as an email attachment. Email Linda with any changes to your entry.

Mah Jongg

Please contact Barbara Fieldman (Bfieldman@gmail.com, 321-663-1858) if you are interested in playing AAUW Mah Jong in May. There are no planned games for April.

Bridge

Barbara Fisler (kiddielit5@gmail.com) remains the contact for the weekly bridge games.

SUPPORT

Tech Trek

A total of 24 girls were nominated for the 2025 Tech Trek Summer Camp. Fourteen of the 24 girls submitted applications. They are from Minneola Charter School and The Villages Charter Schools at the Buffalo Ridge and Middleton campuses. It is the first time that any girls were nominated from Minneola Charter School.

AAUW-Florida will notify all applicants regarding their acceptance status by March 30, 2025.

Mary Anderson, Katie Haviland, Bobbie Peters and Liz Schweers served on this year's Tech Trek committee. Each of them has been instrumental in the process of selecting the campers we will support this year. Thank you!

Sue Hanson-Otis
Tech Trek Coordinator

Scholarships

Our scholarship committee is busy interviewing applicants for our Scholarship Program. Applicants are from Lake Sumter State College and Beacon College. Recipients will be presented at our Spring Luncheon in May.

Your support for our fundraising makes these scholarships possible. Thank you for your generosity.



**American Association of University Women
Lake/Sumter Branch, Inc**


Learn – Connect – Support

My time as editor is drawing to a close. I have one more in May and then I am moving on to other projects. Please contact me if you are interested in this rewarding job!

Editor: Beth Hicks
aauwsnews@gmail.com

AAUW Websites

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



AAUW LUNCHEON

**Legacy Restaurant
Nancy Lopez Country Club
17135 Buena Vista Blvd
The Villages, FL 32162**

Saturday, May 3, 2025

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Garden Room

Cost \$23/person

Includes tax & gratuities

***Legacy Chicken Salad on Romain lettuce**

***Beer-battered Haddock on Brioche bun
w/ cold slaw & house chips**

***Two Short Rib Tacos on Soft Flour Tortillas
w/cold slaw & Chipotle Aioli, house chips**

Non-Alcoholic beverage included

Alcoholic beverages, Coffee & Tea - Cash only

Make checks out to: Lake-Sumter AAUW

Check must be received by **April 26, 2025**

Kathy Howe - 1391 Eagle Ridge Dr - The Villages, FL 32162



League of Women Voters Tri-County Presents

Empowering Voters Through Election Reform

April 12 at 1:00
Seabreeze Recreation Center
2384 Buena Vista Blvd.

Free Event, Open to all

Presentations on Election Security and Election Reforms
by Wesley Wilcox, Marion County Supervisor of
Elections and The League of Women Voters Tri-County