

floriVision

A PUBLICATION OF AAUW-FLORIDA SUMMER FALL 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE EILEEN L. RECCHIA



Patricia DeWitt of the Jacksonville Branch with State President Eileen Recchia at the National Convention

Greetings to all! I'm writing this president's message for 2013-14 from Alaska. I am so impressed with this area of our country that I could not resist not sharing it with you. Alaska is so lovely and breathtaking that I am in awe with its beauty and breathtaking landscape, its history and culture. It is truly what everyone said it was who has traveled here and shared with me prior to my trip. Alaska's history is so interesting and one of many challenges, much like that of AAUW. It is one of our youngest states but is

so rich in so many ways.....its early frontier journey, its modern development, its unique seasonal living with many challenges, and its committed and devoted people. I do think that our AAUW has much in common with beautiful Alaska.

AAUW is really a young organization; however, it has accomplished so much during its existence. Women of courage and determination were our founders much like those who came to Alaska, both groups facing challenges with determination to succeed. I do think you would agree that both have been successful, however, their journeys are not complete. AAUW is at a crossroad in its historical development as an organization of aging members. AAUW leaders and members are aware of this,

have acknowledged it, and are addressing the challenges.

While here in Denali National Park I have had the opportunity to meet a woman pioneer who is so representative of AAUW women and whom I would like to talk about. Some of you may know of her either by seeing her on national news or reading about her in the newspaper. In this fall *floriVision* which is focusing on AAUW-FL's successful Tech Trek 2013 I thought it would be so appropriate for me to let others report to you their experiences while I reflect back in history for similarities.

Yesterday I met the incredible Mardy Murie. Margaret (Mardy) Murie was born in Seattle in 1902 and moved to Fairbanks, Alaska while she was still young. She was the first woman to graduate from the University of Alaska, at Fairbanks in 1924. That same year she married Olaus Murie, former Wilderness Society President. Their honeymoon was a caribou research expedition by dogsled in Alaska's Brooks Range within the Arctic Wildlife Range. Soon it became second nature for Mardy to pack her babies along with her camping gear for trips accompanying Olaus in the Alaska wilds. Mardy described the family's Alaska adventures in her book Two in the Far North. The Muries moved to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in 1926 where they built a log cabin that they lived in for the rest of their lives. Olaus and Mardy wrote letters and articles, traveled to lectures and fought for legislation that would protect the last of the wild places.

Mardy Murie, "Grandmother of the Conservation Movement," was a committed lifelong conservationist and protector of wildlife and wild lands. She was a wilderness warrior in her own right, serving on The Wilderness Society governing council and advocating for wilderness in Alaska and beyond throughout her life. In 1960 Mardy and

Olaus found out that the Arctic Wildlife Range was going to be designated as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, an accomplishment that the couple had dedicated their lives to.

Mardy attended the signing of the Wilderness Act by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964 after Olaus' death. She continued the work that she and Olaus had begun together, joining the governing council of The Wilderness Society and working for the protection of wild Alaska until the end of her life. Margaret Murie was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President William Clinton in January 1998 for her lifelong commitment to conservation.

In October of 2003, Mardy Murie passed away at the age of 101. Her passion, love, and ultimate dedication to wilderness conservation was simply outstanding. She has inspired countless grassroots activists and will continue to impact the environmental movement for generations to come. The Patagonia community who miss her dearly worked hard to honor her memory and protect the wild country we all love by establishing the Patagonia's Environmental Grants program which helps to support many groups making positive contributions to the environmental movement.

Doesn't Mardy's story fit into AAUW-FL's world? I do think so! When I attended AAUW-FL Tech Trek 2013 I saw many young girls like Mardy. Even though each girl had a different focus in the world of STEM each possessed traits similar to Mardy.....determination, excitement, dedication and a desire to learn and make a difference. I just wonder how many of our 40 young 8th grade Floridian girls may be another Mardy in their own chosen field. More importantly without AAUW-FL making Tech Trek become a reality in Florida this *floriVision* edition and my president's message would be meaningless! I will let you decide if together we should work to make Tech Trek for 2014 a SUCCESS! Can we be the Mardy Murie of 2013-14?

Best wishes for a successful 2013-2014 AAUW season.

THANK YOU, AAUW-FLORIDA MEMBERS, FOR TECH TREK!

JENNIFER MCDANIEL, TECH TREK DIRECTOR



A heart-felt thanks to all AAUW-Florida members for making Tech Trek a reality! Tech Trek, a residential STEM camp for girls, July 21-26 at the University of Central Florida was a tremendous success. All your support at fundraising and helping get the word out to teachers to nominate these amazing girls made this first ever Tech Trek successful and amazing! Under the leadership and encouragement of Florida President Eileen Recchia, a team of AAUW members -- Eileen Recchia, Flossie McNally, Jennifer McDaniel, Abby Lemay, Dr. Emily Schmitt, Carol Newnam, Dr M.C. Santana -- applied for and received a \$10k grant from AAUW. This seed money was provided to assist with the development of Tech Trek in Florida.

President Eileen Recchia, Carol Newnam and Diane Boyce did an excellent job coordinating the fundraising. There were over 200 applications from all across the state by well-qualified, incredibly talented young ladies going into the 8th grade. All the girls were nominated by a math or science teacher, filled out an application, and were interviewed by Carol Napper, Sandra Campbell, Mona Jensen, Virginia Farace, and Jennifer McDaniel. Forty of these young ladies were hosted through the Office for Women Studies and College of Engineering and Computer Science at UCF in Orlando.



Dr. Santana, Director for the Office of Women Studies, was the keynote speaker. She did an amazing job putting the parents' minds at ease, getting the girls excited, sharing tips on effective communication, and inspiring the girls to pursue a career in STEM fields. Dr. Santana also served as the media coordinator, taking photos and posting updates on Facebook throughout the week.

Abbey Lemay coordinated the volunteers. The staff consisted of two directors, two talented teachers, four dorm monitors, and one super nurse plus over 25 workshop presenters, 16 lab tour guides, and 14 professionals for "Dine with a Scientist Knight" (UCF's mascot is a Knight). AAUW members Candy Fish, Cecilia Mendell, and R. Elizabeth Koenig assisted with the "Career Knight" and stayed to help with robot building.



GIRLS WORKING ON WINDMILLS

Prior to this event Siemens Westinghouse hosted the girls in an event to build wind mills and explore mechanical engineering. During the week the girls toured Research Park Institute for Simulation and Training where they experienced hands-on military training, medical training, gaming, virtual reality, and simulation. They spent an evening with the Women in Physics at UCF, explored the UCF Observatory, made liquid nitrogen ice cream, toured several physics labs, and discovered optics.



COMPLETED WINDMILL

Flossie McNally served as the co-director and nurse. She put countless hours into creating the program provided to parents which included the schedule, personal messages from parents, donor list, and more. She was an incredible resource and organized the final applications and medical forms.



THANK YOU SIEMENS WESTINGHOUSE

Tech Trek was a success thanks to all who helped and supported the program. The girls send their thanks: "I give enormous thanks to the people who helped us get here. If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't have gotten to have these amazing experiences here at Tech Trek 2013. Thanks to you we have been inspired again and again in these 5 days. We even have seen the college that might house us in the future. I have seen things that I would have never dreamed possible, not in a million years. I have learned so much. Thank you again."



“Thank you so much for your generous donation to Tech Trek. I really appreciate it and you have helped me and other campers to dive deeper into science and math. Because of you, this camp was able to inspire girls all across Florida to take this experience with them to future STEM Careers. Once again, a million thanks for your support. We campers wouldn’t have been here without your help.”

For updates and photos visit the website: <http://techtrek-fl.aauw.net/>

THE GIRLS LEARNED AT TECH TREK
JENNIFER MCDANIEL
TECH TREK DIRECTOR



OYSTER MAT

What an amazing, talented, intelligent, and awesome set of young ladies attended AAUW-Florida’s first Tech Trek camp at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. These young ladies were engaged from beginning to end with learning, team building, hands-on discovery, exploring, and exposure to all different types of STEM careers. The girls were asked to evaluate their experiences, and their responses best describe the success of the program. “Tech Trek was really amazing. I learned that boys and men aren’t any smarter than girls and women and that my ideas count.” “I learned that triangles are the strongest structures in bridge building. Also, I learned that oysters clean 50 gallons of water in one hour!” “I learned how suspension systems can save people’s lives.”

“My experience at Tech Trek was different in that I learned how to make liquid nitrogen ice cream and about space.” “We learned about light, physics, robots, and rockets.” All of the girls were provided a rocket to build on their own. Each girl launched her rocket and followed the competition rules in a preliminary Tech Trek Rocket Launch Competition. Four winners from AAUW-Florida’s Tech Trek are eligible to compete in “Reach for the Stars – National Rocket Competition” (<http://www.therocketman.net/>).



FUTURE ASTRONAUTS

“My favorite experience was going to Kennedy Space Center. I learned how rainbows were formed and how to work together and be a leader.” This was the first time more than half of the girls had ever gone to Kennedy Space Center. “I have learned so much about STEM from Saturn’s rings all the way to how oysters clean water.” “My experience at Tech Trek was fun and educational. We did things like build bridges, robots, and rockets. I have learned how to search careers and so much more.”

In addition to learning about STEM careers and the value of taking math and science classes, the girls participated in a college level experience at UCF Career and Experiential Learning Center where they determined their personality type and explored STEM careers that matched their interests. They created a personality profile to build on as they add more talents, traits, and new interests to determine their careers. The key was to see the link from exposure, interest, and knowledge of STEM to high-paying STEM careers for women. The girls



said, "Tech Trek has helped me find who I am and what I wanted to do with my life." "I learned about what people can do as a STEM major." "I learned the importance of teamwork and how many options there are out there for women in STEM careers." "I loved every minute at camp and wish I could stay longer. I learned about many new things and it has encouraged me to head toward a STEM future."



TEAMWORK

"I have learned that it is nice to be surrounded with people in the same mind state as me." This was clear in the interviews and also restated throughout the week by many girls. Tech Trek has provided an opportunity for girls that are intelligent and love math and science to experience what STEM truly is--the application of problem solving without barriers and stereotypes, pure science.

All the girls had a fantastic experience and send their thanks. "Thank you for bringing this to Florida! We want to come back." If you would like additional information on Tech Trek or would like Jennifer McDaniel to speak to your branch, she is the liaison for AAUW-Florida STEM and a Leader on Loan.



GIRLS AT KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

AAUW FL TECH TREK CAMP 2013 A WORD FROM SOME HUMBLE VOLUNTEERS



First we would like to acknowledge and share our appreciation for Jennifer McDaniels and Flossie McNally, the co-directors of AAUW-FL Tech Trek Camp 2013. Their hard work and dedication was apparent from the minute we walked onto UCF campus. It is never an easy task to develop programming that is both educational and fun, but that is exactly what this camp delivered to forty young women from all over the state. These incoming 8th grade students were nominated by their teachers because they shared a common denominator (math terminology intended)-- an interest in STEM fields.



Elizabeth, Cecilia and I arrived at camp in time to participate in “*Dine with a Scientist Night*”. Opening this dinner with remarks about the camp and AAUW was AAUW-Florida President Eileen Recchia. The evening continued with women who currently hold positions in STEM fields.



SCIENCE NIGHT PANEL

The evening began with a version of the 1950’s game show *What’s My Line?*. The girls questioned each panelist in an effort to determine the individual’s occupation, until each panelist had been connected with her current career. After introductions each student table hosted one of the panelists which allowed the girls an informal setting to ask questions and to learn how these professional women followed their passion and achieved their career goals.



VOLUNTEER CANDY FISH HELPS WITH ROBOT BUILDING

Friday, the last day of camp, was full of fun and memory-making activities. After breakfast the girls were eager to take on the challenge of building robots. They collaborated in groups of three or four to create a programmable, moving robot of their choice. This activity was a fun way to engage the girls in teamwork. At the end of the robot building teams shared their results with the other teams.



TEAM PUPPY FINISHES ROBOT BUILDING FIRST

The projects created a curiosity in the girls to increase experimentation with STEM projects. The volunteers enjoyed their experience at Tech Trek as much as the girls.

Candy Fish, Ph.D., AAUW FL Historian
Nova Southeastern University

R. Elizabeth Koenig, MS, AAUW FL C/U Liaison
Nova Southeastern University

Cecilia Mendell, MS, Math professor
Edison State College

Give-aways:

Joycelyn McGlothlen-Vogt

H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship

Nova Southeastern University, 3301 College Avenue Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314



AAUW FUNDS
DIANE JACOBSON,
DIRECTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT
AAUW IS A FOUR-STAR CHARITY

Only ten percent of charities evaluated by Charity Navigator, America's largest and most-utilized rating agency, have been given the coveted four-star rating for the past three years in a row. AAUW is one of these few! That means that AAUW efficiently applies your generous donation to efforts that achieve our mission — advancing equity for women and girls.

We at AAUW-Florida are happy to be a part of this success and I am happy to announce the winners of the "Thank You Gifts," a token of appreciation for your support of AAUW Funds. This support is vital to the AAUW mission and we at AAUW-Florida appreciate all your donations. The "Thank You Gifts" were randomly given to any individual who made a donation to any of the AAUW Funds recorded on the 2nd quarter donation report (branch donations or donations for the Tech Trek hotel stay drawing were not included). The second quarter report includes all donations made January 1 - June 30, 2013. The five gifts awarded are: a leather computer roller bag won by Beverly Grappy of Lake Sumter, an AAUW leather bound note book and pen won by Judith Alper of Orlando-Winter Park, an AAUW cookbook won by Joan Hrachovina of Venice, an AAUW pen won by Beth Gamel of Venice, and an AAUW pen won by Harriet Stape of Marco Island.

Thank you to all our members who have made personal contributions to AAUW Funds during the 2013 funds accounting year. Thirty eight of our state branches were represented through these individual donations. Your individual support is greatly appreciated as AAUW uses the funds to empower women and girls. AAUW-Florida celebrates members who contribute at least \$100 towards any of the AAUW Funds during the calendar year by presenting them with a "Friends of Florida" ribbon during the Florida State Convention. It's easy to donate on line at AAUW.org, or Diane Jacobson will be happy to forward checks made out to AAUW to the fund of your choice.

Congratulations to our branches as we continue to support the AAUW Funds. Twenty nine branches have made branch contributions already this year, eleven of these are at the "certificate of recognition" level of \$1000 or more. There are eight other branches nearing that goal and I hope they too will be included in the awards at state convention. After the third quarter report (which ends September 30th) is available, I will notify each of our state branch's officers with their branch's and individual's recorded AAUW Funds donation amounts.

PUBLIC POLICY REPORT
DIANE SCHRIER,
DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC POLICY



**EILEEN RECCHIA AND DIANE SCHRIER AND FRIENDS
IN NEW ORLEANS**

Medical care continues to be a problem in Florida. Over 25% of women are uninsured. Florida individual plans practice gender rating which increases women's costs, but do not cover maternity costs. With the Affordable Health Care Act 224,000 young Floridians under 26 now can have insurance. Over 259,300 children with pre-existing conditions have access to health care. More than two million women no longer have lifetime limits, policies cannot be cancelled when one is ill, and women have access to mammograms, preventive health screenings and treatment for chronic conditions.

Medicaid has not been expanded, but had it been Florida would have saved over \$1.6 billion in



uncompensated care costs and covered many more people over the next ten years. Sixty-four billion dollars of federal funding would have come into Florida, helping to keep hospitals open and helping communities. However, a bill to pass Medicaid costs to counties with a different accounting formula did pass.

Several attempts to limit women's choice failed except for one stating that care must be provided for a live birth after an abortion attempt. The U.S. House did pass an abortion bill, but it is not expected to become law.

On the education front there was a failure in the US Congress to find an equitable solution to the one trillion dollar student debt. Instead there was a fix-it solution to raise loan rates on students. In Florida, university student tuition rate increases were limited. Additional funding for the University of Florida and Florida State University passed. There was an easement in the penalties that school districts pay for exceeding class size. Attempts to slow down the implementation of Common Core standards failed. Common Core is now under discussion because what should be good teaching has been affected by high-priced practices and assessments and is becoming very expensive for many states.

Bullying of any type is now forbidden in public schools. Adults are prohibited from distributing or posting on school property materials harmful to minors. A bill failed that would have created recurring revenue for charter school facilities out of the Florida Education Finance Program. The Parent Trigger Act failed; this act would have allowed parents to force public schools to be changed into for-profit corporate schools. However, the bill that will allow out-of-state virtual school providers to get a larger share of public funds passed

The Children's Initiatives establishes New Town Success Zones in Duval and Orange Counties. The zones provide projects managed by not-for-profit corporations which are not subject to control, supervision or direction by any department of state and require designated children's initiatives to help create community-based service networks and programming for children and families in disadvantaged areas.

The bill to make juvenile inmates sentenced to life imprisonment for non-homicides eligible for resentencing after 25 years failed. The number of death penalty legal arguments has been reduced in order to accelerate the process.

HB 999 modifies wetland rules and ratifies 30-year leases of public land in the Everglades to sugar companies.

The Supreme Court struck down Section IV of the Voting Rights Act. Many states have started limiting voting access. Florida's Legislature and governor are again proposing a purge of voter rolls. The Violence Against Women Act finally passed in February, but with restrictions.

The AAUW Lobby Corp is doing an outstanding job lobbying our legislators to support our views. Among issues discussed are the following: Rape In the Military, Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, Immigration Modernization Act, Student Success Act, Paycheck Fairness Act, High School Transparency Act (helps with Title IX), and the Safe Schools Improvement Act. If you are in Washington, please try to join and support YOUR lobbyist.

MAKE A LIFETIME GIFT TO AAUW JOIN THE LEGACY CIRCLE

Have you considered making a legacy gift to AAUW? Your gift will help ensure that the work of AAUW...work you've supported during your lifetime...continues long into the future. By providing for AAUW in your estate plans, you can become part of the AAUW Legacy Circle.

Our regional Legacy Circle Chair, Patricia Ross of the Daytona Beach (FL) Branch became a Legacy Circle member in part because she found the process to be one of the best ways for her to provide for AAUW for years to come. She says, "Providing for AAUW through my will and though a CRT allows me to make a commitment to AAUW, which has provided me with such wonderful friends and opportunities for so many years." Pat would love to speak with you about how to make a gift a reality. You may contact her at paross@aol.com.

Florida is proud of the members who have joined the Legacy Circle and have received their beautiful



pin. If you have already included AAUW in your estate planning, please let us know. We would love to be able to recognize you!

The simplest form of a legacy gift is a bequest, or a gift left to a charity in your will. Bequests can often allow donors to make a sizeable gift to a charity that may not have been possible during their lifetime. In a simple bequest, the donor gives a stated amount to a non-profit group without attaching any conditions. Bequest language usually reads:

After fulfilling all other provisions, I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to AAUW (Federal Tax ID #52-6037388), charitable organization duly existing under the laws of the District of Columbia and located at 1111 Sixteenth St. NW, Washington DC 20036, _____ percent of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate (or \$ _____ if a specific amount) to be use in the areas of greatest need as the board of directors may determine.

You can also name AAUW as the beneficiary of your life insurance, stock account, or retirement plan. In addition to bequests in your will or living trust, charitable gift annuities are available that can provide you with tax savings and income during your lifetime.

For more information, call Catherine Heffernan at the AAUW Planned Giving Office at 877-357-5587 or email her at heffernanc@aauw.org.



FLORIDA DELEGATION IN NEW ORLEANS

FROM THE BRANCHES

CLEARWATER BRANCH COURTESY OF DANA GARLICK

We want to help promote women into STEM careers and to improve our membership, so we have made connections with our local college which has become a partner with AAUW. In the spring, we met with Dr. Stan Vittetoe, Provost of Saint Petersburg College (SPC) in Clearwater, to plan programs/ and/or activities with the students and faculty there. The subject of the talks has been STEM and helping college women get the support they need to enter into non-traditional roles and how to succeed. They have a group of women on campus who they believe are interested in these issues and would work to make them happen, and, most important, get the women students interested.



Our first step is to invite them to our first program, “Women in Community Colleges – Access to Success”. The speaker, Andresse St. Rose, is a co-author of the American Association of University Women’s latest research with that same title and the meeting will be on SPC Campus on Saturday, October 26 at 10:30

a.m.

Dr. Stan and his group are very excited about hearing her and will be working to get students to the program. We will be letting you know more about these efforts as they develop. Go to <http://clearwater-fl.aauw.net/> or our newsletter on line at our state website for details and directions. All are welcome.

FLAGLER COUNTY BRANCH MAKES NEWS COURTESY OF JUDITH KENT

The Flagler County Branch has become increasingly visible in local news media during the past few years thanks to Muriel Levy, our Publicity Chair, who says, “Effective publicity raises awareness of our mission and attracts new members.” While public awareness may be difficult



to measure, new membership is not. Publicity has produced more membership involvement resulting in more mission-driven and innovative programming.



Muriel having identified the key contact people in each media outlet established credibility by consistently submitting accurate and timely press releases. She stressed that each source is working within constraints and

deadlines; thus she finds that giving two weeks advance notice for regular meetings and special events increases the likelihood that there will be media staff coverage and reporting. In the event that media staff cannot attend events, she promptly sends text and photos knowing that one all-inclusive photo of an event is more likely to be used than several individual ones. Cultivating relationships with these contacts requires time and persistence but generates results.

Good publicity also requires input from branch members. Photos and information must be sent promptly to the publicity chair, the web coordinator, and the newsletter editor. Events that are unique to AAUW attract new members and are more likely to be published. Recent examples from the branch include “Unhappy Hour” (calling attention to the need for Equal Pay for Women legislation), a STEM program, “Bedtime Math,” and a skit about the suffragette movement.

When asked if there was any satisfaction to the demanding job of publicity chair, Muriel gave a huge smile and said, “Oh yes! I feel empowered whenever I see our news in print!”

THE “M” IN STEM COURTESY OF THERESA OWEN

The “M” in STEM stands for mathematics. An easy way for an AAUW branch to help introduce math to young children is through a project called Bedtime Math. The mission of this non-profit organization is “to make the nightly math problem as common as the bedtime story” with the ultimate goal to help

children beginning school be comfortable with math. An article about this project in the February 25, 2013, issue of *Time* prompted the Flagler County Branch to include Bedtime Math in its STEM activities this year.



The end result was a successful program that was neither time intensive nor cost prohibitive. The children had a wonderful time decorating giant blank dominoes with sparkly stickers and then counting and matching their tiles. The consensus among the program attendees was that math was fun!

If your branch is interested in duplicating this program, visit bedtimemath.org, especially the “For Educators and Libraries” page.

Contact the children’s services librarian at your local library and offer to work with them to present this free program for children. Bedtime Math partners with libraries to create Pajama Parties with a math theme for children ages 3 – 9. It provides complete party kits with fun math activities and materials free of charge to libraries. Ask how your branch may assist in the planning and presentation of the program, perhaps by providing a “bedtime” snack.

MANATEE COUNTY ODYSSEY OF THE MIND COMPETITION COURTESY OF SYLVIA PRICE & JANE CHEATHAM

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that presents creative problem solving opportunities for students from kindergarten



through college. The program encourages students to analyze a situation, visualize the possibilities, and synthesize the best qualities of their ideas into a workable situation. There are team competitions through tournaments on the local, state, and international level. The Manatee County Branch sponsored seven schools this year and six entered the regional competition. The schools are Blackburn, Bashaw Elementary, Rowlett, and Wakeland Elementaries, Johnson Middle, and Southeast High.

The teams select a problem or problems to participate in the competition. In Pet Project the team designs and builds three vehicles from different areas to deliver parts that are assembled into a pet animal. In the Email Must Go Through they create and present an original performance identifying the technology used to simulate the transporting and sorting of emails. In ARTchitecture: The Musical they create an original performance including a replica of a classic architectural structure between 1000 and 1600 CE. Tumble-wood's problem is to design and build a single structure using balsa wood and glue that will be featured in a commercial. It's How You Look at It, sponsored by NASA, is the performance of a humorous play that includes two main characters with different odd behaviors which seem normal to them.

SOUTHEAST HIGH SCHOOL ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAM



Walkery Robinson, Kevin Wegner, Emma Rossman, Lacey Sanchez, Dorothea Hopkins, Ithi Lopez, Beth Young (not pictured)

In regional competition the Southeast High team won first place, making this Southeast's sixth consecutive regional title. The team created a play which was a humorous court trial discussing the

crime of the "Cookie Monster and Stolen Cookie Dough" with familiar Sesame Street characters playing the roles of judge, attorney, and witnesses. The team's 15-gram balsa and glue structure held 375 pounds. In "Spontaneous" they responded to a random problem with hilarious and creative responses, achieving judges' comments such as "funniest team today" and "the answers were the perfect combination of witty and simple." The combination of all three areas led to the first place win, beating the second place team by over 100 points!

Johnson Middle placed second in regional competition with Email Must Go Through and ARTchitecture and first in Tumble-Wood.

Rowlett Elementary had four teams winning at the regional level, and at the state level took two first places qualifying for the international level. In ARTchitecture: The Musical they presented a structure with three works of art that "disappear" and two characters that go on a quest to locate them. Their performance included songs accompanied by choreographed movements. They also took first place with Tumble-Wood.

At the state competition at the University of Central Florida, Southeast High's Odyssey of the Mind team placed second overall. The team of seven (7) members placed first in the "Spontaneous" competition, second in the weight held by a 15-gram balsa wood structure, and third in the team-created play. The judges at the state competition were very impressed with the creativity and excitement exhibited by each of the team members. The combination of the hard work within each stage of the competition was evident as the team members along with their coach made it to the international competition at Michigan State University.

**ORLANDO/WINTER PARK BRANCH
SHOWS THE INVISIBLE WAR FILM
COURTESY OF EMILY HARTMEYER**

The Orlando/Winter Park Branch presented the award-winning film The Invisible War on January 14 at the University Club of Winter Park to an enthusiastic audience. This 2012 documentary features several LAF-supported plaintiffs and



exposes sexual assault suffered by women service members in various branches of our country's armed forces. The film has received the Audience Award at Sundance Film Festival, was listed as the tenth movie and only documentary on *Time's* top movies of 2012, and was nominated for an Oscar as the Best Documentary of 2012.



President Myra Gaziano, Barbara Knapp, and Florence Bacas Snow, branch LAF chair, organized the event.

Attendees included branch members, husbands, friends, and students of Dr. Maria Santana, Professor at the University of Central Florida. Following the film, Dr. Santana gave a brief talk and then introduced Dr. Christine Hanlon. Dr. Hanlon's doctoral dissertation was entitled "Recruiting G.I. Jane," and she answered questions and led a discussion about the film.

The mission of AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund is to provide financial support for women who are involved in lawsuits seeking to redress acts such as the sexual assaults which are the subject of this film.

**SARASOTA BRANCH/NEW COLLEGE
OBSERVE EQUAL PAY DAY
KATHERINE OARR,
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY LIAISON**

To recognize Equal Pay Day the Sarasota Branch in partnership with New College sponsored a forum on Saturday, April 6. Equal Pay Day is observed in April to indicate how far into each year a woman must work to earn as much as a man earned in the previous year. "The wage gap hasn't budged in nearly a decade, leaving women and families continuing to suffer the effects of lost wages," said Branch President Audrey Laue.



**LEFT TO RIGHT: PROFESSOR SARAH HERNANDEZ,
JANE BLANCHARD, KATHERINE OARR,
PROFESSOR MIRIAM WALLACE AND RACHEL WEISMAN**

The forum featured a panel discussion and a question and answer session. Students attending were given suggestions for addressing the problems they will face upon graduation. The attendees were also encouraged to support the Paycheck Fairness Act that is before Congress.

Sarah Hernandez, Associate Professor of Sociology at New College, observed that the wage gap cannot be explained away by women's choices; the gap persists for women at every level of education and in all demographics.

"AAUW hopes that through research and advocacy we can help employers understand the problem and implement measures to pay their workers fair and honest wages," stated Catherine Hill, AAUW's Director of Research.

**ST. LUCIE COUNTY & PORT ST. LUCIE
COURTESY OF ROWENA CARDOZA**

On May 15, 2013, Rowena Cardoza, President of the St. Lucie County Branch, participated in a culture week for second, third, and fourth graders at the PSL Elementary School in Fort Pierce. Rowena presented a program on Jamaica, her birthplace, and included her singing of the Jamaican National anthem.

On June 13, 2013, twelve members of the St. Lucie County Branch and the Port St. Lucie Branch met for a luncheon meeting at the home of Port St.



Lucie Branch member Beth Gessner. Diane Cochran, President of the PSL Branch initiated the meeting for social interaction between the branches, education on AAUW membership, and the possibility of a merger between the two branches.

**VENICE BRANCH'S HOME TOUR
FOR WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIPS
COURTESY OF EVELYN HIVELY**

Each year the Venice Branch sponsors a tour of the most beautiful homes in Venice. The proceeds from the tour are used to help women return to college or to finish their education. This year there were six recipients of the re-entry scholarships, and they were presented at the branch's Honors Luncheon.



LEFT TO RIGHT: CHAIR SUE SHEA, SIX SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS, DORIS ANSTEY, SHIRLEY REID, EVELYN HIVELY

**VERO BEACH
TO MEET OR NOT TO MEET:
EXPLORE THE OPTIONS
COURTESY OF LOIS MILES**

The April AAUW-Florida Convention opened the doors to invigorating discussion. It encouraged us to push the envelope, to think outside the box and embrace ideas that might not have been tried. When it comes to branch meetings, the question arises—how many are necessary? How do we make them effective? Is there another way of looking at the concept of meetings?

Some branches have constructed their bylaws to require a specific number of branch meetings each year. If yours is one of those branches, how enthusiastic are your attendees? Do you get a satisfactory turnout for each meeting, or is the

response contingent upon the program you are offering, or what the meal is, assuming it's a luncheon or dinner meeting?

This may be the time to poll members and discuss with boards the purpose of branch meetings. If they are designed to disseminate information, there are other ways to do that. Is your branch presenting programs that further the objectives of AAUW? Perhaps it's time to seriously evaluate how your branch can be most effective in meeting the needs of your members and advancing "equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research."

**LOOKING BACK: CONVENTION 2013
JUDY BONN, CONVENTION 2013 CO-CHAIR**



Convention 2013 at the Sheraton Orlando North Hotel brought memorable experiences including the pre-convention tours at the Holocaust Museum and the history museum, the First Time Attendees Reception at a real Irish pub, the rousing game of Bingo Blingo, and the profitable NCCWSL Funds Breakfast. The sessions featured the dynamic keynote by Ann Corley and the members of the Student Advisory Committee who spoke of AAUW's empowering them. The breakout sessions on such topics as C/U partnerships, innovative fund raising, and Tech Trek provided attendees with ideas to use in their branches.

**DON'T MISS OUT ON SHARING YOUR BRANCH
EXPERIENCES AT CONVENTION 2014 AT THE
TAMPA SHERATON EAST ON APRIL 5TH AND 6TH.**



**TURN CHALLENGES TO CELEBRATIONS
AAUW-FLORIDA CONVENTION 2013**



**KATE FARRAR, DIRECTOR
AAUW CAMPUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**



AAUW PRESIDENT PATRICIA MAE HO



DIANE JACOBSON, DIRECTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT



AAUW-FLORIDA PRESIDENT EILEEN RECCHIA



**JENNIFER MCDANIEL
FLORIDA TECH TREK PROJECT DIRECTOR**



**MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA DELEGATION AT THE NATIONAL
CONVENTION IN NEW ORLEANS**



REMEMBERING TEEN TECH



GETTING ACQUAINTED



**TECH TREK PARTICIPANTS WITH TARYN RILEY,
MECHANICAL ENGINEER SIEMENS**



COMPLETED OYSTER MATS

REMEMBER TEEN TECH



AT KENNEDY CENTER



WITH SNOOPY AT KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

**STATE NEWSLETTER
JACQUELINE D'ALESSIO,
DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNICATIONS**

I encourage all branches to send me articles and jpeg pictures of their activities. **THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF FLORIVISION IS JANUARY 15, 2014. MY NEW EMAIL IS jqline@verizon.net.**



AAUW-FLORIDA
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Washington, DC 20036

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

THE PURPOSE OF AAUW IS TO ADVANCE EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, PHILANTHROPY AND RESEARCH.

Founded in 1881, AAUW is open to graduates holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate or higher degree from a qualified educational institution, or from a foreign institution acceptable as a basis for admission by graduate schools at regionally accredited universities in the United States.

AAUW-FLORIDA

AAUW-Florida is represented by branches in 42 Florida communities with almost 3000 branch members, in addition to over 1000 Members-at-Large. AAUW-Florida was founded on March 30, 1929

Eileen Recchia, President

Sarah Berlin & Virginia Farace, Presidents-elect

Kamala Anandam, Director for Program

Diane Jacobson, Director for Development

Nancy Pura, Director for Finance

Carol Richardson, Director for Membership

Jacqueline D'Alessio, Director for Communications

Diane Schrier, Director for Public Policy

Karen Zalkin, Secretary

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Addresses and other information for AAUW-FL Board members and branch officers may be found on the website.

AAUW Help Line: 1-800-326-AAUW (2289)

AAUW Home Page: <http://www.aauw.org>

AAUW-Florida Web Site: <http://www.florida-aauw.org>

