

President's Message

Congratulations to our newly elected President-elect Patricia Ross. Two most qualified members were slated. We thank them both for their willingness, unselfishness, and dedication as we continue to fulfill our mission.



Shirley Reid
President, AAUW-FL

2017 leadership conference concludes. Thanks to everyone who participated in and planned this year's Leadership Conference – Branches Leading the Way – held Sunday, April 2, and Monday, April 3, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sarasota.

It was indeed a rewarding experience. The venue was beautiful and well-suited to our needs, and the workshops were exceptional – as feedback from members affirmed. It was gratifying to see many first-timers attend, including younger women who hold great promise for the future of our organization. Overall, however, attendance was not what we'd hoped. That meant we could not meet the guarantee we'd made to the hotel for the number of guest rooms needed, and had to make up the financial obligation for the shortfall.

Plans underway for 2018 convention. Our goal for our next statewide gathering is to have more members attend – so mark your calendars for Sunday, April 22, and Monday, April 23, and join us again at the Hyatt Regency in Sarasota. The convention is an important event that enables us to meet other members from throughout the state and to discuss and strategize in person to achieve our common goals.

In determining the dates and place for the convention, we weighed several factors. In setting the place, we considered the logistics of Florida, trying to meet most members halfway. The dates we selected are near the end of tourist season, not only offering lower room rates, but also with the ability to accommodate members who are seasonal residents.

If you are interested in being part of the conference planning committee, just let me know (sdreid1965@aol.com).

Concerns about Tech Trek. The future of Tech Trek weighs heavily on our minds. National announced that it will no longer provide financial support or manage Tech Trek after 2017. Instead, it will be up to each state organization. Tech Trek is important to Florida and, we are determined to make certain this program continues. We will keep you updated.

Board changes. We welcome Antoinette Kruse to the post of web manager, and Judith Bonn, who will take on the duties of Director of Development. She replaces Florence McNally, who resigned recently due to illness. ■

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Calendar/State Officers and Appointees

Looking Ahead

2017

Friday, September 8 –Deadline, hotel reservations for October 7, AAUW-FL board meeting.

Saturday, October 7, Noon – AAUW-FL board meeting, Deadline, hotel reservations for October 7, State board meeting. Hampton Inn & Suites Sarasota, 8565 Cooper Creek Boulevard, University Park, FL. (941) 355-8619.

Friday, December 29 – Deadline, hotel reservations for January 27, 2018, AAUW-FL board meeting.

2018

Saturday, January 27, Noon – AAUW-FL board meeting, Hampton Inn & Suites, Sarasota, 8565 Cooper Creek Boulevard, University Park, FL. (941) 355-8619.

Sunday, April 22, and Monday, April 23 – 2018 AAUW-FL State Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sarasota.

2017-2018 AAUW-FL Officers and Appointees

Elected Officers

President – *Shirley Reid*
 President-elect – *Patricia Ross*
 Director for Program – *Jacqueline D’Alessio*
 Co-Directors for Membership – *Coral “Corky” Miller, Maria Barbosa*
 Director for Finance – *Kathy VanderVliet*
 Director for Development – *Judith Bonn*
 Co-Directors for Communications – *Laura Adolfie, Carol MacDonald (florVision)*
 Director for Public Policy – *Patricia DeWitt*
 Secretary - *Susan Baird*

Appointed Officers

Bylaws, Policies, Resolutions – *Carol Newnam*
 Historian – *Linda Barker*
 Parliamentarian – *Mimi Welch*
 Administrative Assistant – *Sue Shea*

Other appointees

C/U Partner Liaison – *Susan Cornehl*
 Social Media Chair – *Diane Schrier*
 Web Manager – *Antoinette Kruse*
 Tech Trek Director – *Sue Slone*
 Voting and Elections Chair – *Virginia Farace*
 STEM Chair – *Laura Adolfie*
 Diversity Coordinator – *Synthia Fletcher*
 Research Director – *Kamala Anandam*

New web manager, development director named

Antoinette Kruse has stepped in as web manager. She plans to update the site frequently, so be sure to check it out often – <http://aauw-fl.aauw.net/>. Judith Bonn will take over as Director of Development, replacing Florence McNally, who resigned due to illness. ■

State Board Election

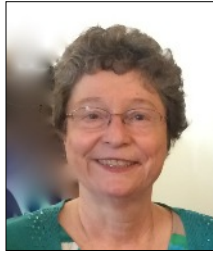
President-elect, board members selected



Patricia Ross
President-elect



Jacqueline D'Alessio
Director for Programs



Patricia DeWitt
Director for Public
Policy



Kathy VanderVliet
Director for Finance

Election results are in, and Patricia Ross is the new AAUW-FL president-elect, winning over Diane Schrier by 55 votes.

Three posts were uncontested. Jacqueline D'Alessio will serve her second term as director for programs, and Patricia DeWitt, her second for director for public policy.

Kathy VanderVliet takes over as director of finance, the post held previously by Nancy Pura. The completion of voting closes the annual meeting that was opened at the April conference.

This was the first time in many years that there was a contest for president-elect. Ross received 141 votes and Schrier, 86, of the votes cast for president. Schrier congratulated Ross on running a very professional campaign and

said she was sure Ross would do a very good job.

More members voted online – 230 – than with paper ballots – 5. Two bylaw amendments (explained in the February 2017 *floriVision*) passed, with 207 Yes votes.

Although the total number of members voting seems low, the quorum needed is just 5 percent of members. This year's turnout was 11 percent, more than double the quorum, said Virginia Farace, Voting and Elections Committee chair. Last year's percent was 9.69 percent, she added.

Farace also noted that before One Member One Vote, only those who attended conventions could vote. OMOV allows everyone to participate.

For complete election results, go to <http://aauw-fl.aauw.net/>. ■

Nominating Committee set for 2018 election

Elections will be held in 2018 for four posts: Director for Membership, Director for Development, Director for Communications, and Secretary.

Members who will serve on the Nominating Committee that will develop the slate for the elections are Marge Ostrom,

Venice; Margaret Arthur, Ocala and Nancy Pura, West Pasco.

Board members on the committee are Patricia DeWitt, Jacksonville, and Jacqueline D'Alessio, Manatee County.

Paula Staier, Sun City, and Avalon McGann, Vero Beach are alternates. ■

Officers reach out to members

Patricia Ross, president-elect: I am both honored and excited to be voted AAUW-FL President-Elect. Thank you for your confidence in me.

I know that working together, we can expand our programs and advocacy to empower women in Florida. We have much to do if AAUW-FL is to be recognized for our important work. Please let me know how AAUW-FL can work with you to ensure your efforts and ours are most effective. Email me at Paross@aol.com.

Jacqueline D'Alessio, Director for Programs: As I enter my second term as Director for Programs, my goal is to visit as many branches as possible to implement the theme of the 2017 Leadership Conference, Branches Leading the Way. If your branch would like me to visit between January and May 2018, email me at jqline@verizon.net.

After July 2017 visit the AAUW-FL website for an update on two of our underused programs: Leader on Loan and Mini Grants. I look forward to seeing many of you during the coming year.

Patricia DeWitt, Director for Public Policy: I am happy to serve another two-year term as Director for Public Policy. We have seen several fine branch projects in support of our public policy goals and I hope more branches and individuals will step up to help advance AAUW's objectives in their communities and with local, state and national government. ■

Leadership Conference/Annual Meeting

Branches had key role at April conference

Eighty-four AAUW-FL members from twenty branches attended this year's AAUW-FL Leadership Conference and left rejuvenated and ready to plan their AAUW year with programs aimed at advancing AAUW's mission of equity for women and girls.

The conference was held Sunday, April 2, and Monday, April 3, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sarasota.

Keynote speaker Sonja W. Garcia, an advocate for educational initiatives, inspired attendees to take action by supporting women and girls in their quest for education.

Joanna Amberger, a member of AAUW's Board of Directors, updated conference attendees on national initiatives. She stressed the benefits of being part of a larger group that advocates for change, especially in the current climate, and encouraged members to sign up for AAUW tools such as the Two-Minute Activist.



Four workshops focused on branches sharing their successes and gave participants a toolkit of ideas and projects for becoming part of the rising tide of advocacy for women and girls.

• **“Finance and Membership Perfect Together”** was an interactive workshop bringing all the stakeholders in the membership process together to allow branch participants to share solutions on sustaining healthy branches.

• **“The Nuts and Bolts of Branch Leadership”** offered the latest updates on strategic planning, bylaws, membership, fund raising, and programs from state and branch

leaders who had exciting, pre-tested suggestions to help build committed branches.

• **“Get Out on the Town”** encouraged branches to take the AAUW message to the community at large. Three recipients of AAUW Public Policy Impact Grants presented their projects.

• **“STEM Initiative-Girls and Branches Reap Tangible Benefits and Your Branch Can TOO”** presented ways in which AAUW-FL branches can connect with girls, parents, teachers, businesses, local governments, and other non-profits to raise awareness of AAUW's mission, programs, and highly talented members.

The participants learned how branches have increased membership and formed impactful alliances in their local communities through engaging and supporting STEM initiatives.

—*Jacqueline D'Alessio, AAUW-FL Director for Programs.* ■

Memory Board honors recently deceased members



A Memory Board at the April Leadership Conference memorialized AAUW branch members who had passed away since April 2016. Names included on the board by attendees at the conference were:

Mildred Marshall—Jacksonville
Georgina Barrett—Jacksonville
Marjorie Glessner—Flagler
Colleen Wells—Sarasota
Arlene Kern—Sarasota
Harriet Nace--Daytona Beach
Joann Eaton--Daytona Beach
Lois Gasset--St. Augustine
Carol Leahy-Roberts—Venice
Ethel Schaffer—Venice
Pat Fox--Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte
Phyllis Williams—Lake/Sumter
Carol Napper--St. Augustine
Marybelle Roberts—Ocala

Nancy Hample--Ocala
Ann Strachter--Vero Beach
Gloria Chermak—Weston
Candy Fish—Nova Southeastern
Elinor Crawford—Sarasota
Hellen Offutt--Ft. Lauderdale
Ellen Kirby--Ft. Lauderdale
Helen Landers--Ft. Lauderdale
Karen Hosto--Ft. Lauderdale
Juliet Love--Ft. Lauderdale
Germaine Savia—Manatee
Barbara Turner-Grace—Manatee
Shirley Coates--Vero Beach
Gloria Woods--Vero Beach ■

Leadership Conference/Annual Meeting (Continued)



Linda Guilfoyle (left), Susan Farstrup



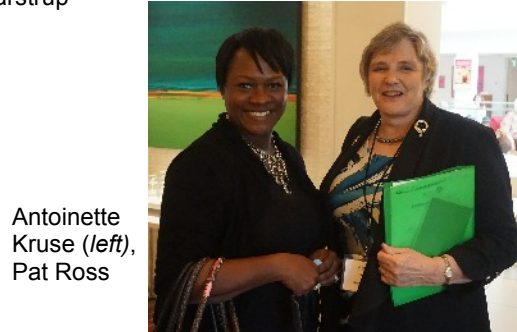
Nancy Pura



Lunch in the Boat House.



Pat DeWitt



Antoinette Kruse (left), Pat Ross



Shirley Reid, (left), Sonja Garcia

Left to right: MaryAnn Sines, Laura Adolfie, Judy Bonn, Pat DeWitt, Pat Ross, Diane Schrier, Karen Zalkin



Meet-and-greet reception.



Left to right: Sue Slone, Cindy Adolfie, Laura Adolfie

Susan Barley (left), Joanna Amberger



Carol Newnam



Water views with meals.



Madeline Roby, Tech Trek camper, (left) and Elizabeth Roby, her mother.



Left to right: Diana Sells, Audrey Laue, Kathy Oarr

Tech Trek 2017

62 girls hone STEM interests at this year's camp

By Laura Adolfie, STEM Chair

Florida's 2017 Tech Trek girls may have started camp with "I think I can, I think I can. But they ended the week with "I KNOW I can."

Sue Slone, director of AAUW-FL's Tech Trek camp summed it up: "Great girls, great instructors, great team, great week!"

This was AAUW-FL's fifth year offering Tech Trek Camp (June 11-17, 2017) and the second year that the camp was held at the adjoining campuses of Palm Beach State College and Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton.

Thanks to AAUW-FL, a number of our branches, and camp sponsors, 62 girls from across the state were able to experience a high-quality, educational experience that launched or solidified their interest in the field of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and the possibility of STEM careers.

Building skills

The focus of Tech Trek camp is to build and hone our girls' STEM skills and increase their confidence, using well-designed curricula and providing reinforcing extracurricular activities.

Other major components of the Tech Trek experience include a Professional Women's Night that provides girls with an up-close and personal opportunity to meet successful STEM women and a field trip, which this year is to the South Florida Science Center and Planetarium.

Of course, having fun and being with diverse, like-minded girls as new friendships develop is another important aspect of the camp.

Schedule

Over the course of the week, girls focus in one primary area of computing and engineering and are introduced to other STEM areas and activities as well. The four core courses offered include: App Inventor, Cyber Security, Engineering and Robotics. Prior to camp, girls choose their core course of interest.

Each day, after a healthy breakfast, girls head to their core course for the morning. By the end of the five days, girls who came with little or no knowledge have built an app, bridge, robot or code.

In the afternoon and by the end of the week, girls have participated in DNA, Simple Machines, Chemistry, Zumba, Scratch (computer animation using coding), Problem-solving, Rocketry, and Hip Hop courses.

After dinner there are workshops, discussions, and planning for their presentations to parents.

Exceptional team

The key component to the girls' transformation is the instruction and support, and, this year's team was exceptional, Slone said.

"Girls were instructed by current STEM professors, teachers, and professionals; the counselors and staff from PBSC and FAU Boca were well-organized and well-trained; and the Tech Trek planning team did a great job," she added.

She also noted that Professional Women's Night was

Team effort made camp successful

Tech Trek Camp 2017 has concluded as a great success.

My sincere thanks to all who helped to make it happen. From the branches and their members, to the planning committee and those who lived in the dorm and worked all week to provide for the girls, it was a team effort that ensured success.

—Sue Slone, 2017 Tech Trek Camp Director. ■

a great success with the girls. Attending this year's dinner were women representing a wide variety of STEM disciplines and professions. Prior to the panel discussions, each STEM professional dined with a small group of girls to exchange information and guidance.

It is an important fact that Florida needs more girls majoring in and women working in STEM occupations, especially in computing and engineering. AAUW-FL and all branches, working together across the state, can make this our legacy and a reality. ■

Got tech know-how?

The AAUW-FL Tech Trek Committee needs a volunteer with technology knowledge to work with the committee this year. Interested? Contact Sue Slone at techtrekfl16@gmail.com for more information. ■

Tech Trek 2017 (Continued)

This Year's Campers and the Tech Trek Team



Professional Women's Night



Left to right: Daniela Ileana, from Aerojet, Katina Fasul, Randee Morris, Sarah Lombardo, Jeanette Wyneken, Kerri Foley, Luminese Gilot.



Lourdes Avellana, from Aerojet Rocketdyne answers questions.



Dressed up for Professional Women's Night. Left to right, front row: Malaika Russell, Greanne Mosquera, Gianna Falbo; back row, Mallory Tyler, Giva Clavizzao, Stephanie Nguyen, Alana Sapp, Skyler Simmonds.



Left to right: Christina Romelus, Marianne Porter, Maria Ascencio, Lourdes Avellana, Nicole Peterkin, Carla Duhaney, Becky Mercer, Jerri White. (Romelus, Mercer, and White are AAUW members.)

Building STEM skills all week



Carmen Cirar (left) and Jillian Parrish build a bridge in the engineering core course.



Creating presentations.



Jenna Wilkinson (left) and Kimmy Smith, intent app inventors.



Left to right: Anna Lee, Kayla Pham and Abrianna Seibert with other members of their dorm group in a team-building activity.



Left to right: Kaitlin Flaherty, Katherine Zolner, Karissa Jackson, Sa'Mya Williams, Ella Armbruster with other campers in a team-building activity.

State and Branch News

Grant will help PACE Center initiative

The Nova Southeastern University branch recently received one of AAUW’s Community Action Grants to support its work at the PACE Center for Girls in Fort Lauderdale in 2017-18.

The grant will be used to implement the new E-STEAM (Exploring – Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) Project for Girls.

An experiential learning initiative, STEAM, is aimed at encouraging girls to pursue higher education and STEAM careers through mentorship, interactive activities, and academic success workshops.

The AAUW-NSU branch is already active at the Fort Lauderdale PACE Center, a not-for-profit organization that provides non-residential, prevention, intervention, and diversion services for girls and young women in Broward County.

Campus visits, class visitation, science demonstrations, art projects, and a tour of NSU’s Guy Harvey Oceanographic Center are among the activities in which members participate.

AAUW’s Community Action Grants fund innovative programs that promote education and equality for women and girls.

The grant NSU received was one of 250 awards given by national and provided more than \$3.7 million in funding for fellows and grantees in the 2017–18 award year, which kicks off in July.

AAUW-NSU members Julie Torruellas Garcia, associate professor at the Halmos College of Natural Science and Oceanography, and Sheila Fabius, director of undergraduate student success at the NSU’s College of Undergraduate Studies, spearheaded the grant. ■

Ocala gets good press for Tech Trek

AAUW members know how special our Tech Trek program is and how much it costs. But that doesn’t mean their communities know enough about it and how important it is to help support it.

So when Patricia Woodbury of the Ocala branch submitted an

article and photo to the newspaper, she didn’t just name the local girls attending. She described the program in detail and asked community members for donations, making sure to include where checks were to be sent and who to contact for more info. ■

Letting legislators know where we stand

AAUW members made sure state legislators were up to date on key Public Policy issues during this year’s Lobby Days trek to Tallahassee March 14-15. A Rally for Equal Pay for Equal Work was also on the agenda. ■



New-member numbers up

The clear winner of the “February is Membership” campaign is the AAUW branch at Nova Southeastern University.

A new branch, their membership more than doubled, starting with six in January and adding eight in February. Congratulations to the branch and its president, Randi Sims.

All branch Directors for Membership should be proud of what they have accomplished. The Membership Services Database shows that 32 new members joined in January and February.

To validate these figures and bring the tally up to date, all branch marketing directors are asked to email the state co-directors the number of new members engaged from September 2016 to present. To keep counts accurate going forward, branches should email the state co-directors whenever a new member is installed.

--Thank you all for Making Membership matter. We are here to help. Do not hesitate to contact us: Co-Directors for Membership: Coral ‘Corky’ Miller, millerca330@Comcast.net; Maria Barbosa

Reid installs officers in Pompano, Venice

AAUW-FL President Shirley Reid took to the road recently to install new officers in the Pompano and Venice branches. “It was an honor,” she said. She offered her congratulations to both branches, which also awarded scholarships to deserving young women continuing their education. ■