

# floriVision

A PUBLICATION OF AAUW FLORIDA SUMMER FALL 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Eileen L. Recchia

**Thank you ALL** for electing me your president for the next two years. It is an honor and a pleasure to represent you.



Much has been taking place on the state level. Everyone who has been involved in planning this upcoming year for our state has had enthusiasm, creative ideas, and a desire to make it happen! There is no doubt in my mind that the membership has a leadership team that will be there to lead AAUW-

FL into the future thoughtfully and successfully. Communication and visibility will be evident in everything it does.

As your president I will be leading with the following goals in mind:

- \*To encourage engagement of all members, especially new members, in AAUW activities
  - \*To assist branches by providing leadership and membership opportunities that will turn present challenges into future celebrations
  - \*To facilitate presentation of meaningful programs consistent with AAUW values, goals and mission
  - \*To stress participation in C/U partnership activities for membership growth, individual awareness and fundraising
  - \*To increase community awareness and support for all AAUW-FL endeavors
- and finally.....
- \*To lead supporting the mission of AAUW!

As you read this edition of *floriVision* you will see AAUW-FL's vision for the future emerging .....Leadership Training, Convention Theme,

Impact Grant, Membership SAC, NCCWSL and C/U Partnerships. Every area is being expanded and new opportunities are being explored!

As another year is added to our AAUW-FL's existence, be assured that our established record of being an award-winning state will continue. Historically our state has been a leader on the National level and our branches have been leaders in their respective communities, on the AAUW-FL level, and on the National level. With that in mind, I look forward to seeing you at local events, state activities and the AAUW Convention. Together we will continue to make Florida a "star" in Washington!

## A LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY "BY" AAUW-FL STATE LEADERS "FOR" AAUW-FL BRANCH LEADERS

This year your state Leadership Team will be doing something different for its branch leaders. It will be presenting a Leadership Training Day consisting of five "informative" training workshops with handouts and a luncheon.

DATE: SATURDAY, NOV. 10, 2012

TIME: 9:30AM-3:00PM

PLACE: UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, ORLANDO, FL

Individual workshops have been designed for the following branch leadership positions – PRESIDENT, DIRECTOR FOR FINANCE, DIRECTOR FOR MEMBERSHIP, DIRECTOR FOR PROGRAM.

Following lunch a website training session will be offered for all leaders concluding with a "wrap-up" exchange.

A registration form will be sent to all branch presidents requesting that their branches send their leaders holding the above positions. Travel reimbursement will be covered by AAUW-FL for all branches whose leaders of four travel together.

Details for lunch will be forthcoming.

This event is in response to the suggestions and requests for leadership training where AAUW-FL branch leaders will have an opportunity to review their responsibilities, to learn what's new, to ask questions, to clarify issues, and to understand the state's focus for 2012-13. The day will offer opportunities for networking as well. Branch leadership teams will end the day knowing more than they did when they began the day! Every AAUW-FL branch is needed to make this a success for together is how we can accomplish our goals. The AAUW-FL Leadership Team looks forward to a meaningful and exciting day!

## **REPORTING BACK TO THE MEMBERSHIP ON NCCWSL**

### **from your state president**

This year I had the opportunity to attend NCCWSL which took place on the campus of the University of Maryland. What an experience it was! I left Florida in anticipation of attending an AAUW event that would increase my knowledge of what our AAUW organization does. Needless to say I returned to Florida with far more than that!

Upon my return home one of my personal goals was to write an article for this edition of *floriVision*. How much I wanted all of you to learn about this conference.....the "what's," the "who's" and the "how's." But all of that was scratched when I received a copy of a letter in the mail a few days before sitting down at my computer to do my article. Actually there is not much more about the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders that I could share with you that does not already appear on the AAUW website.....attendance statistics, program speakers, workshops, etc. (but do check it out if you have not done so already).

Below is what I really want you to know about this outstanding undertaking which AAUW is a part of every year AND hopefully many more to come! It is a "thank-you" letter from one who really makes it

all SO worthwhile. Every AAUW member should feel SO proud for making it happen!

In her own words..... "I want to begin by thanking you for your generous support of my scholarship that allowed me to attend this event. Without your donation I would not have had the financial means to attend. Having previously visited DC as an intern I was ecstatic to receive the chance to go again.

Presently I attend Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers, FL, and I will be graduating in the fall. Since my major is in Political Science this conference has given me the ability to learn from other accomplished women and build my leadership skills. Hearing their backgrounds has motivated me to reach for more in my academic and career life.

My favorite part of the conference was hearing from the Women of Distinction and Ms. Ledbetter. Learning from these women about how to become more proactive has been invaluable and I will be sure to bring these skills back to my campus. I will wholeheartedly recommend this experience to any other college woman who is looking to advance herself. I would also recommend they join AAUW because of all of the wonderful opportunities it offers. I can't thank you enough for the help you have given me. This opportunity has meant the world to me."

Sincerely,

Rotanya Bryan

Rotanya was the recipient of the AAUW-FL NCCWSL Scholarship in honor of Carol Napper, Past President 2010-12. It was a pleasure for me to meet Rotanya at the conference. Her enthusiasm and appreciation expressed in person was as evident as in her "thank-you" letter to Carol.

**NATIONAL: LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund)-Supported Military Sexual Assault Cases Featured on HBO** On Saturday, June 9, Susan Burke, the lawyer for the plaintiffs in *Cioca v. Rumsfeld* and *Klay v. Panetta*, went on HBO's *Real Time with Bill Maher* to talk about the cases. You can watch the episode online.

"NCCWSL Exceeds All Expectations!" is the quote from the *AAUW Mission and Action* e-newsletter. "It was the largest one yet; nearly 600 women attended. Many thanks go to the state, branch and individual donors who make this event possible."

## DIRECTOR FOR MEMBERSHIP LISA FULLER

As your Director for Membership, I would like to extend my gratitude to every volunteer membership leader (MVP) in Florida who has completed her term as of June 30, 2012. You have done incredible work recruiting and retaining AAUW members. As you transition out of this leadership role, I ask that you share your knowledge and materials with your successor and help her get started. The Annual Starter Kit is an invaluable training resource for new MVPs. For those continuing as MVPs, we (AAUW-Florida) appreciate your ongoing volunteerism. I would also like to take the opportunity to provide you with the names of our membership committee members who are dedicated to providing you the resources to succeed. We will be contacting branches in the fall to address membership questions or concerns. The following members have volunteered to serve: *Susan Berlin, Elizabeth Koenig, Leslie Henderson and Joann Jacobs*. We need your support in this endeavor—please contact me if you would like to serve on the membership committee. Florida needs YOU!

**Check out the Membership Orientation...** I encourage all MVPs to go online to the AAUW website and view the Membership Vice President Orientation webinar recently presented on June 21st. URL for Membership Vice President Orientation (found in the *Member Center* on the AAUW website): <https://aauw.webex.com/aauw/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=MC&rID=20945687&rKey=61ff0822ca9d4d3f>

### Importance of InterBranch Support/Mentorship

Experiencing branch burnout? Is your board hard at work where everyone runs a committee or two and serves on these same committees? In this scenario it is obvious a significant portion of all the work is

being done by the board. Find new and creative ways to function and be productive as a branch. Many of you have engaged in mentorship/support with other branches in your area and are aware of the benefits of this practice. For those who have not engaged in mentoring or received mentoring from another branch, I encourage you to learn from each other while addressing issues and concerns regarding recruitment and retention. Mentoring can benefit any branch and it is a great way to network into your communities. Reach out to each other and work together!

**AAUW Starter Kit** AAUW materials for the 2012–13 Starter Kit will be available online in the *Member Center* and mailed to branch membership vice presidents in late July. The resources in this mailing will help your branch with recruitment and retention efforts and program planning needs. E-mails with links to the complete online materials will also be sent to the branch presidents/administrators and program vice presidents.

**Member Services Database Updates:** MVPs who use the *Member Services Database (MSD)* have more resources now! Look for these new menu options:

College/University (C/U) Partner and Reps Roster to help you connect with our partners

Student Affiliate Roster to connect with the students in your community-- Be sure to collaborate with Elizabeth Koenig, chair for C/U relations who has access to this information. Elizabeth can be reached at [koenige@nova.edu](mailto:koenige@nova.edu). Have questions or need help? Call 800/326-2289 or e-mail at [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., ET.

Take advantage of Site Resources, the low-cost website solution for AAUW branches and states. Contact your Site Resources coordinator Megan Morrison today at [site-resources@aauw.org](mailto:site-resources@aauw.org) or 202/785-7775.

**Special Rates for C/Us and Graduate Students Extended!** AAUW's 130th Anniversary campaign will ended June 30, 2012; however, the rates have been extended through November 30. Please

continue to spread the word! Graduate students can join for \$18.81, and new AAUW college/university partner members pay only \$130. Branch incentive winners will be announced after the close of the fiscal year.

**How to Recruit Younger Members** Source: Chapter Leader's Playground

Make programs more relevant to younger members.

Make programs more interactive or hands-on.

Get younger adults involved ASAP.

Make leadership opportunities accessible.

Be open to new ideas.

Be truly welcoming to younger members.

**ANNOUNCING the Florida Student Advisory Council/Ambassadors!** I would like to congratulate the student leaders that have been appointed to serve on the council!

The Student Advisory Council includes the following: Alexis Schwartz, Florida House of Representatives/Tallahassee, FL, staff member of State Representative Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda; Nicole Miller, University of Miami; Abigail Lemay, University of Central Florida and former National Council member; Reshma Daniel, Nova Southeastern University, and Emily Floyd, Florida State University. There are two open positions on the Student Advisory Council.

**Florida Student Advisory Council/Ambassador Program:** The AAUW Florida Student Advisory Council (SAC) is a coalition of student leaders who will be responsible for advising AAUW-FL on strategies for the future of young women and girls in our state. Council members will engage in various support activities that may include state/branch social media campaigns, recommend programs, develop workshops, introduce speakers at state conventions and leadership conferences, and work with local branches to increase the value of student affiliation. Council members commit to two *local* branch meetings per year and the state convention. In addition, they are also asked to commit to hosting one AAUW (branch) sponsored

event on their respective campus. They are encouraged to include local branches in all activities that occur on campus. We are still accepting nominations. Please contact me regarding additional nominations. Notifications of the appointed student leaders will be sent to the institutions as well as the importance of providing their student leader with monetary support and encouragement to take part in this very important endeavor.

As always, we appreciate your hard work on behalf of women and girls. Thank you for your membership and your leadership.

Lisa Fuller, Director for Membership

E-mail: [lisajackfuller@yahoo.com](mailto:lisajackfuller@yahoo.com)

### **Director for Development Diane Jacobson**

Thank you to the Florida branches that made the AAUW Funds fundraiser at the state convention a huge success. There were a total of 16 branches that participated in donating a gift prize. The prizes totaled a worth of \$2620. While the prizes were wonderful and were definitely a factor in making this fundraiser a fun event, 34 branches participated through donations to AAUW funds making it a great success. The branches who participated were Boca Raton, Bradenton, Clearwater, Deland, Flagler, Fort Lauderdale, Gainesville, Greater Naples, Highlands County, Jacksonville, Lake Sumter, Lake Wales, Fort Myers/Lee County, Manatee County, Marco Island, Melbourne, New Smyrna Beach, Northern Palm Beach, Nova Southeastern U, Ocala, Orlando/Winter Park, Palm Beach County, Pompano Beach, Port Lucie, Punta Gorda/Port Charlotte, St. Augustine, St. Lucie County, Stuart, Sun City Center, Tampa, Venice, Vero Beach, West Pasco County, and Weston. The AAUW Funds received a total of \$4540 through the AAUW FUNDS THANK YOU DRAWING donations.

One hundred and one individuals were recognized with Friends of Florida ribbons and listed in the program at the 2012 Florida State Convention.

Friends of Florida ribbons recognize individuals who contribute over \$100 to AAUW Funds. To that list please add Bonnie Lincoln from Fort Myers/Lee County branch; we thank her for her generosity and apologize that she was not included within the listed donors.

Thank you recognitions go to the following branches for contributing over \$1000 to AAUW funds in 2011: donations of at least \$1000 to Miami, Stuart Area, Fort Lauderdale, Manatee County and Bradenton; donations of at least \$2000 to Gainesville, Lake Sumter, Northern Palm Beach County, Marco Island; donations of at least \$3000 to Fort Myers/Lee County, Tallahassee, Orlando/Winter Park; donations of at least \$5000 to Melbourne; donations of at least \$7000 to Vero Beach; donations of at least \$9000 to Venice; and donations of at least \$10,000 to Greater Naples.

Special congratulations to the Melbourne Branch members. Through their dedication, commitment, and significant contributions they completed the Melbourne Branch Members American Fellowship during the 2012 fiscal year. A fellow will have the privilege and good fortune of being sponsored by their American Fellowship annually.

Vero Beach, sponsors of The Jannetta MacPhail/Harriet Strong Endowment Fund, has been given an extension for completion of their \$75,000 commitment. This endowment fund will support career development grants to women who hold a bachelor's degree and are preparing to advance their careers, change careers or re-enter the workforce. Vero Beach is grateful for support from sister branches and looks forward to fulfilling their commitment to make this endowment a reality.

As Director for Development for AAUW-Florida I want to thank you for your generous donations to AAUW Funds. At the Florida State convention scheduled for April 19-21, 2013, at the Sheraton Orlando North, Maitland, your branch is invited to host a vendor table. Details are in the works. If you have any thoughts on this idea, let me hear from you at [chasanddi@embarqmail.com](mailto:chasanddi@embarqmail.com).

## Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee was selected at the April state convention and consists of six members – three individuals from the general membership, two people from the state board and one alternate, with Sally Bailey serving as the committee advisor. The following positions are open for 2013-2014:

**President Elect.** The president elect learns as much as possible about the responsibilities of the office of AAUW-FL president by accompanying and assisting the president for one year and assumes the office of president at the end of that year. This is essentially a three year commitment, one as president elect and two as president.

**Director for Program.** The responsibilities include developing and implementing programs and projects that promote equity and education. This is a two-year position.

**Director for Finance.** The AAUW-FL chief financial officer is responsible for developing a budget and overseeing the financial operations of AAUW-FL. This is a two-year position.

**Director for Public Policy.** The director is responsible for planning and implementing AAUW-FL's federal and state public policy programs. This is a two-year position.

Further information and job descriptions for these positions and the candidate form can be found at [www.florida-aauw.org](http://www.florida-aauw.org) under the "Forms" tab or by contacting one of the members of the nominating committee. The deadline for nominations is November 15, 2012. Please consider becoming involved with AAUW on the state level and encourage members of your branch to participate as well.

The Nominating Committee members include Susan Berlin (chair) [svberlin@bellsouth.net](mailto:svberlin@bellsouth.net); Judy Bonn [judybonn@centurylink.net](mailto:judybonn@centurylink.net); Jacqueline D'Alessio [jqline@att.net](mailto:jqline@att.net); Candy Fish [fcandy@nova.edu](mailto:fcandy@nova.edu); Liz Shapiro [cookrag@aol.com](mailto:cookrag@aol.com); Lisa Fuller (alternate) [ljfuller@nova.edu](mailto:ljfuller@nova.edu); Sally Bailey (advisor) [flwebmgr@comcast.net](mailto:flwebmgr@comcast.net).

## Notice about Creative Writing—Kamala Anandam

AAUW-Florida Board approved the suspension of the Creative Writing Project at its April 2012 meeting due to meager participation by members and branches across the state.

### IMPACT GRANT UPDATE Carol Napper, Past President

It is almost a year since we received the “Impact Grant” from the AAUW Public Policy department in Washington. As one of 15 states considered particularly important for the 2012 national election, we were asked to participate in a major “Get Out the Vote Campaign” that is designed to especially target young women. The slogan is IT’S MY VOTE – I WILL BE HEARD.

All Florida branches are involved and almost all branches sent representatives to a six hour extensive training session conducted by Sam Lehman of the AAUW Public Policy department at our state convention in April. Now the second part of the Impact Grant kicks in and we are starting the real work of our mission! Kelsie Taggart has been hired by national to be the Florida Campaign Organizer to work with us until the election ends. She is working from Tallahassee but will be traveling throughout the state connecting with branches in person but mainly by phone and email. She can help with your plans and give you material to assist you. She can be reached at 954-868-1273 and [ktaggart1991@me.com](mailto:ktaggart1991@me.com).

The branch presidents have received an application form by email to fill out showing branch plans for the campaign and requesting a share of the Impact Grant money. An important part of the campaign involves making contact and working with colleges and universities in your local areas.

We have received permission to register voters during our campaign and have the required ID number for the whole state. At events where you can reach out to potential voters you have a chance to talk about issues that are on the AAUW Public Policy agenda. We are non-partisan and do not support any candidates, but this does not mean that

we can’t talk about issues that we care about such as education and equal pay! You will find too that you have a very good opportunity during the campaign to reach out to friends personally as well as groups of people. Our work on this campaign can benefit our branches’ visibility and recruitment. Some branches that have begun their campaign efforts have already reported increased interest in AAUW as they meet and talk to people in their communities.

Recently I had the opportunity to see the movie *Iron Jaw Angels* starring Hillary Swank and Angelica Huston. It is a very gripping, graphic film about the suffragist movement. I urge you to watch for an opportunity to see this HBO film. I wish all women, especially those who have not registered to vote, could see this.

As you know this election is very important to all of us, and we need every AAUW member to be involved in our major effort to get Florida women to vote!

### ONE MEMBER, ONE VOTE PROCESS BEGINS

Dear AAUW Member,

All members can help direct the future of AAUW by participating in our One Member, One Vote process. From now through November 15, 2012, you can propose bylaws amendments and resolutions on our website. Beginning in October, you can also propose changes to the AAUW Public Policy Program. In spring 2013, all members in good standing will be eligible to vote on those proposals and for candidates for national office.

In addition to proposing bylaws amendments, resolutions, and Public Policy program changes, you can discuss these proposals and share your ideas with other online through our [One Member, One Vote](#) website, video, and candidate links. Stay tuned for frequent website and other online updates, and watch for important voter information in the coming Winter and Spring/Summer issues of *Outlook*.

In 2013 voting will take place online—because it is fast, easy, secure, and green!—but members may

request to have a paper ballot mailed to them if needed. Online voting begins April 15, 2013, and closes at 9 p.m. CDT on June 10, 2013; online voting will also be available at the AAUW National Convention in New Orleans. The request period for paper ballots is April 1, 2013, through May 2, 2013; paper ballots must be postmarked by 11:59 p.m. on May 17, 2013, to be counted.

All members are encouraged to explore the One Member One Vote site and participate in the discussions about the 2013 election online. Here's how you can get started: From the AAUW home page, click on [Member Center](#)(in the top right corner), log in with your member ID, and then select [One Member, One Vote](#) from the list on the left. On the same page, you'll also see a link for [Frequently Asked Questions\(FAQ\)](#) if you need more information.

You can always find your member ID on the *AAUW Outlook* mailing label or by using [Member ID Lookup](#) available on the log-in page of the Member Center

We look forward to your participation in AAUW's 2013 election!

Sincerely yours,

Linda D. Hallman, CAE

AAUW Executive Director

## **PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES**

### **Director for Public Policy Diane Schrier**

The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the Healthcare Act by a 5-4 vote under the taxation clause. As many members of both House and Senate have vowed not to raise taxes, this has given momentum to a drive to repeal that Healthcare Act. The Healthcare Act has many positives: pre-existing conditions will not be a reason for rejection, hospitals will be able to function more effectively as emergency rooms will be reserved for true emergencies, and everyone's insurance will become more reasonable.

The House will vote on bill HR459 to demand an audit by the end of 2012 of the Board of Governors

of the Federal Reserve System and all federal banks. A Disclosure Bill to create greater disclosure of campaign contributions was voted down twice by the Senate. Also voted down was a proposal to end tax breaks for moving jobs overseas.

The poverty count in the U.S. continues to rise, and the divide between the very wealthy and the poor increases. This started in the 80's but is increasing so greatly that five cities in the U.S. have been listed among the top ten in the world for income discrepancy.

The bill that would stop the almost doubling of student loan interest rates passed.

Florida has reduced the effectiveness of local Water Management Districts. Money to buy public land has been reduced significantly. Both of these actions can hurt the environment, and as environmental standards lessen, air quality is becoming compromised. Internationally the inability to come to a viable working agreement on the environment is creating major problems as climate change affects all parts of the world.

Several bills have been proposed that will affect Florida education. The Parent Trigger Bill allows parents' votes to turn a public school into a private school. Graduates for the next several years will encounter changing criteria for graduation. A bill to award federal monies directly to corporate schools was tabled but will probably reappear.

Women's Rights continue to encounter difficulties. The Violence against Women Act passed in the Senate but has not passed in the House. Many of the provisions in the Healthcare Act benefit women – obtaining preventive tests, maternity care, child health checks; however, many states are trying to limit that coverage. Cuts to federally-funded child care programs will hurt women trying to return to the work force. Title IX is under threat of having protection for women from sexual harassment and bullying reduced.

Governor Scott declared that 142,000 people in the state who were registered to vote were ineligible. However, only approximately 50 have been

identified. Senator Rubio stated that it would be better for many people to be disenfranchised rather than have even one unqualified voter have a vote in our democratic election process. Election Supervisors have fought against the disqualification. So it is extremely important that all voters check all the information on their registration and vote – at the polls on election day, in early voting, or by an absentee mail-in ballot. (And if using a mail-in ballot make sure the signature is current.) Encourage family, friends, neighbors, other contacts to do the same. Let's make election November 2012 a turn-out of 100% of eligible voters!

**Leader on Loan Program**  
**Jan Johnston, Leader on Loan Program**  
**Coordinator**

LOL is a program that supplies leaders within Florida branches to assist other branches upon their request. That assistance covers a myriad of topics. Having problems with membership, a leader can help with suggestions for membership growth with special emphasis on younger members, membership retention, or membership participation. Perhaps your branch needs help with rejuvenation or records and reports requested by AAUW or AAUW-FL. Are your members supporting public policy issues, fundraising, STEM, Pay Equity, International Women's Day, Title IX, and other mission-based programs? A leader can give you suggestions and help direct your members.

If members need help developing a website or using the AAUW or AAUW-FL website, there is a person at the state level who can help. For any situation that a branch might like help with, there is someone within our state organization who can help. Best of all AAUW-Florida pays the travel expenses of these leader/helpers; the branch takes care of any other expenses.

In the last few years many of our leaders have assisted throughout the state. Both Carol Napper as president and Eileen Recchia as president-elect have met several times to introduce AAUW programs such as NCCWSL and college/university

partnerships. Kamala Anandam explained how branches can work more effectively with community colleges. Sally Bailey has passed on her expertise in navigating the AAUW and AAUW-FL websites. Vivian Errickson created a PowerPoint presentation on Title IX. Lisa Fuller has spoken on increasing branch membership, and Jennifer McDaniel has suggested ways to implement STEM. Carol Newnam spoke about running a successful branch by using mini groups to keep all members involved. Mary Palamar spoke on the human trafficking trade focusing on Florida. Diane Schrier, Director for Public Policy, has spoken on the plights of women and voters.

These are just a few of the leaders in AAUW-FL who want to help in any way your branch might need assistance. If your branch would like help, contact me Jan Johnston, Leader-on-Loan Program Coordinator, at [Jwjaj@bellsouth.net](mailto:Jwjaj@bellsouth.net).

If you would be willing to share your expertise with others, please fill out the enrollee form on the AAUW-FL website and send it to me. We all want to assist one another in keeping AAUW-FL a strong voice for women and girls. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to share their knowledge and to all the branches that have used the Leader on Loan Program.

**Convention 2012**  
**Kamala Anandam and Susan Berlin**

One hundred and fifty-two members representing 38 branches attend the 81st annual AAUW-FL Convention held April 20-22 at the Hutchinson Island Marriott.

Prior to the convention, Sam Lehman, AAUW Staff, conducted a comprehensive training to mobilize women voters this fall—"IT'S MY VOTE; I WILL BE HEARD." Florida is one of the states to receive an impact grant from AAUW to participate in this project. The 90 participants represented 38 Florida branches and sister organizations such as League of Women Voters. Each participant received a workbook and CD for use in the branch's campaign.

Among the highlights were AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman's key note, LAF speaker Elle Helmer's personal testimony about rape during her service in the military, Jacksonville member Carolyn Smith's presentation on the history of AAUW, and the launching of AAUW-Florida's campaign "Get Out the Vote."

A number of individuals played a role in making the 2012 convention a success. Many thanks are due our outgoing-president Carol Napper, Director for Program Kamala Anandam, Local Arrangements Committee chair Susan Berlin and the volunteers from Boca Raton, Northern Palm Beaches, Palm Beach County, Port St. Lucie, and Stuart, workshop leaders Carol Newnam, Candy Fish and Bonnie Lincoln, and the Board members. A special thanks to all those who participated in the Suffragette Rally: Past and Present which added fun and flare to the convention.

Candid evaluations and comments have set the stage for improvements for the 2013 convention. Please do make your plans to attend the convention in Orlando, April 19 -21. The theme is "Turn Challenges to Celebrations!" Come prepared to find new ways to meet your branch's challenges and to participate in the Celebration Parade of the Branches. If you wish to hear your branch's challenges addressed at the 2013 convention, please email Kamala at [kanandam@att.net](mailto:kanandam@att.net).



**Rosario Elizabeth  
Koenig  
College/University  
Liaison**

Hello AAUW-FL. Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Rosario Elizabeth Koenig, your newly-appointed C/U Liaison. Originally a member of the Weston

Branch and presently a member of the NSU Branch, I currently serve as the academic advisor for Nova Southeastern University's Farquhar College where I work with undergraduate students in math, science,

and technology. My BS is in psychology, Masters in marriage and family therapy, both degrees from Nova Southeastern University. As a bilingual educator, I participated in NSU's Diversity Dialogue, was a member of the committee for the first Diversity Handbook, and was a presenter at the NSU's diversity summit "Faces of Diversity" in 2009. In addition, I have advised graduate level students after working for the Graduate School of Computer and Information Systems.

My goal as the C/U Liaison is to foster good relationships with existing partnerships and to bring awareness of the benefits of these partnerships to promote new alliances.

## **FROM THE BRANCHES**

### **FLAGLER COURTESY OF SUSAN BAIRD**

#### **Flagler County Branch's Voter Campaign**

Jaime Knoedler, leader of voter education for Flagler County Branch, created an information board about voting and voter registration entitled "The Power of One Vote." The branch is partnering with the Flagler County Elections office to hand out voter registration forms and provide educational information about the upcoming elections.

The branch's collaboration with the election office resulted in the creation of a web link from the branch's website directly to the county office. Anyone can click on the link and view information about early voting, changing party affiliation, absentee voting, voter registration deadlines, etc.

The branch set up an information table with items from the election office including voter guides on May 19 at the Bunnell Potato Festival. This was followed on June 1 at the Flagler Beach First Friday Celebration and at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Flagler Beach Festival. Plans continue for the Flagler Beach First Friday Celebrations in August, September, and October.

Publicity for all of these events has not only increased awareness of voter registration but also

provided more community awareness of the branch, resulting in additions to the membership—a win-win situation for voting and AAUW involvement!

Congratulations to Jaime for a great job supporting AAUW’s “It’s My Vote, I Will be Heard.”

**FORT MYERS/LEE  
COURTESY OF MARILYN WORKMAN**

**Fort Myer/Lee County Branch Socializes at  
Wine Tasting Fundraiser**



For a second year, Fort Myers AAUW members were treated to a delightful social evening to learn about five exceptional wines from sommelier Donna Ellis, representative of the Masciarella Wine Company. The wines originated from Australia, Chile, New York, California and France—Riesling grapes, Pinot Noir, Viognier and some blends. Members contributed a variety of cheeses, fruits, and delectable hors d’oeuvres that enhanced the beverages and stimulated conversation. (Non alcoholic beverages were available for members who preferred not to have wine.)

The Caribbean Home Design Center again donated use of their attractive showroom and spacious patio with its fountain. Circulating around to explore the displays of artfully arranged decorator items, floral arrangements and jewelry added an eye catching dimension to the party. Manager Steven Todd also discounted purchases made during the evening by 10%, making many of the appealing accent pieces even more accessible.

Highlighting the evening was the drawing of the winning raffle ticket for a three day stay in a gulf view suite at the Diamond Head Beach Resort on Fort Myers Beach. Three lucky tickets were also drawn for a complimentary bottle of a wine of the evening. For those who didn’t win, there even were a few bottles left for purchase at a discount.

After expenses, the event netted \$1342.48 for the Scholarship Fund. We are enthusiastic about repeating this fundraiser next year. We might make it an annual tradition.

**JACKSONVILLE  
COURTESY OF SUSAN CORNEHL**



Director of the UNF Women’s Center Sheila Spivey and Past AAUW-FL President Carol Napper who spoke at the Women’s History Month Luncheon and Awards Presentation at the University of North Florida (UNF). UNF is in the process of starting an AAUW branch on campus

## MANATEE COUNTY COURTESY OF SUZANNE DICKEY

AAUW Manatee hosted a panel on domestic and sexual violence. “Empowering Women in the face of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault” was the topic in the fifth and final forum produced by the Manatee Branch. Wanda Wellbrock, AAUW member, directed the forum which included a distinguished panel of experts on both domestic and sexual violence. While the emphasis was on the problems and potential solutions here in Manatee County, much of the discussion provided helpful insights for any county in Florida. Working in partnership with METV, the panel was taped on March 19 with panelists from the Manatee County Sheriff’s Department, the State Attorney’s office, HOPE Family Services, a male survivor of sexual assault, and the Assistant Director of Manatee Glens, with its recently added Rape Crisis Center. Merrie Lynn Parker, past president of the Manatee Branch, moderated the event.

Statistics on the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence were alarming. Although there was a slight decrease in cases brought to the sheriff’s department between 2009 (3,115) and 2010 (2,900), some panelists suggested that many cases simply go unreported. Statistics from HOPE Family Services indicate that among the cases of domestic violence that HOPE deals with, only 25-28% of them have first been reported to law enforcement. And last year they dealt with 2,100 cases of domestic violence. Reasons for not reporting the crime vary, but many victims of domestic violence worry that their children might be taken away from them if they report problems in the family.

Manatee Glens assisted 4,000 rape victims in 2011. In cases of rape and sexual abuse, a significant number of victims also fail to report the crime. Many feel shamed by the event and are reluctant to publicize it. The process of reporting a rape can itself be traumatic. Manatee Glens set up its Rape Crisis Center in an effort to minimize that trauma. The center eliminates the need for a victim to face a long wait in an emergency room, providing more rapid and personalized care, including the assistance

of counselors. Manatee Glens has been especially helpful by providing a support group for men who have been victims of sexual assault. It was pointed out that statistics indicate that 1 in 4 girls, and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted by the time they are 18 years old – a statistic that is said to cut across race, socio-economic status, and religious affiliation.

Merrie Lynn Parker pointed out that the situation begins to take the shape of a funnel. It starts with a significant number of incidents, then that number is decreased by the large percentage that are never reported. And in the end, even fewer perpetrators are being brought to justice.

In addition to providing care for victims of these crimes, community organizations are making efforts to break the cycle of violence. One of the most important first steps is to provide information to the general public about both the prevalence of these forms of violence and the many resources that are available in the county to assist victims. Programs are already in place in the schools to educate students on issues like preventing bullying, avoiding dating violence, developing awareness of the qualities to look for in potential long-term relationships, and making young children aware of what counts as inappropriate touching. In addition counseling is available for youngsters who have witnessed domestic violence with a view to preventing them from repeating that violent behavior when they are adults.

Although the original topic of the panel was “Empowering Women in the face of Domestic and Sexual Violence,” it became clear that women and men are both vulnerable to these crimes. Panel members highlighted the fact that these types of violence are community problems and must be dealt with by the community as a whole

To view the entire panel discussion, go to [www.metvweb.com](http://www.metvweb.com), click on Daily Schedule, type AAUW in the white box, click “Go,” highlight AAUW Manatee - domestic violence, and hit YouTube in upper right corner. Find the picture of Laurel Lynch and click on it.

**SAINT LUCIE COUNTY  
COURTESY OF ROWENA CARDOZA**

The St. Lucie County Branch sponsored a Health Forum with AARP on March 27. This was part of the branch's community action program. Topics covered were diabetes, hypertension and over-the-counter medications.

Forum highlights included statistics that indicate over seven million people have undiagnosed diabetes, over 18 million are diagnosed, and approximately 79 million have pre-diabetes. Registered nurses monitored the blood pressure of twenty people, four of whom registered higher than normal. However, these four were on medication and would continue medical checks. The total attendance for the Health Forum was 50 including branch members as well as members of the public.

**VENICE  
COURTESY OF EVELYN HIVELY  
Venice Branch Sponsors STEM Olympics**

Spending a Saturday morning to plan their future careers, three teams of fifth-grade girls from Venice schools competed in an Academic Olympics contest to encourage early participation in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). This second annual event was sponsored by the Venice Branch.

Before the examinations, Lt. Enos of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department talked about the dangers lurking in the social networking that involves so many young people. And while the students took the test which ended in a tie and an exciting playoff, four professional women talked to their parents about preparation for careers in science.

For additional information please contact Evelyn at ehively@comcast.net or call 941-497-3038.

**VERO BEACH  
COURTESY OF LOIS MILES**

**WRITERS BRING AUTHORS TO LIFE**

At the May luncheon meeting of the Vero Beach Branch, five members of the Creative Writing Group stepped into the roles of famous female authors. Each told her story and the background of her most recognized works. Rosemary Brofus coordinated the performance. The group received rave reviews from the audience.



Pictured above are the following: Ann Streeter as Jane Austen; Joan Foster as Louisa May Alcott; Nancy DuMars as Edna St. Vincent Millay; Marlowe Arnold as Marjorie K. Rawlings, Sue Ann Falco as Gloria Steinem and program coordinator Rosemary Brofus.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

You are invited to "Turn Challenges to Celebrations." Come to the AAUW Florida State Convention April 19-21, 2013, located in the Sheraton Orlando North, Maitland

Look for details for registration in the Spring *floriVision*.

## STEM SUMMIT BOASTS SUCCESS



The Vero Beach Branch hosted a successful STEM Summit for middle school girls at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute on February 25, 2012. According to the 120 students, parents, teachers and volunteers who participated in the all-day event, an encore is in order. Evaluation tallies indicate a high level of satisfaction in the quality of presenters, the choice of the site, and the hands-on activities.

Fourteen women accomplished in STEM fields shared their career journeys and offered suggestions about choice of courses, expectations of a difficult curriculum, and approaches to dealing with obstacles. They also engaged the girls in hands-on activities which translated concepts into practical applications. These included engineering materials to make ice cream; building cubes from straws; developing a thermal protection system, and understanding bioluminescence.

Presenters addressed parents and teachers in their own workshops, pointing out the verbal and non-verbal behaviors which may discourage girls from pursuing STEM studies and careers.

Everyone enjoyed a continental breakfast and lunch on the lagoon. Watching the manatees was definitely a highlight of the day.

## WEST PASCO COURTESY OF LILYAN DAYTON

The West Pasco Branch honored the 2012 scholarship winners at a luncheon February 11 at the Fox Hollow Golf and Country Club.



**Carolyn Burchett, Katerina Vergos, Melanie Kozach**

Each winner told how she was thwarted in her efforts to continue her education, but through hard work and a hand up with our monetary help, she was able to return to school and in fact became an “A” student, soon to graduate with a degree from a local college. All have chosen to teach and are looking forward to success in their chosen fields. The AAUW branch has been providing educational opportunities to girls and women almost since its inception over 35 years ago.

## WEST PASCO BRANCH HONORED

The West Pasco Branch of the American Association of University Women was recently honored at the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners which declared the month of March as Women’s History Month.

All women of every race, class and ethnic background were recognized for their historic contributions to the growth and strength of our nation. AAUW was recognized for playing and continuing to play a critical economic, cultural and social role in every sphere of the life of the nation,

and for providing leadership in all phases of our society.

The resolution stated that despite these contributions and many others, American women have been consistently overlooked and undervalued, and the commission recognized the need to now recognize these accomplishments and many others. Pasco's AAUW and the League of Women Voters were lauded and received certificates denoting the honor.



Commissioner Pat Mulieri, Jenny Ambrosio, Commissioner Ann Hildebrand and Flossie McNally. Commissioners Mulieri and Hildebrand are also AAUW members.

## COMMUNICATION UPDATE

### STATE WEBSITE Sally Bailey, Web Manager

Is your branch page on the state website looking as though it needs a shot in the arm? If so, send me when and where you meet each month, a schedule of your programs, and a list of your annual and special events. You do want your branch page to be attractive to AAUW members who have recently moved to Florida and to non-members who are moving to Florida and want to get involved with an

active women's organization. **Email me at [flwebmgr@comcast.net](mailto:flwebmgr@comcast.net)** your newsletters and any notices about special events. I can create a link to your newsletter so potential new members can read it, and I'll also link it to the newsletters page so members of other branches in search of program ideas can read it, too.

### STATE NEWSLETTER Jacqueline D'Alessio, Director for Communications

Please do not send me pictures embedded in the body of the email. I cannot import them into my program for publishing *floriVision*. The pictures should be sent in jpeg format as email attachments. I apologize to those branches that sent me pictures in the body of the email, but there was no way I could import them into the newsletter.

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, 2013.**

## REMEMBERING CONVENTION 2012

### Cherish the Past; Empower the Future



Members registering for Impact Grant Workshop



**Facilitator: Samuel Lehman, AAUW staff**



**Suffragette Rally-Past and Present**



**Empower the Future through STEM-Lois Miles,  
Carol Newnam, Linda MacDonald**



**LAF Speaker Elle Helmer**



**Linda Hallman, Lisa Fuller and Membership Award Winners**



**Passing of the Gavel**

AAUW-FLORIDA  
Director for Communications Jacqueline D'Alessio  
30 Putnam Street  
Somerville, NJ 08876-2737

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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*

*Vacant, President-elect*

*Kamala Anandam, Director for Program*

*Diane Jacobson, Director for Development*

*Diane Boyce, Director for Finance*

*Lisa Fuller, Director for Membership*

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*floriVision*: c/o Jacqueline D'Alessio  
30 Putnam Street, Somerville, NJ 08876-2737  
or preferably emailed: [jqline@att.net](mailto:jqline@att.net)

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>