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President's Message

I do hope that this will be a year of good health and much happiness for each of you. Stepping Forward Together has been the foundation of our work and is the theme for the upcoming state convention.



Shirley Reid  
 President, AAUW-FL

Our vision is clear as we step together working to fulfill our mission. This is an exciting time, but also a very challenging time. We will face our challenges together.

**Foundation established.** Our newly formed AAUW Florida Supporting Foundation, Inc., is now officially registered with a 501(c)(3) tax status. I wish to thank all who have worked so diligently to get us to this point – Kamala Anandam, Sally Bailey, and Sue Slone, in particular. I am indeed grateful for their contributions.

Now comes the tedious job of soliciting donors and making certain that we all realize the importance of the support needed by all branches to ensure that our projects continue, namely Tech Trek. This is our mission and a part of our strategic plan.

National AAUW announced that it would no longer manage or provide financial support for Tech Trek after 2017, and that it would be up to each state organization. Our new foundation will enable us to solicit tax-deductible donations to continue the program.

**State convention.** Excitement is building for our upcoming state convention, Stepping Forward Together, Sunday, April 22 to Tuesday, April 24, at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota. You won't want to miss it!

Registration is now easier, thanks to Antoinette Kruse, Sue Shea, and others who made it possible to sign up online. Go to <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/2018-state-convention/>

A special acknowledgment and celebration of our 50+ Year Members is planned, along with dynamic and informative speakers, including Kimberly Churches, AAUW CEO, and Mary Gatta, associate professor of sociology at The City University of New York. Also on tap are panel discussions, relevant workshops, and a very special performance at our banquet, featuring Women of Steel, a two-member steel drum band.

*To all the women of AAUW-FL: All of your projects and accomplishments are noted and appreciated. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the convention. Take good care of yourselves. You are all amazing women and much appreciated. – Shirley Reid. ■*

## Calendar/State Officers and Appointees

### Looking Ahead

**March 22** – Deadline for convention rate, Hyatt Regency Sarasota hotel reservations for April 22-24 2018 Convention/Annual Meeting.

**March 22** – Deadline for commenting on proposed changes in National AAUW bylaws.

**April 10** – Last date for refunds of 2018 Convention/Annual Meeting registration fee.

**April 22 - 24**– 2018 Convention/Annual Meeting, Stepping Forward Together, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sarasota.

**April 25 to June 9** – Online voting, proposed changes in National AAUW bylaws

**May 15 to June 15** – Online voting, AAUW-FL officers, public policy priorities.

**May 30 to June 2** – AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, University of Maryland, College Park.

**June 13** – Deadline, mailing paper ballots for AAUW-FL officers, public policy priorities.

**June 10 - 16** – Tech Trek, Palm Beach State College and Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton.

### 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 – *Antoinette Kruse; floriVision Editor, Carol MacDonald*  
 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*



**Mission:** AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. **Value Promise:** By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. **Vision Statement:** AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential. **Diversity Statement:** 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.

## 2018 Convention/Annual Meeting

### 'Step forward' with AAUW-FL at convention

Get your registration in now for our state convention —Stepping Forward Together —which will take place on Sunday, April 22, through Tuesday, April 24, at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota, located on scenic Sarasota Bay.

This year you'll be able to register online or use the mail. The instructions for each are on the registration form on page 12. Here are highlights of what's on tap:

**Meet AAUW's CEO.** On Sunday, we'll meet Kimberly Churches, AAUW CEO, at an opening reception at 4:30 p.m. She'll share her vision in her keynote address, "Beyond Aspirations: AAUW's Future," at the opening dinner, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Honor 50-year members.** At the dinner Sunday, you'll see a slide show tribute to those who have been AAUW members for at least 50 years.

**Town hall.** On Monday, at the first general session, Churches will conduct a town hall at 9 a.m., where she will seek input on the strategic plan being developed by the AAUW Board of Directors.

**Learn about economic security.** Following the town hall Monday, Mary Gatta will speak on "Women, Aging and Economic Security in Florida." Gatta is associ-

ate professor of sociology at the City University of New York.

**Enhance your skills.** Workshops will begin Monday at 11:30 a.m. You'll be able to choose from sessions on public policy, communications/social media, diversity training, and finance.

**Understand LAF.** At the 1 p.m. luncheon Monday, you'll hear from a plaintiff in a case supported by the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, which works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. You'll also be asked to contribute to the fund.

**Hear from 'Women on the Run.'** From 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., you'll hear from "Women on the Run," a panel of women who will describe their experiences in running for political office.

**Get updates at annual meeting.** At 4:45 p.m. Monday, President Shirley Reid will convene the Annual Meeting. You'll want to hear about Tech Trek 2018 from Sue Slone, camp director, and the report of the 2018 Nominating Committee from Marge Ostrom, among other updates.

**Honorees, new officers at banquet.** At 6 p.m., members will have the chance to chat with one another before attending the banquet

at 7 p.m. where Reid will honor branch presidents, and Patricia Ross, president-elect, will honor the members of the Legacy Circle.

Antoinette Kruse will speak about her experiences as a young woman at NCWSSL, which led her to the AAUW-FL board as director for communications.

The installation of elected officers for 2018-20 is up next, followed by a performance by the Women of Steel, a two-member, steel drum band from Venice, Florida.

**More opportunities to expand knowledge, skills.** At 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, a breakfast and workshop on membership with membership co-chair Corky Miller is scheduled. Silent auction results will be announced. (*See page 4.*)

From 10:45 a.m. to noon Tuesday, four workshops will be offered:

- A Conversation on Choice – Patricia DeWitt.
- Women and the Supreme Court – Diane Schrier.
- Stepping into the Future Together for branch presidents – Patricia Ross, president-elect.
- The Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Education Program in Florida – Linda Carpenter from the League of Women Voters.

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

### Make it a family vacation

The site of this year's AAUW state convention, the Hyatt Regency, is a resort hotel on Sarasota Bay with a beautiful pool and many other amenities. (See for yourself at the hotel's website <https://sarasota.regency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>.)

Jacqueline D'Alessio, AAUW-FL Director for Program, has a suggestion for making the most of the venue and the surrounding area: She encourages you to bring your family with you. While you are in sessions learning about AAUW priorities, your family can enjoy the beaches of

Long Boat Key; shopping on St. Armand's Circle; visiting the Ringling Museum of Art, the Ringling Circus Museum, or the Mote Aquarium; or attending a show at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center or one of several theaters in downtown Sarasota. ■

## 2018 Convention/Annual Meeting (Continued)

### Silent Auction to benefit Tech Trek

Tech Trek will be the beneficiary of our fundraiser at this year's state convention – a silent auction aptly named “Bidding for the Future Together.”

Each item in the auction will be worth a minimum of \$50. So far, donations include a handmade stained glass lamp and custom pottery made by the daughter of an AAUW-FL member.

If you or your branch has an item suitable for the auction, contact Judith Bonn, Director for Development, at judybonn@centurylink.net. Items from branches as a whole or from individuals are welcome.

- Branches donating items as an entity should attach a bidding sheet and state the branch name.
- Donations should include a description of the item, with details, especially for handmade items.
- Items must be new – either purchased or handmade for the auction. Used items, gift baskets, and gift cards are not being solicited.

The fund raiser is especially important for Tech Trek this year, since it is now up to states to finance and manage the camps, and our needs are so great.

The newly formed AAUW-FL Supporting Foundation enables donations to be tax deductible, since the foundation's 501c (3) tax status has been finalized.

Cash donations to the foundation are also welcome.

– Judith Bonn, AAUW-FL Director for Development. ■

### AAUW CEO to give keynote address

Kimberly Churches, AAUW's chief executive officer, will speak on “Beyond Expectations: AAUW's Future” in her keynote address Sunday, April 22, at this year's convention.

Prior to joining AAUW in June 2017, she served as managing director of the Brookings Institution, an internationally recognized public policy think tank. In that capacity she strategically guided Brookings, providing vision and problem-solving skills while focusing on expansive partnerships, external relations, and advancement.

Churches has also served as an associate vice chancellor at the University of Denver, a director of development at the University of North Florida, and a division director at the American Heart Association. She has extensive experience working collaboratively on education (K–12 and higher education) as well as on capacity building among grassroots groups

and national and international nonprofits.

In addition to her work at AAUW, Churches is currently the chair of the BUILD Metro D.C. board, which demonstrates the power of experiential learning through entrepreneurship for underresourced communities. She is also a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals PAC Board.

She is a member of the International Women's Forum of Washington, D.C., which represents women leaders in diverse fields and works to maximize opportunities for women in 33 countries on six continents. ■



Kimberly Churches

### Professor to discuss women's economic security



Mary Gatta

Mary Gatta, an ethnographic sociologist, puts a human face on workforce development policy that would meaningfully contribute to

our prosperity.

Gatta, associate professor of sociology at The City University of New York, earned her Ph.D. in sociology at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. She'll discuss “Women, Aging, and Eco-

conomic Security in Florida” at the Monday, April 23, session of this year's AAUW-FL convention.

She has chronicled groundbreaking research on innovative workforce initiatives to create flexible, collaborative programs, and policies.

The author of several books, she once went undercover, posing as a client in a New Jersey career center, exploring how well these centers, developed as part of the federal Workforce Investment Act, function.

From 2010 to 2015, she was senior scholar at Wider Opportunities for Women in Washington, D.C. ■

## State Voter Guide: Overview

### Board openings, public policy on ballot

Filling four positions on the AAUW-FL Board of Directors and approving public policy priorities for the next two years are on the agenda for the annual meeting part of our 2018 convention, Monday, April 23.

In keeping with the One Member, One Vote initiative, you don't have to be at the convention to make your preferences known. The annual meeting will open April 23, but won't close for at least 30 days so that anyone who is a member of AAUW Florida as of March 15, 2018, can vote online or by paper ballot if you have no email.

#### Accurate addresses

National AAUW handles the balloting process, using email addresses and postal mailing addresses recorded in the Membership Services Database to contact members with instructions on voting. Anyone whose email address isn't in the database will receive a paper ballot.

It's crucial that contact information entered in the database is correct and complete. To be sure, it's a good idea to check both your email and postal addresses at [www.aauw.org/login/](http://www.aauw.org/login/).

If you're a branch president, you can help by making certain members' addresses have been entered correctly and that everyone knows how important it is.

#### When to vote

The annual meeting is not closed until votes are tallied and results announced. This year, **online voting begins May 15 and ends June 15 at 9 p.m. EDT. Paper ballots must be post-marked by 11:59 p.m., EDT, June 13.**

The results of the vote will be announced in an email to branch presidents and on our state website.

#### Public policy priorities

AAUW Florida's public policy priorities are due for approval this year, and again members are being asked to adopt the priorities national has identified.

The priorities establish the federal action issues on which AAUW members across the country focus their advocacy efforts and guide the work of the national staff. States and branches use the priorities to inform their advocacy efforts on state and local issues.

Broadly, the priorities:

- Support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversities.
- Achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women.
- Guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society

You can get details on the national priorities at <https://www.aauw.org/resource/principles-and-priorities>.

#### Nominations

The Nominating Committee proposed a slate of candidates to fill the four open positions on the board. (See page 6-7.)

Currently, there is one candidate per office, but nominations may be made from the floor, with the nominee's consent, at the annual meeting. Those running unopposed may be elected by acclamation at the annual meeting. Any contested offices will be on the OMOV ballot.

—Virginia Farace, Voting and Elections Committee Chair. ■

### Nominating Committee for 2018-19 to be chosen

A five-member Nominating Committee will be elected at this year's annual meeting to identify candidates to fill upcoming open positions on the state board of directors.

The 2018-19 committee will propose candidates for president-elect and directors for Finance, Public Policy, and Program, who would serve two-year terms of office.

Two Nominating Committee members will be elected by the current board of directors before the annual meeting, April 23. However, being on the board isn't a requirement for sitting on the committee.

The other three committee members will be elected by AAUW-FL members at our annual meeting.

Our bylaws prohibit a branch from being represented on the committee for two consecutive years. That will apply to all of the branches represented on this year's committee when the 2018-19 committee is assembled.

Members of the 2017-18 committee include Marge Ostrom of the Venice branch and Margaret Arthur of the Ocala branch, who served as co-chairs.

Other members of the 2017-18 committee included Patricia DeWitt, Jacksonville branch; Jacqueline D'Allessio, Manatee; and Nancy Pura, West Pasco.

Virginia Farace, past state president, was advisor to the group. ■

## State Voter Guide: Candidates

### Learn more about who's on the ballot

The Nominating Committee put forward candidates for the four open positions that will come up for a vote at the annual meeting this year. Each candidate provided a statement of qualifications. Statements from candidates for Director for Development and Secretary are below, and those for directors for Development and Membership, on page 7.

*Editor's note: Statements from candidates were lightly edited for spacing and adherence to style guides for such elements as abbreviations and capitalization.*



Judith Bonn

#### Judith Bonn, – Candidate, Director for Development

I joined the Lake Sumter branch of AAUW in 2009 when I retired. I had never heard of AAUW before and I was anxious to meet some women who had been professionals as had I. I was so pleased that I dived in, and within two years found myself serving as branch co-president, never being really sure how I got there!

Since then, I have served my branch as public policy chair and another term as co-president when there were no other takers.

I am extremely passionate about the goals of AAUW for women and girls. I see all the things we women fought for back in the 1960s slowly being taken away, as we somehow seem to forget how hard it was to win these things.

Women and girls have a right to be educated in the finest ways possible according to their desires, and they have a right to choose what they will do in life; they should not have to accept the roles others would like them to play. And when women do select professions that are also chosen by men, we have the right to be paid the same wage for the same work.

I will do my best to help AAUW-FL achieve these goals as your Director for Development. ■



Susan Baird

#### Susan Baird – Candidate, Secretary

Susan, a member of the Flagler County branch, graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor of science degree in business administration.

A member of AAUW since 1993, she has served as the treasurer, president, and program co-chair of the Flagler County branch. She currently is Tech Trek coordinator for the branch.

Susan retired as a Flagler County substitute teacher after 19 years. In addition to AAUW Susan is the program director for Flagler County Historical Society and serves on the scholarship committee for the Irish Social Club of Palm Coast.

As secretary of AAUW-FL, Susan would take accurate minutes and fulfill her designated duties. She supports AAUW's goals to promote equality for women and girls. ■

## State Voter Guide: Candidates (Continued)



Antoinette Kruse

### **Antoinette Kruse – Candidate, Director for Communications**

Effective communication involves listening, learning, collaboration and action!

Antoinette holds a master's degree in clinical social work/interpersonal practice from the University of Michigan and is a candidate for the doctoral degree in social work administration and health policy. She is the founder of Providence Family Life Center, a 501(c)(3) organization whose primary mission is to support women and girls, domestically and internationally.

Antoinette attended the National Conference for College Student Leaders (NCCWSL) as a student while attending the University of Michigan. This was a life-changing experience for her, learning about AAUW with more than 4,000 college women from all over the world gathered in one place to “get pumped up to go change the world.”

She joined AAUW Florida as the web manager and was then selected to serve as the interim Co-Director for Communications. She has led, served, and worked on numerous community organizations, and coalitions in Michigan, working with state and local officials.

She loves her role as a wife, mother, daughter, sister, grandmother, as well as friend to many. She is excited about the future; building a strong communications platform connecting AAUW branches across the state and advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research on campuses across in Florida. ■



Karen Zalkin

### **Karen Zalkin – Candidate, Director for Membership**

Women are waking up and saying they want to be part of the movement to protect the opportunities for women and girls. AAUW Florida will reach out and gather in these new vibrant members. It is my desire to assist branches to increase their membership. Now is the time for AAUW members to reach out.

We all wear many hats and I have had a few chapeaus on my head. At the state level, I served as AAUW-FL Secretary for one and a half terms (replacing a leaving officer) and was co-convention chair in 2011. In the St. Augustine branch, I have been branch president for four years working closely with membership and finance officers. I also served four years as branch secretary and scholarship chair.

During the 16 years that I have been a member of AAUW, I have seen the organization grow and become more responsive. I joined AAUW when I was a director of financial aid at Richland Community College.

I look forward to meeting with members, serving AAUW Florida and to herald the work that we are doing. ■

## State News

### Foundation keeps Tech Trek donations tax-deductible

By Sue Slone, Tech Trek Camp Director

By the end of March, 64 seventh-grade girls will know what they're doing June 10 – 16. They're the talented young women with an interest in STEM chosen to attend this year's Tech Trek camp.

Some 241 girls were nominated for this year's camp to be held again at Palm Beach State College and Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. 143 made the January 28 deadline to apply, representing 60 schools and 16 branches.

Branches were to complete interviews and rankings of "their" girls by the end of February. A registration form is being developed as well as a process for collecting the \$50 deposit required for each camper. We will keep branches informed.

**Branch fund raising.** We hope that all branches are working



on fund raising for camp, as it will cost about \$1,100 per girl to provide this outstanding experience. We expect a carry over of \$32,255 from National, but we won't be getting a \$5,000 grant from them as we did previously. That reality and the amount we need to raise means that we're depending on branches to help even more this year.

**Tax-deductible donations.** The approval of a federal 501(c)(3) non-profit designation for our new foundation, AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, Inc., means Tech Trek donations will be tax deductible.

Last year, corporate donors contributed a total of \$10,000, and they need to know about the non-profit designation in order to support us again this year. (We just learned that Symantec will donate \$1,500 through National and will sponsor a workshop that all girls will attend.)

Checks made out to the foundation should have Tech Trek on the memo line and be mailed to Tech Trek, P.O. Box 2938, Jupiter, FL 33468.

**Counselors needed.** We need college-age girls to be camp counselors. They must be willing to stay in the dorm for the entire week, plus Saturday afternoon before camp. If you have a relative or friend who may be interested, contact Daphnie Desilus @ desilusdaphnie@yahoo.com.



**Core courses.** Our core courses this year will be robotics, app inventor, engineering and marine biology.

Workshops include cyber security, DNA, weather, chemistry, finance, problem solving, science, and art and rocketry. We are still working on the field trip. Evening activities will be similar to last year including the viewing of the film *Hidden Figures*. ■

### Membership continues upward trend

By Coral "Corky" Miller and Maria Barbosa, Co-Directors for Membership

Congratulations to all branch Directors for Membership who have been working diligently to increase AAUW Florida membership. You did not "step" with our president, Shirley Reid. You "ran" with her.

When the AAUW-FL strategic plan for membership was submitted, the goal was increased from the prior 10 percent to 20 percent. But branches have currently reached a staggering 29 percent increase and

are still going strong.

We know this is hard work, extremely time consuming, and done when you can fit it into your already busy schedule, and we thank you sincerely for your efforts.

Will continued effort enable us to reach a 30 percent increase? We believe it's possible, so let us know how we can help you. Email or phone, either way we'll respond.

Be sure to check the national website, [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org), which has numerous tips and resources aimed at helping you recruit and retain members.

For a comprehensive list, go to [www.aauw.org/resource/top-tip-for-mvps/](http://www.aauw.org/resource/top-tip-for-mvps/) where you'll be guided to dozens of resources, including information about upcoming webinars and links for you to ask questions or share ideas. ■

## State News (Continued)

### Get best-practice tips online, over the phone

By Antoinette Kruse, Director for Communications

The AAUW-FL communications team is working to develop a communications plan that will help your branch meet its unique needs and those of prospective members.

Collaborative efforts are underway to develop consistent marketing and promotional messages across platforms – website (<https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/>), Facebook ([www.facebook.com/AAUWFlorida](http://www.facebook.com/AAUWFlorida)), Twitter, and newsletter (floriVision). Here are highlights of communications efforts:

**New pages on website.** Click the *Community* tab for activities related to diversity and inclusion. And the *Branch Support and Resources* link under the *Branches* tab to learn about training opportunities in the works.

**Best practice conference calls.** Branches can now learn from experts and share best practices on relevant topics through monthly conference calls. Email notifications are sent to branch leaders with the times and easy instructions for calling – and it’s free. Details are also on the *Branches* tab on the website.

The February call provided ideas on creating an inclusive, diverse branch. Here’s what’s next:

- March: Understanding executive orders.
- April: Member engagement strategies: Constant Contact, developing surveys.
- May: Developing a social media presence.
- June: Developing relationships with the press.
- July: Using Tech Trek working with colleges, universities to reach younger women.

- August: Diversity, equity, and inclusion – how to add more diversity to your branch.

**Joint media calendar.** The AAUW-FL website and Facebook page are developing a joint media calendar to provide consistency in information posted on various topics each month. February dealt with education. Upcoming topics are:

- March: Executive actions/ government rule.
- April: Civil rights – human trafficking.
- May: Florida Constitution amendments/ rights restoration.
- June: Civil rights – reproductive rights, women’s healthcare.
- July: Civil rights – Equal Rights Amendment.
- August: Civil rights – pay equity.
- September: Sexual harassment.
- October: Election topics.
- November: Election evaluations.
- December: A year in view. ■

### 17 AAUW lobbyists make views known in Tallahassee

By Patricia DeWitt, Director for Public Policy

Seventeen AAUW-FL members participated in Lobby Days this year, the largest contingent fielded in recent years, arriving in Tallahassee during a season of frenetic committee meetings and floor sessions.

An evening training session Tuesday, January 23, featured bills chosen by Public Policy Committee members Judy Bonn (Lake Sumter branch), Kathy Black (Venice), Diane Schrier (Ocala), and Vickie Waters (Manatee), as well as Pat DeWitt, Director for Public Policy. Kate Nielson, National State Public Policy Analyst, vetted each bill.

Earlier, at noon, DeWitt talked briefly during a noon “Rally for Equal Pay” conducted by legislators sponsoring the Helen Gordon Davis Fair Pay Protection Act (HB 393 and

SB 594): Representatives Lori Berman and Janet Cruz, and Senator Linda Stewart. The rally was not held in the main part of our visit, but several in our group came early.

On Wednesday, we met with legislative assistants from the offices of Rep. Lori Berman (Abby Ross) and the chair of the first committee assigned to HB 393, Rep. Halsey Beshears (Chris Kingry).

The Lobby Corps then dispersed to bring our message to the offices of approximately 45 legislators. The day ended with a tour of the historic Capitol building and a group dinner.

In addition, a Florida Action Alert, Virtual Lobby Day 2018, inspired 140 subscribers to send 292 messages to 97 legislators. ■



Members of AAUW Florida’s 2018 Lobby Corps were welcomed in Rep. Lori Berman’s office. Top row, left to right: Judy Bonn, Patty Benson, Pat Ross, Mary Ann Sines, Vicki Waters, Nell Molden, Kathy Black, and Nancy Gorno. Bottom row, left to right, Abby Ross (aide to Rep. Berman) joins Maria Barbosa, Pat DeWitt, and Cheryl Temple. Not pictured, Laura Adolfie, Cindy Adolfie, Diane Schrier, Noel Olsen, Karen Zalkin, Winnie Wagner. ■

## Branch News and Ideas

### Weston meeting highlights opioid crisis

The Weston branch put the spotlight on the opioid epidemic in a public meeting featuring government and law enforcement representatives; physicians; and parents who had lost their son to an overdose.

The well-attended meeting not only provided information on the opioid crisis, but also brought community recognition to AAUW.



Held at the YMCA, about 80 people attended and heard U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz label the epidemic a national crisis, and Broward Commissioner Nan Rich explain the role of the local behavioral health coalition.

Both stressed the importance of

lobbying for funding at national and state levels and urged attendees to call their legislators.

Don Maines of the Broward County Sheriff's Office said opioid overdose caused 64,000 deaths in the U.S. in 2016. He noted the potency of the street versions of opioids. Vaped, inhaled through nose, each inhale is equivalent to 10 shots of alcohol. Carfentanil is 100 times stronger than heroin.

An interventional pain management specialist said opioids should be the last resort for pain management. Another physician described using mind-over-body techniques, not opioids, for depression.

Parents who lost their son to an overdose spoke about their ignorance of the addictive nature of opioids and cautioned everyone to be observant when someone close uses opioids to manage pain. ■

— Kamala Anandam.

### 3 branches sponsor talks on economic security

Will 2018 be another Year of the Woman, building on the Women's Marches of 2017, more women running for office, the #MeToo movement, and Merriam-Webster's declaring "feminism" the word of the year?

Maybe. But Mary Gatta, associate professor at The City University of New York, told AAUW branch members and guests in Daytona, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville that women have a long way to go.

In an energetic, yet detailed approach, Gatta highlighted economic data that show the gender pay gap and how it affects retirement.

Each of the three branches held meetings open to the public at a res-

taurant. The event not only provided information about women's economic security, but also brought in new members – two in the Daytona branch, and seven, in Jacksonville.

Gatta, who holds a Ph.D. from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, will speak Monday, April 23, at our state convention.

A member of the Northern Monmouth (N.J.) branch, Gatta, recommended better communications and partnering with other organizations to improve AAUW's influence on state policies that support women's economic security, such as pay equity and other issues like those advocated at our recent Lobby Days. ■

— Patricia Dewitt.

### Use Happy Hours to recruit members

Sponsoring a Happy Hour can be an effective recruitment tool, as the Greater Naples and the Northern Palm Beach County branches have found.

Both were able to add new members as a result. Northern Palm Beach County also used the event to honor members who had recently joined.

Get tips for setting up your own event in the Cocktails and Convos Program in a Box at [www.aauw.org/resource/cocktails-and-convos/](http://www.aauw.org/resource/cocktails-and-convos/). ■

### Book sales benefit scholarships

*Women's Words* celebrates the creativity of members of the Vero Beach branch. And sales of the book, available on Amazon, support scholarships, grants, and programs for women and girls in Indian River County.

The book is a compilation of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction from the members of the branch's Creative Writers Group and was published on the group's 40th anniversary. ■

### Branch takes no-fuss approach to fund raising

Instead of planning a major fund raiser to fund scholarships, the Greater Naples branch is trying a simpler process.

The branch is asking members to send a donation, either by check or through the web site for its charitable foundation. The branch will hold a luncheon after the scholarship winners have been determined. ■

## National Bylaws Vote

### Proposal would drop degree requirement, change board service

*Should AAUW membership be open to those who don't have a degree but who support the organization's mission?*

*Should the national board of directors include those who are not members of AAUW?*

*Should three-year staggered terms be created for service on the national board of directors?*



Those are questions you'll be asked to answer in voting that starts in April on proposed amendments to the national AAUW bylaws.

Voting opens April 25 and closes June 9 at 9 p.m. ET. You'll get a voter PIN by email or by postal mail. Complete information on the proposals will be in the spring *AAUW Outlook* magazine.

You'll have until May 7 to ask for a paper ballot, which must be mailed

and postmarked by May 21 at 11:59 ET. Voting results will be announced online June 10.

#### Pros and cons

The national board of directors proposed the changes, sending an email explanation to members – [www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/](http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/). The board also provided its rationale along with the exact wording of the bylaws' changes at <https://svc.aauw.org/recore/docu/aauw-bylaws-2017.pdf>.

The two proposals about board service are seen as best practices bringing AAUW in line with other nonprofits.

The more wide-reaching and contentious proposal to drop the degree requirement has come up for a vote before and did not pass. So it will be up to members to again weigh in on what would be a major shift in AAUW.

The board believes the degree

requirement isn't needed now. It also believes dropping it would align better with our mission; bring in more members and increase our impact; enhance diversity and inclusion; and make it easier to get grants and corporate donations.

Members who disagree have commented online, saying, among other things, that the issue was already decided; that the proposal takes away a factor that differentiates AAUW from other groups advocating equity; and that it dilutes the message that getting a college education is important.

To get the full perspectives of both those who agree and those who don't, take the time to view the online comments. Just click on the National Bylaw Amendment Vote icon at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) to read what others say or add your own comments. You'll need your member id number and password. ■

## Legacy Circle

### Make AAUW part of your estate planning

By Patricia Ross, president-elect

Like you, I love AAUW and what it means to women and girls everywhere. When I designated AAUW as a beneficiary in my estate planning, I was surprised at how easy it is to meet qualifications for membership in the Legacy Circle.

You may only need to fill out an enrollment form if you have: (1) provided for AAUW in your will; (2) designated AAUW as the beneficiary of a qualified retirement plan, savings bond, bank account, or life insurance policy; or (3) created a planned gift that returns fixed or flexible income to

you or others. (Specifics about your gift remain confidential.)

We join the Legacy Circle because we want AAUW to continue after we're gone and never waiver from the mission of advancing equity for women and girls through education, advocacy, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW-FL Legacy Circle members include Sue Barley, June Carlson, Jacqueline D'Allessio, Patricia DeWitt, Jean LaPointe, Carol Newnam, Barbara O'Connor, Eilleen Recchia, Shirley Reid, Car-

ol Rognru, Barbara Stevens, Miriam Welch, and me. Will you join us to meet a challenge to double the list in 2018 and help ensure AAUW will exist for future generations?

To honor your generosity and commitment, you'll receive a beautiful pin designed by Swarovski. I'd love to present your pin to you at our convention and include you in a special breakfast celebration.

Questions? Call me (386-252-1659), visit [www.aauwlegacy.org](http://www.aauwlegacy.org) or call the planned giving office (877-357-5587).

# 2018 Convention Registration

**“Stepping Forward Together”**  
**Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> -Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**  
 Hyatt Regency Hotel Sarasota  
 100 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota 34236

Complete one form per attendee OR  
 Register Online at <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/2018-state-convention/>

Please make your hotel reservation with the Hyatt Regency:  
 888-421-1442 and Request AM ASSN UNIVERSITY WOMEN or Online at  
<http://aws.passkey.com/go/ASSNUniversityWomen>

**\*\*The Convention Rate of \$149.00 plus tax (Sgl or Dbl) will be available until March 22<sup>nd</sup> ONLY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name for Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Your Branch Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Current Branch Position \_\_\_\_\_ Current State Position \_\_\_\_\_

Current National Position \_\_\_\_\_ National Member \_\_\_\_\_ Past State President \_\_\_\_\_

First Time Attendee \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (Includes Sunday Dinner, Monday Lunch, Monday Banquet, & Tuesday Breakfast) No refunds after April 10<sup>th</sup>. \$ 190.00

Cost per Guest Sunday Dinner: \$50.00 x Number of Guests \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Cost per Guest Monday Banquet: \$50.00 x Number of Guests \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary or Other Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Must Accompany Registration**

- Make checks payable to Florida AAUW Convention
- Credit Card Info: Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code : \_\_\_\_\_ ( Add \$5.00 to Total)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Convention  
Registration  
Due by  
**April 8th**

Send Registration to Kathy VanderVliet  
 25 SR 13, Apt A-5, St. Johns, FL 32259 or [kathyvan@comcast](mailto:kathyvan@comcast)