

Let's ZOOM!

Saturday, May 9
4 pm to 5 pm

We can't celebrate in person so let's celebrate virtually!

- Meet the new board
- Celebrate branch awards
- Learn about new research
- Hear from Kim Churches

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/97430168035?pwd=WHBnUXpkeGhrbXJHUDA4TktlUHlIQTO9>

Meeting ID: 974 3016 8035
Password: 288687

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,97430168035#
,,1#,288687# US (New York)
+13017158592,,97430168035#
,,1#,288687# US
(Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 974 3016 8035
Password: 288687

Find your local number:

<https://zoom.us/u/ac1AQHa3Gc>

Conquer challenges with creativity

By Patricia Ross, AAUW FL President

Challenging times can trigger innovation, and AAUW members like a good challenge. Using our creativity will enable us to continue the important work of empowering women and girls.



Patricia Ross

We were able to hold our state annual meeting virtually when COVID-19 made our convention impossible. Thanks to all who participated by reviewing the materials and nominating candidates. We have elected a strong new board and nominating committee to take us into the future. Join us 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, May 9, to meet them at a Zoom video conference. (See details, left.) We'll also announce membership awards, learn more about our new research, and get an update from Kim Churches, AAUW National CEO.

Suggestions for branches. This challenging time has helped us realize the many things we can do through conference calls and video conferences. As you plan for next year's activities, consider using those tools to enable branch committees and interest groups to continue to meet.

National has been hosting frequent webinars. In the short-term, consider watching them and following up with a video conference to discuss the findings and how you can act on them locally.

In the long term, it is likely you will want to have many of your activities in person, along with hosting conference calls and video conferences. Some branches are trying to plan for parallel programs, to be hosted in person, but with a social distancing back-up if it is necessary. As you discover what works, I hope you will share your ideas with the rest of us. Think about what will work best for your branch and plan accordingly.

Publicizing new research. As you know, we have recently published new research on the Economic Security of Working Black Women in Florida. Along with Mary Gatta's earlier research on Hispanic women and the elderly in Florida, they provide an excellent opportunity to reach out to your legislators and advocate for women in Florida. The research can be downloaded from our state website aauw-fl.aauw.net.

A final word. Lastly, I want to thank the wonderful members who served on the AAUW FL Board of Directors and those who served on our committees. It has been a honor to work with such a hard-working, interesting, and creative group of women. Thank you for making our progress possible!

We need to look at our mission with new eyes and come up with creative solutions for continuing our work to empower women and girls. Much of what we do is essential to girls and women in our communities. Thanks to all AAUW FL members for your continued efforts to rise to the challenge. ■

State Officers and Appointees

3 new officers, nominating committee chosen

Congratulations to Ellen Roche, Rose Llanos, and Fay Murphy who were elected by acclamation as members of our board of directors.

Roche continues as director of development; Llanos becomes the new director for membership; and Murphy is the new secretary.

Our bylaws-mandated annual meeting opened by teleconference on April 18, when COVID-19 meant our convention had to be canceled.

The meeting was adjourned to allow for nominations “from the floor” in addition to the names that were proposed by the nominating committee.

State members could make additional nominations by

mailing or emailing a form to President Pat Ross by April 26.

Because no other nominations were received, the president declared the original nominees elected by acclamation.

Our bylaws stipulate that a director for communications also be chosen in even-numbered years. However, no nominations were received for the post, so the position will be filled through appointment by the board of directors, as outlined in our bylaws.

New nominating committee

A new nominating committee was also elected, as required by our bylaws. Two were chosen by the state board: Kay Lee-Smith, Tampa, and Mimi Welch,

Venice. In addition, the following were nominated by the membership:

- Jacqueline D'Alessio, Bradenton.
- Ann-Laure Wagner, St Augustine.
- Susie Baird, Flagler.
- Barbara Oberlander, Gainesville.

No other nominations were received. D'Alessio, Wagner, and Baird will serve as regular members, and Oberlander as alternate.

The committee will propose candidates for president-elect and directors for program, finance, and public policy for the 2021 election.

The annual meeting was closed April 27. ■

2019-20 AAUW-FL Officers and Appointees

Elected Officers

President – *Patricia Ross*
 President-elect – *Patricia DeWitt*
 Director for Program – *Bea Holt*
 Director for Membership – *Karen Zalkin*
 Director for Finance – *Kathy VanderVliet*
 Director for Development – *Ellen Roche*
 Director for Communications – *Open*
 Director for Public Policy – *Kay Lee-Smith*
 Secretary – *Susan Baird*

Appointed Officers

Bylaws, Policies, Resolutions – *Virginia Farace*
 Historian – *Linda Barker*
 Parliamentarian – *Mimi Welch*
 Administrative Assistant – *Mary Ann Sines*

Other Appointees

C/U Partner Liaison – *Susan Cornehl*
 Web Manager – *Theresa Owen*
 floriVision Editor – *Carol MacDonald*

Tech Trek Coordinator – *Sue Slone*

Camp Directors – *Shawnreice Campbell and Susan Berlin*

Voting and Elections Chair – *Karen Burkhalter*

Diversity Chair – *Synthia Fletcher*

Nominating Committee Chair – *Vicki Waters*

Women's Economic Security Committee Chair – *Patricia DeWitt*

Women's Vote Centennial Committee Chair – *Kimble Medley*



The American Association of University Women is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day – educational, social, economic, and political.

State Leadership

2020-2021 vision sees AAUW as voice for equity solutions

By Patricia DeWitt, AAUW FL President Elect

When I first became a state leader in Georgia, an outstanding member of that select group gave me an inauguration present, a little dark-skinned girl doll holding an ice cream cone. She said it was to remind me that equity was still an issue.

In 2020, equity is still an issue. In this time of pandemic, women who predominantly staff the service sector are out of jobs, women healthcare workers are exposed to great risk, and women caring for their children who are not in school are subject to stresses they never knew before.

It is very clear that structural changes are needed, but how can AAUW help? When I asked a legislative aide in Tallahassee how we could get our legislative priorities passed, he said "Elect different people."

But we cannot endorse or work for candidates. What we can do is to bring our rational, research-based approach to the attention of the public and decision-makers.

My vision as incoming president is for AAUW Florida to become widely known as an authoritative voice for needs and solutions to advance equity for women and girls.

Our sponsored research by Dr. Mary Gatta and Jessica Horning reveals the economic

weaknesses among black, Hispanic, and elderly women that existed even before the pandemic. Inequities such as these not only hurt women, but contribute to the unhealthy wealth gap in our country, to a lack of trust in institutions, and to a weakening of the social bonds we need to work together as a country.

By sponsoring Florida-specific research regarding women's economic security, AAUW of Florida has enhanced our potential to become an authoritative voice for women's economic security. We will be taking steps at the state level to realize this potential.

But it's going to be up to each branch to become an authoritative voice in your own community. To this end, I have two specific challenges for you.

First, looking towards August 15 as Black Women's Equal Pay Day, the AAUW FL Women's Economic Security Committee will be sending materials to help you make your community aware of the economic insecurity of black women and of its consequences. To prepare for this, please start assembling a list of media contacts in your area and organizations that could use the information.

Second, with the aid of the



The doll given to Pat DeWitt when she was state president in Georgia as a reminder that equity was an issue then. It is still relevant today.

Public Policy Committee, I will be promoting a special project I'm calling Outbound in October.

I hope you'll consider it an adventure to get out of your branch's comfort zone and into the wide world of your community to make both the public and decision-makers aware of what we already know about equity and how to improve it.

Every branch, no matter how few or how infirm, can do this, even if it has to be done through electronic means (or even phone calls!) More details and recommendations will be forthcoming.

I truly believe that the only way we can enhance consciousness and concern for community in our rugged-individualist country is from the grassroots. With our rational, nonpartisan approach, AAUW can be a force for persuasion. ■

Membership, Development News

Contributions to AAUW by May 30 to be matched

Thank you for supporting AAUW. Your contributions allow you to play an important role in unleashing possibilities for women and girls.

Despite these uncertain times, AAUW's work is more critical than ever during this health crisis. Why?

- Women hold the majority of part-time jobs and make up the majority of the low-wage workforce.
- So many women lack basic benefits like paid sick leave or paid family leave.

That's why, from now until May 30, the AAUW Board of Directors and national committee leaders will provide a 100 percent match for all gifts to AAUW up to \$18,000.

Donating to the Greatest Needs Fund allows AAUW to respond rapidly, in our communications and advocacy, to these critical issues affecting women. When donations are not restricted to fellowships or specific projects, we have the dollars we need to pivot to critical issues.

Join our many members contributing to a better future for women and girls. Click the Donate button, below, or at AAUW.org today. ■

[DONATE](#)

17 branches increase membership

By Karen Zalkin, AAUW FL Director for Membership

On February 1, AAUW FL had 2,036 members – an increase of three over the 2,033 members we had on Feb. 1, 2019.

Soon after, we added several more members – and with the discount that gave new members extra months for paying only yearly dues, we were on track to add even more members until social distancing required by COVID-19 brought the increase to a halt.

Congratulations are due to all the branch directors for membership and all the branch members who have applauded our mission and advocacy with the resulting gain of new members.

While not every branch exceeded their previous year's tally, the combination of those that did meant that AAUW Florida achieved the 90 percent renewal benchmark for the Five Star National Recognition Program.

Seventeen of our 35

branches received certificates for increasing membership: Bradenton, Flagler County, Ft. Lauderdale, Gainesville, Greater Naples, Manatee County, Melbourne, Northern Palm Beach County, Ocala, Palm Beach County, Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte, Sarasota, Stetson University, Sun City Center, Tampa, Venice and Weston.

The branches with the most members were not the ones with the highest percentage increase in new members. No matter what the size of the branch, every member is an advocate to bring new members into AAUW.

Let people know that we are a vibrant, vital organization, and are advocating, educating, and providing support for women even though we may not be meeting in person at this time.

Keep connected with your branch and renew your membership for 2020-2021. Despite the challenges, we'll be able to do great things for women with your help. ■

National investment committee needs members

The AAUW Investment Committee would like to add two new people in the next few months. The committee advises AAUW on how to invest and manage long-term funds based on AAUW's investment policies and recommends investment advisors to the board.

Interested members who have

experience with investments as either investment managers, portfolio managers, or consultants in the field should apply. You can find the application form on AAUW.org under Volunteer Committees. If you have questions, contact Ellen Roche (ellen.roche.aauw@gmail.com), a member of the committee. ■

Vote Centennial

Make sure Florida suffragists aren't forgotten

By Kimble Medley, AAUW FL Women's Vote Centennial Chair

COVID-19 may have impacted many of the Women's Vote Centennial events planned for AAUW Florida and our branches – but we can still pass on the legacies of these amazing Florida women by making sure their stories are added to the pages of suffrage and Florida history.

The [Florida Women's Hall of Fame](#) was established in 1982 to recognize Florida women “who have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for women.” Names of nominees are submitted for consideration to the Florida Commission on the Status of Women.

Women warriors, including readily recognizable suffragists, Mary McLeod Bethune and Ivy Julia Cromartie Stranahan, hold a place of honor on the wall and within the halls of the State Capitol.

Women's Hall of Fame

This year, the Flagler County branch hopes to add to the historic collection. For the past year, branch members have actively sought to identify the first women in Flagler County who had registered to vote.

Through their research, they found Alice Scott Abbott, an active early suffragist in Florida. Described as a “woman of great ability,” Abbott first lectured about votes for women in St. Augustine in 1893.

Sadly, her death is recorded by *The Flagler Tribune* as just days before the November 2, 1920, election.

. She worked diligently for the Women's Christian Temperance



Alice Scott Abbott – Photo Credit: The Bunnell Home Builder, May 1914.

Her leadership prompted two women to seek office in 1920, Susie McDaniel and Dora Joiner.

Although McDaniel and Joiner lost, women have continued to seek elected office and won, thanks to the leadership of Abbott and countless women across Florida,

Votes for Women Trail

In addition to seeking to add Abbott to the Florida Women's Hall of Fame, the Flagler branch sought to add her to the Votes for Women Trail, a project of the [National Collaborative for Women's History Sites](#). That goal was reached.



Kimble Medley, Susan Baird, and Theresa Owen of the Flagler County branch, at the grave site of suffragist Alice Scott Abbott, part of the Votes for Women Trail.

The project compiles a list of sites throughout the country that tell the untold stories of suffrage for all women and ethnicities. Over 1,000 sites are recorded on the project database so far, including Abbott's grave site at Espanola Cemetery in Bunnell, FL.

Fulfilling an obligation

There are women across Florida who have either been forgotten or essentially omitted from the pages of history of the women's suffrage movement. We have an obligation to make sure their stories are told, to be their voices.

While you're home and seeking activities to occupy the day, why not start a search of your own? Who will you find? What is #HERStory? Should she be added to the Florida Women's Hall of Fame?

You have the power to find those answers with your research to make sure Florida suffragists are not forgotten. ■

Union (WCTU) at the national and state levels.

She brought her passion for suffrage and prohibition to Flagler County in 1913. According to local media articles, she traveled more than 17,000 miles to advance the cause of suffrage for women in Florida.

Her efforts led to voter registration and education for almost 200 Flagler County women, including over 50 African-American women.

Tech Trek Florida

Branches have starring role in Tech Trek donations

By Ellen Roche, AAUW FL Director of Development

You contributed over \$110,000 to Tech Trek in 2019! Thank you and congratulations!

Twenty-five branches contributed in 2019, an increase of three branches over 2018. We are recognizing branches based on the amount of their contributions per member. These branches are our stars!

★ Super Nova Stars contributed more than \$300 per member:
Palm Beach County
Clearwater
Daytona Beach

★ Blue Giant Stars contributed more than \$100 per member:
Northern Palm Beach County
St. Augustine
Sun City Center
Gainesville
Punta Gorda/Port Charlotte
Miami

★ Protostars contributed more than \$50 per member:
Sarasota
Flagler County
Ocala

★ Shooting Stars contributed more in 2019 than in 2018:
Venice
Tampa
New Smyrna Beach
Marco Island
Greater Naples
Pompano Beach
Melbourne
Weston
West Pasco
Jacksonville

★ Other contributors include
Lake Sumter, Manatee County
and Fort Lauderdale.

We hope all branches will support Tech Trek – our AAUW Florida signature program. The week-long summer camps provide rising eighth-grade girls an exciting, hands-on experience in science, technology, engineering, and math.

COVID-19 canceled this summer's camps, but we hope the girls who would have attended will join next year's class for the 2021 camps. And we'll be able to do that with your continued support. ■



1900 N. Atlantic Ave #602
Daytona Beach FL 32118