



Presidents' Letter

In last month's Presidents' letter we addressed where we've been, and where we're going. Continuing that theme, at the March General Meeting new officers were elected to lead us to the future. They will be installed at our May meeting and will be calling on members to serve on various committees during the next program year. We encourage you to be an active participant and say "yes" when asked to chair or participate in a committee. We are certain you will find volunteering in your organization to be a meaningful experience.

Future plans for our local Branch include expanding the activities of the College/University Relations Committee, under the direction of Frankie Smith and Rosella Valentine. Look for more information about these activities in future newsletters and on our Web site. In addition, Frankie, Diane Reichert, and Judy Bonn are researching how we can use Facebook as a tool to promote AAUW's mission and the issues we support. Important issues we continue to work for are equal pay for women and human trafficking. To learn more, please plan to attend future General Meetings and see page 9 of this newsletter for information on these topics. And thanks to Diane and her co-Webmaster Anne Wilkins for the work they are doing to update our Branch Web site. (See page 5 for details.) The additions will keep you better informed of AAUW activities at the National, State, and local levels. Together we continue to work to fulfill our mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

It's time for AAUW's national election. In addition to selecting new officers, members will be asked to vote on proposed changes to National's public policy program as well as amendments to the organization's by-laws. AAUW's one-member-one-vote policy means that each of us has a voice in the outcome of the election. So watch your mailbox for the Spring/Summer issue of the *AAUW Outlook* magazine because it contains important information regarding the upcoming election. And see page 8 of this newsletter for more election information.

Once again, we have been invited to participate in the semi-annual Belk Charity Sale fundraiser. The spring sale will be on Saturday, May 2, and we are participating again this year to support Amber Sode, one of our scholarship winners who will graduate in December 2015. See page 5 for more information about this event.

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Co-Presidents Margaret Kaufman (L) and Beverly Grappy

Presidents' Letter (Continued from page 1)

And don't forget that our General Meeting this month will be lunch and Polo 101 on Tuesday, April 21 at The Villages Polo Club. We hope to see you there!

Beverly Grappy and Margaret Kaufman Co-Presidents

Meetings and Programs

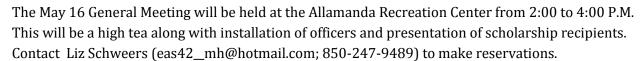
April General Meeting



The April 21 meeting will be held at the Polo Club in The Villages from 11:00 A.M. 'til 1:30 P.M. We will hear a presentation – *Polo 101* – and enjoy a box lunch. Everyone is welcome, but **this is a ticketed event** so contact Linda Ferens (lindamarie255@hotmail.com; 352-633-3175) or Ginger Ryan (virginia.ryan04@gmail.com; 518-421-4454) to get your tickets soon! They are \$16.00 each, which includes the presentation and lunch.

Directions: The Polo Club is located at 703 N. Buena Vista Boulevard in The Villages. This is .5 mile north of 466. Follow signs for parking.

May General Meeting: Break Out the Fine China and Flowery Hats!





Please bring your own china cup, saucer, plate, and silverware. All members will also bring a food item to accompany the afternoon tea. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a sweet dish; M-Z please bring a savory dish. Not clear on what's sweet and what's savory? Check out Whatscookingamerica.net/Menu/HighTea.htm. for sweet vs savory high tea recipes. No cakes or pies, please. Oh, and we also encourage you to wear a hat. Why not?

March General Meeting Follow-up



Thank you to Linda Ferens and Ginger Ryan, Program co-Chairs, for arranging to have Dr. Donald Wyman (pictured at right) speak at our March General Meeting. Recall that Dr. Wyman spoke at our January meeting about Elizabeth Van Lew who was a spy during the Civil War. In March, Dr. Wyman told us of the life of Benedict Arnold, a fearless general during the American Revolutionary War who originally

fought for the American Continental Army, but later defected to the British Army. Dr. Wyman's presentation was informative and entertaining. Thank you also to Liz Schweers and the Hospitality Committee for the delicious strawberry shortcake. Their efforts are sincerely appreciated.



Board Meeting



The next meeting of the Lake / Sumter Executive Board will be from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon on Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at the Sumter County Sheriff's Annex, which is at the corner of 466 and Morse Boulevard. Board meetings are open; all members are welcome to attend. This will be the last Board meeting for the 2014-15 program year. The new Executive Board will resume meetings in August.

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Special Interest Groups

Bridge Groups

Lake / Sumter AAUW offers two Special Interest Bridge groups:

- The Monday Bridge group plays on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 1:15 P.M. (notice the time change); it is open to any interested member who wishes to play regularly. Location is scheduled on a date-to-date basis, with members volunteering to host in their homes. New members are welcome! And the group would appreciate hearing from those who might want to be substitutes. To join this group, as a regular player or as a substitute, contact Mary Ann Swisher at mswisher@mindspring.com or 352-259-3739. The Monday Bridge Group will play this month on April 13 and 27. Hosts will be announced before the meetings.
- The Thursday Bridge group meets on the first and third Thursdays every month at 1:00 P.M. This month, they will play on April 2 and 16. The group is comprised of 12 regular members. Currently they have openings and are always in need of substitutes. If you would like to join the group or substitute, please contact Carolyn Johnson at cgljohnson@comcast.net or 352-751-4103.

Diversity Book Club



The Diversity Book Club meets the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 A.M. at Freedom Pointe. This month's meeting is on April 15, and the book will be *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver. For more information, contact Pat Bays at 352-751-3777 or stanbays@embarqmail.com.

Because all visitors to Freedom Pointe must sign in, Pat has asked that club members arrive no later than 10:25 A.M. She will meet the group in the lobby to escort them to the meeting area. Parking may also be a challenge, so carpooling is encouraged. Club members often go out for lunch after the meeting.

Conversational Mah Jongg

The Conversational Mah Jongg group — it's relaxed and talking is permitted — plays at 1:30 P.M. on the first and third Mondays of each month. This month, the group will play on April 6 at the home of Margaret Kaufman (2507 Beaumont Terrace in Hadley, 352-750-4658) and April 20 at the home of Kathy Howe (1391 Eagle Ridge Drive in Liberty Park, 631-219-4289). If you plan to play, it is essential to contact the best by the Exidest prior to the game Contact April Schlick (excurse game Contact).



tial to contact the host by the Friday prior to the game. Contact Anne Schlick (aroyrogers@centurylink.net, 750-1027) for more information about this group.

Great Decisions



On March 10 the Great Decisions interest group finished an eight-week study on various topics pertaining to United States foreign policy. We learned much about the world and found the chapter on human trafficking, moderated by Dotty Sasmor, of particular interest. Thank you to Carol Richardson and Joyce Swaffield for helping out with organization of the class. We hope to continue the Great Decisions interest group again next year. Anyone interested in viewing the DVD topics

should email Diane Jacobson, chasanddi@embarqmail.com to get on the loaner list for it. To find out more about the program, check out the Foreign Policy Association Web site: www.fpa.org.

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Special Interest Groups (Continued from page 3)

Golf Anyone?



Our group is golfing on Friday mornings, and our reservation is entered into the tee time system on the Sunday evening before we play. Contact Carmel Leese by Saturday evening if you are interesting in playing. The requested time is based on the weather forecast during the winter season. It has been 11:30 A.M. with a window of 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. Golf courses we play alter-

nate weekly between those north of Hwy 466 and those south of Hwy 466. We do not include the courses north of Hwy441 or south of Hwy 466A. If you are interested in joining, contact Carmel Leese (352-751-0119, crleese@gmail.com). You can participate weekly or when your schedule allows as there is no weekly commitment required. But if you haven't participated in the past, also please include your Villages ID number when you call since this is needed for entry into the tee time system.

Branch News

Spotlight on Philanthropy: Public Policy Fund



In 2007, AAUW reorganized its funds, and the Public Policy Fund was one of several grouped together under the umbrella of AAUW Funds. In general, the Public Policy Fund supports AAUW's public policy efforts in advocating for policies and laws that are fair to women. For the 2013-2015 biennium, the organization specified several action priorities for its public policy program. These include

- Civil Rights: Advocating for equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society. Specific issues include human trafficking, hate crimes prevention, affirmative action.
- Education: Supporting a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity. Specific issues include STEM education and sexual harassment and violence in schools.
- Economic Security: Advocating for all women to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Specific issues include pay equity, retirement security, and health care.

Locally, our Public Policy Committee is chaired by Anne Schlick. The function of her committee is to keep the Branch members informed of AAUW's public policy work. Contact her (aroyrogers@centurylink.net; 352-750-1027) if you want to get involved in AAUW's public policy efforts.

Scholarship Committee



Well, the news is all good. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of members of our Branch (that's YOU!), we raised over \$4,000 from our ring fundraiser. That is enough to fully cover the scholarships we'll provide in the upcoming 2015-2016 academic year!

The Scholarship Committee met at the end of March to review scholarship applications and select our two newest winners for the coming year. We will introduce these scholarship recipients to you at our May high tea meeting. It's an exciting time for us!

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Branch News (Continued from page 4)

We want to thank those of you who have stepped up to help Amber Sode to survive this spring semester (January through May) at UCF. She so appreciates your help in getting through her first unpaid teaching internship. Amber plans to attend the April and May meetings, so please take the opportunity to meet her and talk with her about her program at UCF. If you can donate toward her living expenses for her last two months of this semester - April and May – thank you! We have her last semester's expenses covered, thanks to the support of the Trust Department at The First National Bank of Mt. Dora, Rotary Club of The Villages, AAUW Belk Fundraiser (thanks, Bey and Margaret!), and AAUW members and friends. Thanks to you, we are changing lives...one scholarship at a time!

Belk Spring Charity Sale



The bi-annual Belk Spring Charity Sale will be held in their stores on Saturday, May 2 this year. Here is the way the charity sale works.

At the Tuesday, April 21 General Meeting, coupons will be available for you to purchase for \$5.00 each. On May 2 you go to a Belk store and use the \$5.00 coupon toward the purchase of any item. AAUW Lake / Sumter Branch keeps the \$5.00 you paid for the ticket; you will spend the \$5.00 coupon on the item you wish to purchase. It's just that easy!

If you can't attend the May 2 sale date, you can go to a Belk store any day during the entire week of the sale and use your coupon. Belk will keep your purchase, and you can pick it up the day of the sale, or the following week.

Monies raised will be used to fund Amber Sode's second unpaid internship during the fall semester (September through December 2015). Amber is one of our scholarship recipients. We are all proud to say that Amber will graduate in December 2015! And she hopes to be a teacher in Lake County.

If you unable to attend the Tuesday, April 21 General Meeting, please contact Beverly Grappy (bjgrappy@comcast.net; 330-692-1822) and she will mail or deliver the coupon to you.

Branch Web Site Updates



Our Branch Web site (http://lakesumter-fl.aauw.net) is going through modifications and updates. Our co-Webmasters, Diane Reichert and Anne Wilkins invite you to take a look and pro-1tp://www vide feedback to them about the site and how they can make it friendlier to our Branch users. You can contact Diane at reichert05@gmail.com and Anne at ancwilk@yahoo.com. Here's a brief introduction to some of the changes that have been made to the site.

On the **Home Page**, Coming Up and Hot News sections have been added to show upcoming Branch events and news items of importance to the members. These sections will need constant updating so we are asking the membership to please help us keep it current. Some information comes from the newsletter, but we are always looking for new and additional information that will be pertinent to Branch members as well as others from the public who may visit the site.

The 2014 bylaws are posted under **About Us**. They are in PDF format, so you will need Adobe Reader to access them. This document was recently updated to align with National Guidelines, but it is now available for all members to read.

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Branch News (Continued from page 5)

A **Members Only** section has been added to the site. This section is password-protected; the current password is **1998**. The new section contains the 2014-2015 newsletters and the latest carpool list. For Committee members and for members who have volunteered to take on tasks, other working documents (Word files) will be posted as the new ones are generated; for example, job descriptions, current budget, and the like. Not all documents are added yet; more will be added during the summer as the new programming lists and activities become finalized. Plus we hope to have the PDF of the new members' handbook ready for online use.

On the right side navigation panel under **Branch Links** on all of our pages, there is a visible link to our Facebook page. Clicking on the link will take you directly to our Facebook page, which is open to everyone; no one has to join Facebook to view our page. If you click the Facebook link and want to return to our Web page, just use the back arrow in your browser.

Please take a look now at the changes; your feedback is always welcomed. If you find a section that needs a rewrite, or if there are links that aren't working, let us know. And we will be looking for volunteers to help update outdated information.

Member Updates

Please welcome the following new members and add their information to your membership booklets:

Barbara Gaecke 364 Hengan Place

The Villages, FL 32162 Village of Mallory Square babsgaecke@comcast.net

352-259-7799 Drake University, BA

Theresa (Terri) Jevelle 1606 Dutchess Loop

The Villages, FL 32162 Village of St. Charles tjevelle@hotmail.com

352-205-5062

Bloomsburg State University, BS Marywood University, MIS

♦ Kathleen Keul 1748 Black Stone Place

The Villages, FL 32163 Village of Gilchrist KathleenKeul@aol.com

352-633-7132 206-910-2081

City University (Belleview, WA), BS Norwegian School of Economics, MIB

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Branch News (*Continued from page 6*)

Laurel Rowen 1640 Latta Court

> The Villages, FL 32162 Village of Sunset Pointe laurelrowen@gmail.com

352-633-7883 216-408-4291 Brown University, AB

Case Western Reserve University, PhD

Kathleen (Kathy) Scott 2112 Willow Grove Way

The Villages, FL 32162-4342

Village of Bonnybrook

kathleenannscott@gmail.com

570-220-2422

Purdue University, BS

Southern Connecticut State University, MS

Jeannette Tetrault 1778 Millwood Way

> The Villages, FL 32162 Village of Winifred tate1443@aol.com 352-205-8503

Westbrook Junior College, AA

Nancy Wood 422 Hengan Place

> The Villages, FL 32162 Village of Mallory Square nancw@hotmail.com

630-655-8715 650-697-1449

Indiana University, BA

Keller Graduate School, MBA, MHRM

Capella University, PhD

Please make the following changes to your membership booklet:

Peggy Best's new email address is peggy.best47@gmail.com.

State and National News

Tech Trek



Tech Trek will be starting soon and we are anxiously awaiting notification from AAUW Flor**ch Trek** ida regarding which, if any, of our nominees made the cut. We submitted six names from the Lake / Sumter area and one other from Tallahassee. All seven girls are exceptionally well-

qualified for the camp experience. So stay tuned. . . we'll let you know as soon as we hear the results!

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State and National News (Continued from page 7)

AAUW Florida Leadership Conference



AAUW Florida's Leadership Conference will be Friday, April 17, and Saturday, April 18, 2015, at the Melbourne Hilton Rialto Place. Member registration is \$70.00 until April 1; after April 1, registration will be \$80.00. Registration forms are available on the AAUW Florida Web site (http://aauw-fl.aauw.net) as is a tentative conference program. Activities will begin on Friday evening with registration from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. Then, from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. the

State co-Presidents will honor branch leaders at a reception. The opening session on Saturday morning will feature a National update and a viewing of the video, *Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way*. An array of workshops all day, beginning late in the morning and continuing after the noon luncheon, which will feature an after-the-meal guest speaker from National. Workshops will focus on mission-based programs, social media to increase visibility, and engaging volunteers, among other topics.

AAUW National Elections: Membership Eligibility on the Ballot



AAUW's national elections are coming up soon. Online voting begins April 15 and closes June 19 at 9:00 P.M. PT. If you would be more comfortable voting via paper ballot, contact Beverly Grappy (bjgrappy@comcast.net; 330-692-1822) before April 1 and she will request paper ballots from National for all members who contact her. Your ballots will be sent to

you by AAUW National at the address they have on file for you. Paper ballots must be post-marked by May 26.

But you're probably wondering why the big push to bring the election to your attention. There are actually two reasons. One is National's one-member, one-vote policy. That is, as a member of AAUW, every one of us has a vote in how the association operates, and as civic minded and educated women, we are obligated to exercise our voting right in the organization.

But a second reason relates to an issue included on this year's ballot that could have profound impact on AAUW. On the ballot, you will find the candidates for elected office as well as proposed changes to public policy. But in addition, there are several proposed amendments to the by-laws. While most of the changes and amendments appear routine, one of the amendments to the by-laws requires members' attention.

Proposal 1 eliminates the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. That is, any person who supports AAUW's mission and wants to join the organization will be free do to so. This proposal was made by an AAUW member, and it is now up for vote by the full membership. You can read the reasons for the proposed change on the Lake / Sumter Branch Web site (http://lakesumter-fl.aauw.net) where AAUW's National Election Voter Guide has been posted in PDF format. In addition, the Spring/Summer issue of *AAUW Outlook* magazine, which should be in your mailboxes soon, will have information about the upcoming election and instructions for voting both online and by ground mail. In addition, the magazine has your member ID number and a pin number, both of which you will need to access the online ballot. These numbers can be found on the mailing label on the back of the magazine along with your name and address.

Please vote!

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State and National News (Continued from page 8)

Public Policy

Human Trafficking: Last month we explored the problem of human trafficking and reported that Florida's bill mandating the display of human trafficking awareness signs at specific locations had hit a snag and the bill wasn't scheduled to be heard in the Senate's Transportation Committee. Now we learn that the Federal Senators have decided to include anti-abortion language in a bipartisan bill meant to help human trafficking survivors. AAUW believes the only way this bill should pass is without that language.

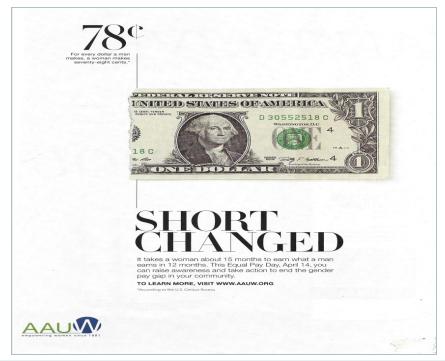


There's still time to contact your Senators and tell them to oppose the human trafficking prevention bill, until the antiabortion language is removed. Call the Capitol switchboard today at 202-224-3121 and ask to speak to your Senator. Or use AAUW's Two-Minute Activist link (http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/) to send an email message.

Paycheck Fairness: In a recent message from AAUW National, we learned that supporters of fair pay in the 114th Congress are preparing to re-introduce the Paycheck Fairness Act in both the House and the Senate. This is a top issue for AAUW as it seeks to achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women. Currently, women earn 78¢ for every dollar a full-time male worker earns. This is not a trivial difference. According to the AAUW Web site, "Over a lifetime of work (47 years), the total estimated loss of earnings of women compared with men is \$700,000 for a high school graduate, \$1.2 million for a college graduate, and \$2 million for a professional school graduate."



We can help by contacting our legislators and asking them to co-sponsor the bill when it is introduced. Use AAUW's Two-Minute Activist link (http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/) to send an email message to your representatives in the Senate and the House – not only to co-sponsor the bill, but also to support it when it comes up for a vote.



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General Meeting Minutes

AAUW Lake/Sumter Branch General Meeting March 14, 2015

Meeting Opening The meeting was opened by the co-Presidents, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and new

members welcomed and introduced.

Minutes The minutes of the prior General Meeting were presented, motion was made to approve,

seconded, and passed unanimously.

Finance The Finance Report was presented by Carolee Litwinka as follows:

Balance (02/09/2015) \$14,125.55 Income \$759.00 Expenses \$269.33 Balance (03/09/2015) \$14,615.22

Membership Diane Jacobson reported that the renewal letters were available at the meeting for pickup.

The renewal is due by July1, 2015, and dues are \$80.00.

Winter Coffees Carmel Leese reported that the February Coffee was quite successful. Another winter cof-

fee will be held Tuesday, March 24 at Perkins. Anne Schlick is facilitating.

Scholarships Rosella Valentine, chairperson, recognized Bonnie Marcoccia for the number of tickets she

sold for the jewelry scholarship drawing. She recognized Amber Sode, a current scholarship member in attendance at the meeting, and announced that several groups in the community are helping support Amber during her student teaching period as she has no

source of financial support and appealed for contributions.

The committee to select this year's scholarship winners will meet shortly and awardees

will be announced at the May meeting.

Finger Food and Fun Sally Whitehurst is hosting a Finger Food and Fun on Sunday, March 29 from 5:00 to 7:00

P.M. Please call Sally if you would like to attend.

Tech Trek Linda Carpenter announced that 14 applications had been received from seventh grade

girls in area middle schools and submitted to the state committee for final selection.

Website Diane Reichert announced that we are now connected to Facebook via a link on the Lake /

Sumter Web site. She also indicated that some additional changes are in the process of be-

ing addressed.

Elections Joyce Tisovec, Chairperson of the nominating committee read the following slate of nomi-

nated officers:

Co-presidents Julee De La Rosa and Anne Wilkins

Co Membership Diane Jacobson and Mary Ann Swisher

Co Secretaries Rosemary Scarfia and Diane Starr

Nominations were requested from the membership and none were submitted. Margaret

called for a vote and the slate passed unanimously.

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General Meeting Minutes (Continued from page 10)

National Voting Beverly Grappy reminded the membership that the voting practice for the AAUW National

Elections is one member/ one vote. Because of changes in some bylaws which are to be voted on this year, all are encouraged to vote. Changes are explained in the upcoming *Outlook*, as is the voting procedure which is to be available online. If you want a paper ballot please contact Beverly by April 1. Note that your personal identification information

needed for voting is on the back cover of *Outlook*

Lobby Day Lobby Day will be held March 17-18 in Tallahassee. Two issues to be addressed are equal

pay for women and human trafficking.

High TeaAnne Schlick reminded that the May meeting will be a High Tea and would include the in-

stallation of new officers. Attendees will be asked to bring teacups, saucers, teapots, etc.

Additional information will be in the newsletter. Reservations are required.

Program Ginger Ryan reminded that the next General Meeting to be held April 21 at the Polo

Grounds requires tickets which are available for sale.

Today's Program Linda Ferens introduced Dr. Donald Wyman who spoke on *Benedict Arnold: An American*

Tragedy.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Wilkins

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Empowering Women Since 1881



Membership Renewal

Don't forget to pick up your membership renewal form at the May General Meeting; forms will not be available at our April meeting at the Polo Club.

And remember. . .dues has been increased to \$80 for the 2015-16 membership year, which runs from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

Send questions, comments, and suggestions about the newsletter to the editor, Linda Carpenter, at lakesumterAAUW@gmail.com

April 2015 Calendar of Events (clip and save)

Thursday Bridge	April 2	1:00 P.M.	Host: TBA
Mah Jongg	April 6	1:30 P.M.	Host: Margaret Kaufman
Board Meeting	April 7	10:00 A.M.	Sumter County Sheriff's Annex
Monday Bridge	April 13	1:15 P.M.	Host: TBA
Diversity Book Club	April 15	10:30 A.M.	Freedom Pointe
Thursday Bridge	April 16	1:00 P.M.	Host: TBA
Mah Jongg	April 20	1:30 P.M.	Host: Kathy Howe
General Meeting *	April 21	11:00 A.M.	The Villages Polo Club
Monday Bridge	April 27	1:15 P.M.	Host: TBA

^{*} The General Meeting is a ticketed event this month.

Golf: March 6, 13, 20, 27; courses TBA