

Lake/Sumter Hi-Lites



Presidents' Letter

As we continue our service as co-Presidents, we thank you for the warm welcome at Lake/Sumter AAUW branch's first General Meeting of 2014-15 held at Leesburg Public Library. Those of us in attendance couldn't help but feel a connection to something "bigger." As we listened to the remarks of our scholarship winners and Tech Trek participants, we saw and felt the fruits of our labor at the local level. At times, there wasn't a dry eye in the room! We listened to our remarkable and capable young women express their hopes and dreams and appreciation. It was truly wonderful! As we used to say in education: If you have the right people in the right seat on the bus, good things will happen. We can only say to Rosella Valentine and her Scholarship committee and Cathy Cirocco and her Tech Trek committee: *Stay in your seats!* Your choices are amazing, and more than impressive. Look for pictures of these young women, as well as others at the September general meeting, on page 12.

Back by popular demand is the resurgence of our holiday fashion show and luncheon fund raiser. Project chairperson, Carmel Leese, is making wonderful plans for this fun-filled event. Look for Carmel's article on page 6. Get your tickets early; plan to reserve a table for your friends and neighbors. Only your participation will secure the success of this project.

Once again, Neighborhood Coffees begin in October (see page 5). Meeting members in a small, informal group is an easy way to socialize with your current AAUW neighbors and get acquainted with new members. Judy Bonn and Barbara Jones, co-Presidents-elect, chair the coffees. We encourage you to participate in these coffee groups so let Judy or Barbara know if you haven't been contacted by the October hostess in your neighborhood.

Members of our Executive Board are enthusiastic and ready to serve in their various capacities. As we move forward and strive to serve effectively to fulfill our AAUW mission, we urge you to pass on your suggestions. Good ideas are meant to be shared and are welcomed.

We hope you will attend monthly General Meetings as they are a great way to stay connected to AAUW friends and activities. We look forward to seeing you at the October meeting at Allamanda Recreation Center.

Beverly Grappy and Margaret Kaufman
Co-Presidents

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Co-Presidents Margaret Kaufman (L) and Beverly Grappy

Meetings and Programs

October General Meeting: Intelligent Voting Women



Do you understand the Florida Constitutional Amendment Process? What do you know about the three amendments which will be on the November ballot? As intelligent voting women, this information is very important to us. So come to our October meeting and hear Beth Hicks and Carol Van Noy of the League of Women Voters explain the process and the amendments.

The meeting will be Saturday, October 11, from 10:00 A.M. until noon at Allamanda Recreation Center in The Villages. No reservations are required. Coffee, bagels, and fruit will be served.

You will have a chance to socialize and pick up your new membership book as well as an opportunity to buy raffle tickets for the beautiful necklace that Gold in Art has donated, buy December's Fashion Show tickets, and donate Angel Books.

Directions: Allamanda Recreation Center is located at 1515 St. Charles Place, The Villages. It is north of 466A and south of Lake Sumter Landing. From either north or south, take Buena Vista Boulevard to St. Charles Place at the Village of Liberty Park gate; Allamanda will be on the right.

November General Meeting: Save the Date

Our General Meeting next month will be on Saturday, November 8, from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 noon at the Captiva Recreation Center in The Villages. The program will be presented by Lillian Lopez, an advocate for migrant workers and homeless people. No reservations are required.



December General Meeting: Get Your Tickets



Our December General Meeting on December 6 will be a gala holiday luncheon and fashion show! See the article on page 6 for more details about this event as well as volunteer opportunities associated with it. But plan to attend, so buy your tickets soon!

New Members Coffee

On September 20, 20 members and new members gathered at the home of Barbara Jones for the 2014-15 New Members Coffee. Co-Presidents Beverly Grappy and Margaret Kaufman spoke about AAUW's mission and goals and how they play out at the national, state, and local levels, and other members of the Executive Board spoke about the functions of their committees. A huge thank you goes out to Barbara for opening her home for this event and for being the wonderful hostess that she is, and to the members who provided the awesome food. Thanks also to Carmel Leese, who donated the prize for a drawing for the new members: Congratulations to new-member-in-process Sandy Bartowski, who won the brunch for two at Lakeside Inn in Mt. Dora. Welcome all new members!



Board Meeting



The next meeting of the Lake / Sumter Executive Board will be from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon on Monday, October 13, 2014, at 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.

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 1:00 P.M.; 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! To join this group contact Mary Ann Swisher at mswiper@mindspring.com or 352-259-3739. The Monday Bridge Group will play this month on October 13 and 27. Contact Mary Ann to find out the games' locations.
- ◆ The Thursday Bridge group plays on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 1:00 P.M; this month, they will play on October 2 and 16. The group is comprised of 12 committed members who call their own substitutes as needed. They rotate hosting duties. **SUBS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS GROUP.** To join the sub group, 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 October 15; the book is *Population 485: Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time* by Michael Perry. The book is available at libraries in Lake and Marion Counties. For more information, contact Pat Bays at 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. Members take turns hosting the games, which are informal, and all skill levels are encouraged to play. This month the group will play on October 6 at the home of Barbara Fisler (471 Gaskin Lane in The Village of Amelia; kiddielit5@comcast.net; 446-0039;) and on October 20 at the home of Rosemary Scarfia (2065 Allure Loop in The Village of Buttonwood; scarfrm@aol.com; 713-299-7213). Please RSVP to each hostess by the Friday prior to the game date, if you want to play.



Educated Palates



Eleven members met at the home of Carolyn Moores to plan the date, location, and menu for the first Educated Palates gathering of the program year. The theme for the dinner is Alaska/Northwest. Members brought many wonderful recipes to the meeting, and the group decided on a common menu and who will bring each dish. Because of the number of interested members, two different dates were selected and each participant chose the date best suited to them. Jan Barone will host on November 15 and Carolyn Moores will host on November 22. Contact Carolyn Moores (hcmoores@aol.com; 352-259-9955) for more information.

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Special Interest Groups *(Continued from page 3)*

Day Trip: Gainesville

The first Day Trip will be in October, and the plan is to visit Gainesville. We will go to Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, have lunch, and go on a shopping trip to Trader Joes. It would be helpful — especially for serious shoppers who want to bring coolers — if those with vans will consider driving. Please look for a firm date and details in an email soon!



Finger Food and Fun



June Love will host our first Finger Food and Fun (FFF) gathering for this program year on October 24 at 5:00 P.M. June's home in the Village of Bridgeport at Lake Sumter (1225 Morton Lane) can accommodate 35 people, so contact her soon to RSVP and get in on the fun. Her phone number is 352-259-3967 and her email address is 12dlove99@embarqmail.com. Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and your own beverage. And, of course, your spouse or partner.

Sally Whitehurst, who is coordinating FFF, is looking for volunteers to host a gathering in January and another in March. As each person attending brings a snack and a beverage, the hosting duties are labor non-intensive. In addition, hosts specify the number of people that can be accommodated in their homes. So if you'd like to open your home for one of these gatherings, please contact Sally (352-259-5257; sallyhw1@yahoo.com) so she can get the event on the calendar.

Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions 2015

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the DVD, and meeting in a discussion group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Lake/Sumter AAUW's group will meet for eight weeks – January 20 thru March 10, 2015 – at the Sumter County Sheriff's Annex on Hwy 466 on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. The books are expected to cost \$20 each and must be ordered and paid for by November 16. Joyce Swaffield will distribute the books at the January General Meeting.



Carol Richardson will be the discussion mediator and has volunteered to prepare the discussion questions for the first session, which is Russia and the Near Abroad. Volunteers are needed to prepare discussion questions for the remaining sessions using the Great Decisions book and DVD as sources. The remaining topics include Privacy in the Digital Age, Sectarianism in the Middle East, India Changes Course, U.S. Policy Toward Africa, Syria's Refugee Crisis, Human Trafficking in the 21st Century, and Brazil's Metamorphosis.

To participate, sign up for the sessions, and/or order the briefing book contact Diane Jacobson (chasanddi@embarqmail.com). All AAUW members are welcome to sign up at no cost for the sessions. Guests of members may attend sessions for a cost of \$20. Space is limited so sign up early.

Golf Anyone?



Golfers have been signing up to start playing golf in October. A meeting with those who expressed interest was held on September 24 at Carmel Leese's home. It was decided that the group will play on Friday mornings, starting October 3, with a preferred tee time of 8:30 A.M. and a window of 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. All level of players are welcome. Contact Carmel (352-751-0119, crleese@gmail.com) or stop by and see her at the monthly meetings for additional information.

Branch News

Spotlight on Philanthropy: Angel Books



Imagine a home without books, magazines or newspapers. Imagine a beginning reader having access only to his school books or the few books in the school library. Over 15 years ago our Lake/Sumter AAUW branch did just that and initiated the Angel Book Project under the direction of Anne Tutoli. Members were asked to donate books for holiday distribution in Lake and Sumter County schools.

Originally, the requested books were wrapped in holiday paper to be gifted to prekindergarten children in the Lake and Sumter County early intervention programs. Recently, however, the Angel Book committee has requested books for readers age 5-10, and that they be unwrapped so that school officials can match each book to the correct grade level and gender.

The Angel Book Committee, co-chaired this year by Emily Holman and Mary Ann Swisher, asks each member to donate two or more new books to this project. They also collect books at our branch's monthly meetings in October, November, and December; and they deliver the books to Lake and Sumter County schools.

Here are the "rules" for this year's Angel Book Drive:

- ◆ We are looking for books suitable for children aged 5–10 years.
- ◆ Books should not be wrapped
- ◆ Books should be appropriate for reading. The key here is *reading*. Many of the children who receive these books have few or no books in the home. So, we do not want workbooks, coloring books, sticker books, board books, used books, or religious books. But picture books, easy readers (fiction or non-fiction), and mid-grade novels are all fine.
- ◆ Books can be hard cover or paperback.



Right before the Winter Break, the books we donate will be gifted to the children in the Lake and Sumter County elementary schools. We want to give these children the gift of reading, and make sure they will have a lovely special book of their very own to read and reread.

Neighborhood Coffees: Let's Get Together!



What if you were a new member of AAUW and you needed a ride to a meeting? Would you feel comfortable calling someone near you on the carpool list if you didn't know them?

What if you wanted to work on a committee for AAUW, but you didn't know the others on the committee? Would you hesitate to volunteer?

It is the job of Barbara Jones and Judy Bonn, our new co-Presidents-elect, to solve those pesky problems for you. They do this by organizing our Neighborhood Coffees that meet monthly during the program year.

Barbara and Judy will be calling some of you soon to ask you to host a neighborhood coffee in October. We will give you the names of several (probably not more than 10) ladies who live in your neighborhood as listed in the carpool list. Your job will be to invite these ladies to get together at your home, a nearby restaurant, a park, or

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Branch News *(Continued from page 5)*

some other gathering place at a time of your choosing and get to know each other better. If you meet at your home, please offer coffee, and perhaps one or two other beverages, and a nice pastry or a sweet bread, or the like. Please do NOT get carried away with your hospitality and serve a spread so grand that it may discourage other ladies from opening their homes, because we want you to be only the first to host one of the neighborhood coffees for your group this year. At your get-together you should chat and get to know each other. Then, before you all leave, someone else should volunteer to host the next one. And so on. Monthly get-togethers would be good if you can manage it. Barbara and Judy would love to be invited to your get-togethers, and if one of us can't make it the other one will certainly try to be there.

We hope to have everyone participate in these coffees so that we all get to know each other and what each of us brings to AAUW. We are a talented lot of women, and we have much to give to our branch. So when we call, we hope you will accept the invitation to host a neighborhood coffee and let's all get to know each other!

Lake / Sumter's Holiday Luncheon and Fashion Show

Logistics. Our holiday meeting this coming December will be a luncheon and fashion show. This will be our major fundraising event for the year to support AAUW initiatives. Mark your calendars for December 6, 2014, 11:00 A.M. at Colony Cottage Recreation Center. Tickets are \$25.00 each and include your choice for lunch and, of course, the show with fashions from Anthony's at Colony Plaza.



La Hacienda Catering will provide a choice of two entrees for this event: Spinach and Waldorf Fried Chicken Salad or Baked Manicotti with a vodka sauce, Prosciutto and Artichokes with a side of vegetables. Lunch will also include dessert, rolls and butter, coffee, iced tea or water. If you prefer a vegetarian entree, either of these entrees can be made without the protein; specify this option when you purchase your ticket.

The Parlor Room at Colony Cottage Recreation Center has been reserved for this event. Doors will open at 11:00 A.M. for admission, and the fashion show will end at 1:30 P.M. We have seating available for 250 guests at tables of eight or nine. And yes, you can reserve a table for you and your guests, friends, or family.

Tickets are on sale now. In addition to admitting you to the program, your ticket will also have your entrée selection on it and will need to be placed by your place setting for the server to bring the entrée you chose. If you are buying tickets for several individuals, please have all your guests give you their entree choice so the tickets can be personalized at the time of purchase.

Raffle Baskets. We will have a Chinese raffle of themed baskets to raise funds during the holiday luncheon and fashion show. Our themes are: Coffee and Tea Time, Entertainment, Wine and Chocolate, Holiday, and Bath and Relaxation. We are in need of donated items for all of these baskets, including the baskets themselves or a container that could be used to hold the items. The items you donate will help make our raffle a great success.

Volunteers Needed. As of right now Carmel Leese is the point of contact for all things dealing with the luncheon and fashion show. But volunteers are needed so this event – our major fundraiser this year – will be a great success. Please consider volunteering for one of the following “positions” and, in the process, getting to know the great women in our organization and the wonderful things AAUW supports. This is the open call for anyone interested in volunteering for the event.

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- ◆ *Fashion Show Chair:* We are looking for someone (or two) to take on the responsibility to head this effort and complete the coordination with Anthony's as well as oversee models, narrator, and helpers.
- ◆ *Models.* Interested in being a model? There will be 15 models and we are aiming for each person to model two outfits. Fashions will be provided by Anthony's at Colony Plaza. You will need to be available in early to mid-November to go to Anthony's for your fitting. Then after lunch, you will go back stage to change. If you haven't done anything like this, now is your opportunity to step out of the box and get a new/different look. We may want a short bio for inclusion in the narrator's notes.
- ◆ *Fashion Show Narrator.* This person will need to ensure we have the script for the outfits, be able to talk in front of a large crowd, and possibly fill in with commentary.
- ◆ *Helpers.* We will also need several general committee workers who can help the models change outfits, manage the flow of the show, and other issues that may arise.
- ◆ *Raffle Baskets.* We need one person to oversee this aspect of the program and a few volunteers to collect and store the items donated, assemble the basket(s), and bring them to the event. The Wine and Chocolate basket is being completed by Mary Ann Swisher and Emily Holman. If you have anything for this basket please let them know.
- ◆ *Raffle Tickets.* Joyce Tisovec has volunteered to sell the raffle tickets, but additional help is needed for this during the fashion show. A table will be set up at the event, but it would be great to have one or two people wandering through the tables selling raffle tickets.
- ◆ *Hospitality.* We need a few people to set up and break down for the event. Our Hospitality Committee will be doing table decorations and could use a few people to help. Please contact Liz Schweers or Olivia Gombar (352-693-2073, ogombar@comcast.net) for more information about these positions.

Please consider volunteering for this event. Contact Carmel Leese (crleese@gmail.com, 325-751-0119) or see her at the October General Meeting to volunteer or for answers to your questions or additional information.

Voter Registration At LSSC

On 9/11/14, Cathy Cirocco, Priscilla Millier and Rosella Valentine represented AAUW by attending "Connections Week" on the Lake-Sumter State College (LSSC) campus to encourage students there to register to vote. Carole Clarke, a local political activist, was also involved in the registrations. We registered 23 students and provided a pizza lunch, which was a very successful venture. It was also a very enjoyable experience interacting with the young women, some of whom wanted more information about AAUW. Pictured at the event are (L-R) Cathy Cirocco, Carole Clarke, Priscilla Millier, and Rosella Valentine.



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Proposed Dues Increase

The Executive Board has approved a proposal made by co-Finance Director Barbara Fidler to increase our annual dues from \$74 to \$80. If passed by the membership at our October meeting, this increase would take effect in the spring for our 2015-16 dues.



There are two reasons for this proposed increase.

1. AAUW is a national organization with a presence at the national and state levels. Most of our \$74 in dues goes to support AAUW at the national level (\$49) and the state level (\$12). Our local branch keeps just \$13 of this money. With 138 members at this time, we can keep \$1,794 in dues, which is insufficient to support branch operations.
2. As a national organization, we do not get free room rental at area meeting venues. In The Villages, for example, free room space is given to clubs restricted to residents of The Villages. We have members from many communities in Lake and Sumter Counties, which means that we pay \$222 for a two-hour meeting at a recreation center in The Villages. Multiply that by eight meetings a year (they give us one free when we book several) and that is \$1,776 for meeting space alone. That leaves just \$18 for all our other branch expenses, including postage and the printing of our membership booklet. An additional \$6 per member would give us another \$828 to fund the workings of our branch.

As our branch has increased in membership, we need the larger spaces that rooms like those in The Villages can provide. An alternative would be to schedule more meetings at restaurants with meeting rooms. This would cost each member more than the proposed \$6 as members would have to buy lunch at most meetings.

Please contact co-Presidents Beverly Grappy (bjgrappy@comcast.net, 352-750-2233) or Margaret Kaufman (marjo@centurylink.net, 352-750-4658) if you have any questions or concerns about this proposed increase. And be prepared to vote on this proposal at our October General Meeting.

Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates



While we are just beginning the 2014-15 membership year, the Nominating Committee has been charged with finding candidates for several elected positions. These include co-Presidents-elect, co-Membership Directors, and co-Secretary. The election will be at our March 2015 General Meeting, and officers will be installed at our annual meeting in May 2015.

Co-Presidents-elect will serve for one year, 2015-16, and then assume the presidency for 2016-17. The co-Presidents-elect perform duties as directed by the co-Presidents as well as fill in for them as needed. Their main responsibility is to organize and co-ordinate the Neighborhood Coffees.

The Nominating Committee is also seeking Co-Membership Directors for a two-year period, 2015-17. The Membership Committee duties begin at the end of our annual meeting in the spring of 2015 so the Co-Directors meet to form a committee and coordinate with the previous committee. The co-Directors split duties as to new member inquiries, correspondence, and sending new member information to the appropriate Executive Board members,

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such as the newsletter editor and the person who maintains the carpool list. They provide membership pamphlets and membership forms at a table at each of our meetings. The New Member Coffee is another responsibility as well as overseeing membership renewal and contributing to the Members Handbook.

Co-Secretary duties include recording the minutes of any Executive Committee meeting as well as Executive Board meetings and General Meetings. They send out Sunshine greeting cards as needed to members who are hospitalized or ill or have experienced a death in the family. They also send periodic cards to scholarship winners to acknowledge their hard work.

The Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers for these positions, especially if two (or more) people who work well together would like to take on a position. The current position holders will offer their advice and help as needed so do not feel that you will be alone trying to figure out what to do. Holders of these elected positions serve on the branch Executive Committee and on the Executive Board so you will need to attend monthly Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings when they are called by the co-Presidents. You will be part of the decision-making process for the branch. Contact Joyce Tisovec, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at 770-815-0801, for more details on the positions or to volunteer.

Belk Charity Sale: November 8, 2014



Amber Sode, one of our 2013 scholarship recipients needs our financial assistance! As an Elementary Education major at University of Central Florida (UCF), Amber has maintained excellent grades, been named to the Dean's List every semester, and been invited to join Phi Beta Kappa. Her parents are deceased and she has no financial family support as she strives to earn her degree and become a teacher. She currently goes to school full time while working nearly full time at several jobs in order to support herself and pay college expenses. Life is often a struggle for Amber; she has been making it on her own, but just!

Now Amber finds herself facing the same situation that Evelyn Guzman, one of our 2012 scholarship winners, confronted a year ago. In the spring semester of 2015 (January - May) Amber will be required to do a part-time, unpaid teaching internship two days a week, which will allow her to work three days a week to support herself. But in the fall semester of 2015 (August - December), her program requires completion of a full time, unpaid, dedicated teaching internship, five days a week, which means Amber cannot work at her regular jobs and will have no income at that time. She plans to graduate in December 2015.

Here is how we can help Amber! Belk store has invited our branch, one of approximately 20 other non-profit organizations, to participate in their semi-annual Belk Charity Sale on Saturday, November 8. Here is how it works:

- ◆ We sell tickets for \$5.00 each. . .and keep 100% of the profit
- ◆ Belk provides tickets and informational materials. . .at no cost to us
- ◆ Each shopper presents her ticket to the sales associate the morning of the charity sale in exchange for \$5.00 off her first purchase

Or a shopper can go into the store the week prior to the sale, present her ticket, leave her purchase with the store, and pick it up any time after November 8.

Additionally, one week prior to the sale, representatives from participating organizations will sit inside the store and sell tickets. They will keep that pool of money for their own organization. The day of the sale, tickets will be

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sold by sales associates in the store. That pool of money will be split among participating organizations. One hundred per cent of the profits from this fundraiser will be available to Amber for living expenses during her full-time internship. The scholarship committee will disperse the funds to Amber on an as needed basis. Contact Chairperson Anne Schlick (352.750.1027 or aroyrogers@centurylink.net) to purchase or sell tickets or for additional information.

Please help us to help Amber as we have Evelyn Guzman by supporting the Belk fundraiser. She definitely needs our financial assistance.

Member Updates

Please welcome the following new members and add their contact information to your copy of the 2014-15 membership booklet:

- ◆ Kathleen Bogolin 3132 Ranchwood Terrace
The Villages, FL 32163
Village of Gilchrist
847-420-8640
KMBogolin@aol.com
College of St. Teresa, BA
J.L. Kellogg, Northwestern University, MM
- ◆ Rosemary Scarfia 2065 Allure Loop
The Villages, FL 32162
Village of Buttonwood
352-205-8352
713-299-7213
scarfrm@aol.com
University of South Florida, BSN
Florida Institute of Technology, MBA

Please make the following corrections to your 2014-15 members handbook:

- ◆ Janice Broadbelt's new email address is rich4738@centurylink.net
- ◆ Dr. Ruth Ferguson's new address is Steeplechase, 12029 County Road 103, Apt. 202, Oxford, FL 34484
- ◆ Patti Weasel's new email address is weapatrif@aol.com

State and National News

Tech Trek



At our September General Meeting, we heard from two of the three eighth-grade girls from The Villages Charter Middle School who were chosen to attend Tech Trek on the Eckerd College campus in St. Petersburg this summer. Angela Shar, Sabrina Mead, and

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State and National News *(Continued from page 10)*

Lauryn Deak participated in Tech Trek, but only Sabrina and Lauryn were able to attend our meeting and share with us their enthusiasm and appreciation for the opportunity of attending the camp. Angela was unable to attend the AAUW meeting because it conflicted with a class she is taking on Saturdays to learn Chinese.



Lauryn Deak (pictured at left) said "I liked the experience of living on a college campus." Science is her favorite subject. She enjoyed the workshop on making Lego robots and programming them with very detailed instructions, which gave Lauryn the idea that she might want to go to an engineering school. Although she says she's not a "marine biology type," Lauryn found the experience of netting tiny shrimp in the gulf interesting, commenting that "it was exciting to see how something so small could support life." She'd like to help people, perhaps as a doctor or a dentist.

For Sabrina Mead (pictured at right), Tech Trek offered "a lot of amazing classes." She particularly liked the coastal erosion class. "We made islands from sand and built a barrier wall. When the fan simulated a hurricane, we saw how barrier islands stop erosion," she explained. The food chemistry class was also interesting to her, as was learning about the food chain at the Mote Aquarium. Her favorite speaker at Professional Women's Night was a dentist, who referred to her field as a "combination of art and science."



Lake / Sumter AAUW member Cathy Cirotto (pictured at left with Lauryn and Sabrina) served as a Dorm Monitor, and she declared Tech Trek 2014 a resounding success. "The week was filled with activities such as classes, work-shops, field trips, fun and games, all designed to foster more interest in the STEM fields for these top students. Their days were long, their spirits high, and a whole lot of learning was going on. The experience was phenomenal" Cathy said.

[Editor's note: This story was drawn from an article written by Lake / Sumter AAUW Communications Chair Jo Anne Kelch. Thank you, Jo Anne!]

Policy

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). This month we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Far too many women and men still face such violence on a daily basis, but the perception of this abuse is slowly changing and the quality of the response has improved. There is much work to do, but AAUW thanks all who have worked to end violence against women and girls.



Paycheck Fairness Act. Recently, 73 senators from both parties voted to have a debate on the Paycheck Fairness Act, a much-needed bill that would help close the gender pay gap. Then 20 of the senators blocked the bill from moving out of the debate phase and into a final up-or-down vote. We have a gender pay gap that hasn't changed in more than 10 years and a Senate that refuses to vote on legislation that could make a real difference in shrinking the gap. Please let your senator hear how you feel about this. Join the AAUW Action Network today and become a Two-Minute Activist (<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>).

Scenes from September 13, 2014



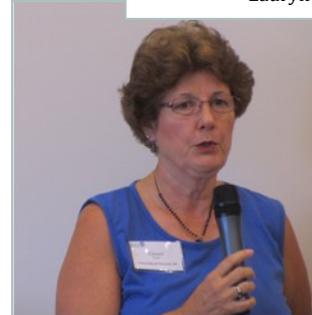
Co-Director of Finance
Barbara Fisler explains the
proposed dues increase.



Tech Trek 2014 Camper
Sabrina Mead



2014 Tech Trek Camper
Lauryn Deak



2014 Holiday Luncheon and
Fashion Show Chair, Carmel
Leese provides a preview of the
event.



Three years of scholarship winners: (L-R) Anna Ruiz,
2014; Ashley Parkhurst, 2013; Sharon Pryor, 2014;
Amber Sode, 2013; Evelyn Guzman, 2012.



Lauryn and partner building a
robot.



2013
Scholarship Winner
Amber Sode



Emily Holman talks about this year's
Angel Book Drive; she and Mary Ann
Swisher co-chair this program.



Sabrina and others research-
ing barrier island soil erosion.

General Meeting Minutes

AAUW Lake/Sumter Branch General Meeting September 13, 2014

Attendance: Marie, Abbott, Susanne Beason, Nancy Bell, Judy Bonn, Gail Braman, Kathleen Buckley, Ruth Carozza, Linda Carpenter, Cathy Cirocco, Pam Cobb, Barbara Fisler, Diane Geach, Beverly Grappy, Evelyn Guzman, Janice Heber, Emily Holman, Iris Holtz, Diane Jacobson, Carolyn Johnson, Margaret Kaufman, Jo Anne Kelch, Jo Knowles, Connie Konatsotis, Carmel Leese, Ann Marie Lombardi, Linda Macleod, Barb Meyer, Priscilla Millier, Carolyn Moores, Ashley Parkhurst, Sharon Pryor, Ginny Rivera, Ana Ruiz, Anne Schlick, Liz Schweers, Carol Sellers, Amber Sode, Mary Ann Swisher, Joyce Tisovec, Rosella Valentine, Patti Weasel, Sally Whitehurst, Jan Barone.

Minutes from the last general meeting were accepted as presented.

Belk Fundraiser delivered by Beverly Grappy.

Anne Schlick chairs the charity sale. A coupon for Belks for \$5 will be sold; AAUW Lake/Sumter keeps the \$5 from each coupon sale. The date for the sale is November 8. Last year, the fundraiser provided extra financial help for Evelyn Guzman for her living expenses.

Treasurer's Report presented by Barbara Fisler.

Balance as of the end of August 2014	\$12,134.98
Income (membership dues	271.00
Expenses	(3,031.98)
Balance as of September 13, 2014	\$ 9,374.90

Of the \$74 dues, the local branch keeps \$13. For the 138 members, the branch keeps \$1,794 out of \$10,210. As the branch grew, bigger venues were/are needed. Since the branch is not a Villages club, there are no free rooms for meetings. We get one free room based on the number of rooms reserved/paid for. We want our scholarship funds for scholarships. A proposal was made to increase dues to \$80 a year for 2015-16. A vote on the proposed increase will be taken at the October meeting. If there is no dues increase, then we will have to pay for food or take monies from the scholarship monies.

Finger Food and Fun delivered by Sally Whitehurst.

The first event is October 24 at 5:00 P.M. at the home June Love for 35 people. Hostesses are needed for January and March.

Membership delivered by Priscilla Millier.

Forty hand-written invitations were sent out for the September 20 new members' coffee. There were seven new members as of July 1.

Voter Registration at LSSC presented by Cathy Cirocco.

On September 12, over a 4-hour period, 23 students were registered to vote.

Tech Trek presented by Cathy Cirocco.

Girls who were going into the eighth grade attended an intensive program for one week last summer in St. Petersburg. Three girls from Charter School attended—Lauryn Deak, Sabrina Mead, and Angela Shar. Lauryn and Sabrina were in attendance at the meeting to report on their experiences.

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Lauryn stated that emphasis was on science and careers in science. Lauryn has decided she wants to pursue a career in science.

Sabrina attended classes on coastal erosion and experimented with robots (building and programming them).

Both young women were thankful to have attended the Tech Trek program and felt that the program was worthwhile and meaningful.

Scholarship presented by Rosella Valentine.

AAUW has been empowering women since 1881. The branch presents four scholarships of \$1,000 each annually—two to women who have completed a two-year program at LSSC and two to the scholarship winners from the prior years.

In 2012 the scholarship recipients were Michelle Benght and Evelyn Guzman. Evelyn will graduate on December 12 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Michelle graduated in August from USF with honors; she studied in Brazil for one month.

In 2013, the scholarship recipients were Ashley Parkhurst and Amber Sode. Ashley spent the past summer abroad in Cambridge where she taught for four weeks. She is entering her senior year and will graduate in May 2014 from USF. Amber is in elementary education, specializing in reading and speech pathology. She has been on the Dean's list every semester and has been invited into Phi Beta Kappa.

For 2014, the scholarship recipients are Anna Ruiz and Sharon Pryor. Sharon received her Associate's degree this past May and will receive her Bachelor's degree in May 2015 in organizational management. She has maintained a B average. Anna, who received her Associate's Degree in Nursing from LSSC, is at UCF and will graduate on December 12.

Angel Books delivered by Emily Holman.

New books will be collected for ages 5 through 10 by Emily and Mary Ann Swisher.

Nominating Committee.

A slate of candidates for president-elect, secretary, and membership is to be announced in January/February. The nominating committee consists of Joyce Tisovec, Diane Geach, Linda Macleod, and Pam Cobb.

Social event and fundraiser (December 6, 2014) delivered by Carmel Leese.

The event consists of a luncheon and fashion show. Donations are needed for five theme gift baskets (wine, chocolate, entertainment, bath, and relaxation). Help and models are needed.

Mah Jongg delivered by Anne Schlick.

The mah jongg is conversational, or beginning. There will be two tables at the home of Margaret Kaufman.

Bridge.

There are two sessions: the 2nd and 4th Mondays in the afternoon, and a Thursday group for 12 people on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. For Thursday bridge, call Carolyn Johnson.

Golf delivered by Carmel Leese.

Starting in October, each month members at any level may sign up for golf on the executive courses.

Newsletter delivered by Linda Carpenter.

The deadline for the October newsletter is September 19.

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Educated Palates delivered by Carolyn Moores.

A meeting is set for September 25 at 9:30 A.M. at Carolyn's home to plan for the November dinner. The theme is Northwest food.

Great Decisions delivered by Diane Jacobson.

Sign-ups for this program continue through mid-November.

Historian delivered by Ginny Rivera.

Contributions from newspapers should be sent to Ginny for a scrapbook.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Barone



Empowering Women
Since 1881



HEALTH NOTE: SHINGLES

Since the development of the shingles vaccine in mid-2000, many persons have received the preventative vaccine. Research is now finding that the effectiveness of the vaccine decreases with time. If you develop the rash —usually on only one side of your body — please seek medical care with 72 hours as there is a medication that decreases the development of the rash and of the semi-permanent condition called postherpetic neuralgia. For more information about shingles and postherpetic neuralgia, visit these Mayo Clinic sites: shingles (<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/shingles/expert-answers/shingles-vaccine/faq-20057859>); post-herpetic neuralgia (<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/postherpetic-neuralgia/basics/definition/con-20023743>).

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

October 2014 Calendar of Events (clip and save)

Thursday Bridge	October 2	1:00 P.M.	Host: TBA
Mah Jongg	October 6	1:30 P.M.	Home of Barbara Fisler
General Meeting	October 11	10:00 A.M.	Allamanda Recreation Center
Executive Board Meeting	October 13	10:00 A.M.	Sumter County Sheriff's Annex
Monday Bridge	October 13	1:00 P.M.	Host: TBA
Diversity Book Club	October 15	10:30 A.M.	Freedom Pointe
Thursday Bridge	October 16	1:00 P.M.	Host: TBA
Mah Jongg	October 20	1:30 P.M.	Home of Rosemary Scarfia
Monday Bridge	October 27	1:00 P.M.	Host: TBA
Day Trip	TBA	TBA	Gainesville