

VENICE VIEWS

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

P.O. BOX 515, VENICE, FL 34284

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AAUW ADVANCES EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, PHILANTHROPY, AND RESEARCH

ALL AAUW VENICE BRANCH MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED THROUGH APRIL.

We are following the advisories from Federal and State government officials.

There is no calendar included in this issue. Members will be informed of the status of activities through email blasts and future issues of Venice Views.

The Scholarship Luncheon scheduled for May 2 is also cancelled.



2020-2021 BRANCH ELECTIONS

The nominating committee puts forth the following slate for the 2020-2021 branch election:

Vice President Susan Farstrup
Program..... Pam Swarts and Wendy Seeley, co-chairs
Treasurer Bobbi Amero
SIGS chair Stephanie Hallowell
Nominating Committee Mary Al Gagnon

Members will be notified about the voting process when that decision has been made.

Thank you to the nominating committee for their diligent work in presenting this slate.

Judy Houston, Suzanne Biviano, Paula Choyke, Susan Farstrup and Maggie Surwillo



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathleen Pickering



We are in turbulent times. The Coronavirus has taken over our lives. AAUW Florida has cancelled the state convention. And we are canceling all meetings and activities through April 30. The scholarship luncheon is also cancelled. Perhaps it can be rescheduled for the fall.

The annual meeting is also cancelled for April. If possible, we will try to hold the annual meeting in May. If we cannot meet in person, we will try to do a balloting by email. The front of Venice Views for April shows you the slate for the board and nominating committee. Any concerns or questions, please call, text or email me.

At our meeting on Thursday, Kim Cool was our speaker and she talked about some of the amazing women she had interviewed. And often times during her talk she mentioned that she had interviewed many women who were just like us. We do have amazing women in our AAUW branch. You are smart, accomplished and just very interesting people. There are some of our members that I would like to give kudos to. Let me start with the amazing co-chairs of the Home Tour, Susan Farstrup and Samira Badawi Easton. They mobilized over 125 women and a few men to make \$30,000 in one day. All the pre-planning and contingency planning in case of rain made this a stellar event. Each year chairs and co-chairs have carried on this work with awesome success.

Next, I would like to talk about Susan Hotzler, a fairly new member, who rose to occasion to chair the Eleanor Roosevelt event. When she came up to me and volunteered, she said, this is what I did for part of my job, organizing large events for 2000 or more. So, she along with Elaine Izzi carried off an event in just a little over a month that raised \$7000 for Teck Trek.

And my final woman who constantly rises to the occasion all year long is Judy Houston. She makes sure our name is always in the news and has developed relationships with the papers. Judy just never misses an opportunity to highlight what AAUW Venice is doing. Her PR and publicity have been recognized by AAUW in the Five Star Program. We are working on getting all of our activities 5 stars, but communications internal and external received the first gold star from AAUW national. Way to go Judy!

I certainly am not Kim Cool, but I believe she would want to interview these awesome women. Thank you to all for your great work for AAUW Venice.

BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE

Paula Dulski, Vice President

Become a Two-Minute Activist for AAUW National



Members of AAUW's Action Network receive urgent e-mail notices and text messages when their advocacy is needed most in Washington D.C. With the online Two-Minute Activist tool on the National AAUW website, it takes just minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women and girls! National provides all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, write letters to the editor for your local newspapers, contact your state legislators about pressing issues, and more. You can choose the areas you have the most interest in: Civil Rights, STEM, Economic Security, Education, Title X, or Pay Equity. The full website is <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/> or google 'aauw two minute activist'.

Member Survey Discussion

We discussed the Member Survey at the March 12 meeting. Members brought up some very good points although the Coronavirus caused many members to stay home. Some of the Q&As are presented here. Contact Paula Dulski if you would like to add your feedback to these questions.

Q: How do we improve outreach to new members?

A: Having a mentor is a great help.

Q: Would an entertaining program be of interest? May we consider a popular speaker who requires a fee? Should we partner with other women's groups to do this?

A: Yes, on all counts. The Eleanor Roosevelt program on February 20 was successful and it was a paid program held at the Civic Center and educated the community about AAUW mission and its Tech Trek camp. There may be others who would be interested in a joint program with us such as the library, historic society, and art center.

Q: Do we meet the needs of the community with our non-traditional scholarships, Tech Trek camps, STEM activities and Work Smart Salary negotiation programs? Brainstorm on new fundraising ideas.

A: The board with the help of our membership will continue to analyze the fundraising targets.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Patti Warner, Membership Director



"How do we improve our outreach to new members?" was a discussion question at the March meeting. Overwhelmingly, the answer was to have Mentors for each new member.

I am happy to announce that we are doing that with our new members. Since May we have had 22 new members and two dual members who are only here for two to three months. We have 18 mentors to date with 4 to still be assigned. In case a new member was not recruited by a member (natural mentor), we have other members who have volunteered to befriend a new member. Mentoring is all about connection.

Another way we have tried to reach out is by having new member coffees twice a year. On March 6 we had seven of our new members attend a coffee with the Board members. It was wonderful for everyone to get to know these amazing ladies that have such successful backgrounds and so much to offer. And it was their time to hear about the opportunities the organization has for them to become involved. Membership is all about CONNECTION and INVOLVEMENT!!!

We still hover around 250 members. We have sadly lost three members unexpectedly this year and in this uncertain coronavirus time PLEASE stay healthy and well.



Coastal Cruisers

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR AAUW MEMBERSHIP AND PAY YOUR DUES

A message from Patti Warner, Membership Director and Fran Potter, Treasurer

Our branch of 250 members (the largest in Florida) has certainly enjoyed a great year – inspiring and informative monthly programs; special interest groups that bring us together to share common interests and opportunities to socialize; three very successful fundraisers that enable us to achieve our mission goals of advancing equity for women and girls. While there are still three months left in this year, with several more programs and activities to come, it's time to think about renewing your membership and paying your dues for the coming 2020-21 year. The deadline to pay dues to be included in the Directory is June 30.

A list of dues amounts for members is below. Pay your dues at the April or May meeting or sent to PO Box 515, Venice, FL 34284. **New for this year is a credit card option.** We will be sending members on April 1st an email through AAUW's Membership Payment Program which will offer you the convenience of paying your dues by credit card using a secure link.

AAUW Venice Branch Dues

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Regular Membership	\$90
Includes: Branch dues of \$19;	
Florida state dues of \$12;	
AAUW National dues of \$59*	
Dual Membership (branch/state dues)	\$31
Paid Life Membership (branch/state dues)	\$31
Printing and Postage for Venice Views	\$15**

Honorary Life Members pay no dues except dual members who pay Florida State dues of \$12

Make checks payable to: AAUW – Venice Branch

* \$56 of the National Dues is deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes.

**If you choose to have Venice Views mailed to you (and you have internet access), the cost is an additional \$15 for the year. There is no charge for those without internet access.

Please note that dues are not prorated, and members must pay the entire amount regardless of the time of year they are paid.

AAUW VENICE BRANCH GENERAL MEETING MINUTES for MARCH 12, 2020

[Editor's note: Minutes are included as written. Please be aware that State Convention, annual branch meeting and Scholarship Luncheon have subsequently been cancelled.]

The meeting was held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on March 12, 2020.

President Kathleen Pickering called the meeting to order at 12:53 PM. Agenda approved by acclamation.

The February minutes were approved as printed in the Venice Views.

Member Announcements

Art in the Afternoon is canceled until further notice

Treasurer – Fran Potter - checking account balance is \$12,359. Savings account balance is \$48203.99. Endowment Fund is \$27164.97 as of 31 January 2020.

President's Update – Kathleen Pickering The State Convention is scheduled for April 18-19, 2020 at Daytona Beach. Conference fee of \$155 includes meals (\$135 for first time attendees). Hotel is discounted to \$116 per night.
The annual branch meeting will be held in April.

Title IX– No report.

Public Policy - No report.

Membership – Carol Carlson reported we currently have 3 new members. New members were introduced.

Development –

- Home Tour – Samira Easton and Susan Farstrup thanked all those who made the event a financial success.
- Eleanor program - Susan Hotzler thanked everyone who made the program a financial success.
- Giving Challenge - Suzanne Biviano reported on the details for the which runs from noon on April 28 until noon on April 29. The Patterson Foundation is matching all unique donations from \$25 to \$100. Suzanne needs 3 volunteers to assist her.

Old Business - Kathleen Pickering - 5 Star program -the Branch has received one star, so far, for communications

Paula Dulski conducted a discussion of three items fro the member survey.

Paula Dulski discussed the 2 minute activist which is available from the National AAUW website <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

New Business – Kathleen Pickering - Board retreat is scheduled for April 7, 2020.
Scholarship Luncheon is May 2, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M. Submitted by Elaine Izzi, Secretary

Member Profile: Meet Joyce Kamm

by Judith Houston



She's a major force behind our directory -- the all-purpose document that holds our branch together. It's our "go to" booklet to find contact information for other members along with listings for meetings, important dates, SIG chairs and bylaws.

Joyce Kamm holds a degree in Civil Engineering from Cleveland State University (Ohio) but spent her 35-year career in the electrical industry with Bell Labs helping commercial customers build networks, most of that time in New Jersey. She understands the challenges that many of our Home Tour scholarship winners face – she earned her degree taking night classes over a ten-year period.

When she and her husband retired in 2000, they initially moved to Old Forge in the heart of New York State's Adirondack mountains, drawn by their love of snowmobiling. They stayed there for seven years until "the snow got unpredictable and the heating bills got higher." They had also been boaters when they lived in New Jersey and they continue to enjoy that here since their move to Englewood 13 years ago. (This is her second time in Florida; she moved to Ft. Lauderdale with her family at age ten and stayed there for the next 17 years.)

Like many of us, she joined AAUW at the invitation of a friend. That was six years ago. In addition to her work on the directory database, she is also a member of the scholarship committee and brings beverages to our monthly meetings. One more thing....she was part of the branch delegation to Lobby Days in Tallahassee this winter. Her involvement in our branch and its mission stems from her belief that "we need to be sure that women are valued."

If all she does for AAUW isn't enough, you might also find Joyce at an area library doing taxes as she also volunteers with AARP during the tax season.

In this increasingly digital world, it's reassuring to have her and the database committee working for us. The output, this almost pocketbook-sized booklet, is a tremendous resource. You might want to give it a closer look.

CELEBRATING WOMEN

By Kathleen Pickering

On our continued journey of celebrating 100 years of getting the right to vote, I want to let you know about Time magazine's great issue on 100 women who have made a difference in the world. Before 2015 only seven individual women had ever been named the magazine's Person of the Year. Time's feature, Man of the Year started in 1927 and was changed to Person of the Year in 1999. It is mind boggling to think that I never heard of some of these women who were part of the fabric of the world.

This article is so interesting, but I am going to highlight just two women, Francis Perkins and Jane Fawcett. One is from the US and the other from England. There are 98 others, some well-known and like these two women, relatively unknown.

Let me start with **Francis Perkins**. She always advocated for the working class. It all began when she was having tea one afternoon in New York when she witnessed a fire in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory where 146 workers died. This event led her to advocate for worker health and safety laws. She later became the state's industrial commissioner. President Roosevelt saw what she was doing and asked her to serve as the Secretary of Labor, the first woman to hold a cabinet position. In that role she was the force behind the New Deal. Many of the programs of the New Deal were her ideas. She served as Secretary of Labor until FDR's death in 1945. She said of herself, "I came to Washington to work for God; FDR: and the millions of forgotten, plain common working men." She resigned from the Cabinet position and served as the Civil Service Commissioner until 1953. She died in New York at the age of 85.

Jane Fawcett, at 18 years old, joined a covert project at Bletchley Park, just 50 miles outside of London, which was the headquarters for the Allied military code breaking. The codebreaking project had engaged 8000 women. Fawcett's contribution to the war effort was that she decoded the location of the German ship the Bismarck. She immediately gave the information to the Navy. That information enabled the Navy to sink the ship which killed 2000 sailors. Later she said, she never told anyone about her decoding, not even her husband. She worked there for five years and then went on to become an opera singer when she grew too tall to be a ballet dancer. She died in 2016 at the age of 95.

NEW MEMBERS

Carol Miske



I was born and raised in Oneida, New York and graduated from the University of New Hampshire with bachelor and master degrees in Home Economics. One semester was spent at the Merrill Palmer Institute of Family Life & Child Development (now part of Wayne State University) in Detroit, Michigan. An interesting part of that semester included high tea every day with all staff members, including a visit with Margaret Mead who was a visiting lecturer. I also graduated from Tufts University with a Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education and served as a graduate teaching assistant. My work history includes teaching home economics and teaching in pre-schools in Massachusetts and New York, as well as, providing guidance to others in various leadership positions. I have a daughter and delight in my grandchildren and now great-grandchild. I

was active in the AAUW branch in Schenectady, New York, when my daughter was young. My retirement came with a diagnosis of cancer and subsequent treatment.



The New Member Breakfast was held on March 6 at the home of Kathy Black. Attending were L-R: Dee Glatz, Jane Carriero, Elizabeth Letcher, Bonnie Hagan, Carol McGill, Carol Miske. Not shown: Elaine Jarchow

WHAT YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Article V of the United States Constitution provides direction for amending the Constitution. Although two different processes are allowed, historically the amendments are proposed by Congress and ratified by three fourths of the several States. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) also known as the Lucretia Mott Amendment, states the following;

“Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.”

In the preamble to the amendment Congress established a seven-year deadline which was extended, by Congress, to 1982. By the 1982 deadline only 35 states had ratified the amendment. Although the final three states have since ratified the amendment five states – Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, Tennessee and South Dakota attempted to rescind or withdraw their approval of the ERA prior to the 1982 deadline. The resolution, either politically or judicially, of both of these issues’ timeliness and rescission, will determine whether the ERA becomes the 28th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Do we really need an Equal Rights Amendment? The late Justice Antonin Scalia suggested that a strict interpretation of the Constitution does not protect against sex discrimination. The ERA will establish a constitutional demand for equality between the sexes. Thus, the ERA is necessary to explicitly ensure that sex discrimination or discrimination on the basis of sex is prohibited throughout the United States. The addition of the ERA to the Constitution will add sex to the list of suspect classes and require the courts to apply the highest level of strict scrutiny to any law which is alleged to be discriminatory on the basis of sex. As an amendment the ERA will prevent current anti-discrimination laws from being ignored, weakened or repealed and end the piecemeal approach to combating sex discrimination in the states. The addition of the ERA would align the United States with many of the countries of the world which affirm the legal equality of the sexes in their governing documents. Other benefits include the ability of Congress to enforce gender equality through legislation, including but not limited to, workplace discrimination, paid family leave and protection from violence and harassment. The ERA would create a social framework which formally acknowledges systemic biases that permeate and limit women’s daily lives. The answer, therefore, is a resounding YES!

For more information see www.equalrightsamendment.org/faq

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Phyllis Hoffman	13	Nancy Donelson
3	Claudette Varricchio	14	Carol Schwenk
4	Stephanie Hallowell	15	Val Dwek
4	Shirley Shea	15	Anita Kunkle
9	Sara Knower	21	Carmen Navarro
10	Melanie Odom	23	DeDee Connor
12	Nancy Bennett	28	Florence Raber
12	Charlotte Whitbread		



CARING AND SHARING

Card of caring and encouragement sent to Ute Gunther
In memoriam-Shirley Schaefer



Venice Views Editor for April

Susan Farstrup

Anne Russell: Printed copy circulation