

VENICE VIEWS

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APRIL 2021

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

P.O. BOX 515, VENICE, FL 34284

PRESIDENT: KATHLEEN PICKERING

BRANCH: venice-fl.aauw.net

STATE: aauw-fl.aauw.net

NATIONAL: aauw.org

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

**OUR ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE IN PERSON
AND OUTDOORS!**

**JOIN US AT THE PAVILLION AT MAXINE BARRITT PARK
ON APRIL 8 AT 11:30**

**WE WILL BE SERVING A BAG LUNCH SO WE NEED TO KNOW HOW
MANY LUNCHES TO ORDER.**

RSVP TO veniceaauw@gmail.com BY APRIL 5

MASKING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE OBSERVED

Maxine Barritt Park is located at 1800 Harbor Dr. S, Venice.

Park entrance is the next driveway past Sharkey's.

2021-2022 BRANCH ELECTIONS

The nominating committee submits the following slate for the 2021-2022 branch election:

President -----Paula Dulski

Secretary -----Bev Weltzien

Membership Director-----Patti Warner

Nominating Committee -----Lynda Weston, Trena Kelly, Bobbi Amero

Thank you to the nominating committee for their excellent work: Susan Farstrup (chair), Beth Gamel, Jan Harris, Jeri Jaminet, and Anita Kunkle.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathleen Pickering



I am getting pretty excited because we are going to meet in person for our Annual meeting. One of the joys we share is seeing one another. Hopefully, you will all be excited as well.

Each month there is a meeting of the Presidents of the Branches in the state of Florida. We share what we are doing in our branches. This time we had quite a discussion on the proposal by AAUW national to change the membership requirements. I would have to say there was an overwhelming support to open the membership to all. With the mission of AAUW, there is no need to have a college degree. Pat Dewitt, the state president, put together a very effective power point on why the membership should be changed. [This PowerPoint is posted on our](#)

[Facebook page.](#) Please review this presentation and be sure to vote from April 7 to May 17.

We also talked about the Zoom convention taking place on April 16, 17, 18. Registration is free, and you can find the links appearing in **floriVision** by clicking [here](#). Our own Bea Holt is nominated for president-elect. It might be fun to gather for the Sunday morning session, where Susan Hotzler and Judy Houston have created a 5-minute segment on our UnTour. Other branches will also be making presentations. So, get your AAUW friends together to watch the Zoom annual meeting and our presentation. Other sessions of the Zoom virtual leadership conference will also be interesting so I hope you will register to view as many as you can.

There are so many good webinars available from AAUW National. There are several on inclusiveness. Our branch certainly needs help on having a more diverse membership and also learning more about appropriate steps to become a more inclusive branch.

So much ahead for us; we have lots to do. And the SIGS will begin meeting again which is also great time to reconnect. We have much to look forward to in the coming program year!

See you at our VENICE BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING, April 8 at Maxine Barritt Park.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4 Stephanie Hallowell
10 Melanie Odom
13 Carol Schwenk



13 Nancy Donelson
15 Anita Kunkle
23 DeDee Connor



Virtual Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting

April 16, 17, & 18

"Women Together in the Sunshine State"

April 16th – Zoom sign-in begins at 4 pm

- ~View video of branch successes.
- ~Announcement of Named Gift Awards.
- ~Hear keynote speaker, Janet Petro, Deputy Director, NASA, Kennedy Space Center "***Adapting to New Challenges***" at 5 pm-6 pm.

April 17th - Saturday Morning

9:30 am to 10:30 am: Session on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- ~Review the DEI Tool Kit online at aauw.org.
- ~Learn how to start difficult conversations.
- ~Explore key terms and concepts including the "16 Dimensions of Diversity" and "Intersectionality".

11 am to Noon: Session on Economic Security

- ~Define financial literacy for women.
- ~Investigate resources.
- ~Discuss policy implications.

April 18th - Sunday Morning

Branches share their 2020 highlight from 9:30 am-10:30 am.

Annual Meeting – 11 am-Noon.

- ~Election of officers
- ~Review of proposed bylaw changes
- ~Pros and cons of proposed changes in membership requirements.

The Leadership Conference is a Biennial Event. Watch for Updates!

Member Profile: Kathleen Pickering

by Judith Houston, Communications Chair

She spent her professional life supporting girls – through executive positions with the Girl Scouts and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

For the past four years as branch president, she brought Venice her organizational skills and broadened the decision-making and responsibilities of all board members. They now, in many cases, have other members reporting to them with the direction the branch takes based on a wider footing.

She grew up in Neenah, Wisconsin, the middle child in a family of four with two sisters and a brother. Her decision to enroll at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire was prompted by a desire to spread her wings beyond her hometown. She left the university with a double degree, in sociology and business. While at college, she and friends she made there launched a sorority. It's an experience she says taught her "a ton" about organizations, lessons she didn't get in her business classes.

We all know Kathleen's love of fashion. After college, she embarked on a retailing career but health issues forced her to rethink that strategy which "frankly, involves a lot of time on your feet."

She spent the rest of her professional life in the non-profit sector, beginning with the Girl Scouts in St. Paul, Minnesota, as a field director, then on to Green Bay as its CEO. From there, she moved to the Quad Cities (Moline, Davenport, Bettendorf and Rock Island) as their CEO. While in the Quad Cities, she met her husband Bill.

Her husband's business took them to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she says "I was fortunate to be selected as CEO of the Girl Scouts of Greater Minneapolis. After 18 years, she "retired" from Girl Scouts and went to Big Brothers/Big Sisters as their CEO. While there, she was part of merging the Minneapolis and St. Paul Big Brothers/Big Sisters organizations.

"Retiring" a second time, this time to Florida, she continued to work for Big Brothers/Big Sisters as a development consultant. She also earned her real estate license, had a consulting business and sold a line of clothing.

When she married her husband, his family included a 16-year-old daughter from a previous marriage. She became "extremely close" with her stepdaughter and when the younger woman turned 39, Kathleen formally adopted her.

Like many of us, she joined AAUW after retirement, thinking of it as a way to expand her social connections in her new hometown. "The mission of AAUW is powerful," she says. And she has high praise for its members "and our board is phenomenal."

Her only disappointment – as it is for many of us – is the contraction that Covid-19 has made in the organization as it has in all our lives. She says, "It certainly brought a leadership challenge – not the least was not being able to be together with our members."

She's determined to hold at least one meeting in person before turning over her office to a new president. We'll see her...and you, there!



SOON IT WILL BE TIME TO RENEW YOUR AAUW MEMBERSHIP AND PAY YOUR DUES

A message from Bobbi Amero, Treasurer

The national AAUW Board of Directors studied the financial position and obligations of AAUW as well as its strategic goals and suggested that there was a need to increase National dues over the next three years. The dues will rise by \$3 for (FY) 2022; \$5 for (FY) 2023; and \$5 for (FY) 2024, making the total National dues amount for those years \$62, \$67, and \$72, respectively. All but \$3 of annual dues remains tax deductible.

The past year has been a different and difficult one for all of us. Many of us miss the member meetings, the SIG groups, special programs and of course, the Home Tour. The Board of Directors of the Venice Branch appreciates all the work that we were able to accomplish this year and because of the generous support of our members, we will once again be granting scholarships to non-traditional students. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you at our in person annual meeting.

Soon you will receive an email notice about renewal of your membership for the July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 year. There are two convenient ways to pay your dues: (1) all members will receive an email notice from AAUW's Membership Payment Program which offers you the option of paying your dues by credit card using a secure link. Members who used this option in the past found it easy to do; or (2) you can mail a check (payable to AAUW Venice Branch) to PO Box 515, Venice, FL 34284. The deadline to pay dues so that you will be included in the Branch Directory is June 30.

A list of the dues by membership category is shown below.

AAUW Venice Branch Dues July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Regular Membership	\$93
Includes: Branch dues of \$19	
Florida state dues of \$12	
AAUW National dues of \$62*	

Dual Membership (branch/state dues)	\$31
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Paid Life Membership (branch/state dues)	\$31
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Honorary Life Members pay no dues except dual members who pay Florida state dues of \$12.

Make checks payable to: AAUW – Venice Branch

*** \$59 of the National Dues is deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes.**

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Patti Warner, Membership Director



We continue to march on to the end of the year with our Annual Meeting just around the corner on April 8th. All 188 of us have almost made it through the Pandemic year where we have been creatively conducting business and staying in touch at our Zoom meetings. If you were a Mentor last year, this would be a good time to get in touch with your new member about this upcoming meeting. It would also be a good time to contact one of your AAUW friends that you have not seen in a long time and ask them to come to the meeting with you. It will be wonderful to be together again in person and outdoors at Maxine Barritt Park. Many of us have had our shots but we will continue to distance and wear masks too.

I now have a Membership Task Force committee that has discussed our goals that are listed in our part of the Strategic Plan for next year. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have had our Cocktail Chat with a small group of new members on March 18th. We welcome all these signs of normalcy coming back in our AAUW lives.

So, continue the march safely and with good health and we'll look forward to our seeing you soon.

March Meeting Program Introduces Local Organization

By Pam Swarts, Program Director

The March meeting via ZOOM allowed us to see inside a classroom at Laurel Civic Association, where three staff members shared an amazing educational opportunity for students in the Sarasota School District in need of a boost: after school and summer enrichment!

John Jefferson, Homework Assistance coordinator at Laurel Civil Association used a PowerPoint with video clips to illustrate the innovative and highly interactive ways that students are engaged. He emphasized that the program couldn't exist without caring volunteers, who typically spend one or more days each week working with K-5 students in small groups with homework and/or school projects. The rewards appeared very tangible!!

As Covid eases and vaccines are common, Laurel Civic Association might be a good fit for some AAUW members to volunteer! See the website for more background www.Laurelcivic.org

Speaking of volunteering . . . the final program of the year, May 13th, (and perhaps the final ZOOM meeting) will focus on some of the ways AAUW members can serve as volunteers in the Venice area through community organizations.

More on volunteering . . . In an AARP article, "Long Live the Queen," several habits of Queen Elizabeth II were linked to health benefits – and her longevity! Among them: develop your sense of purpose which can help reduce the risks of Alzheimer's; serve others and put your worries into perspective which can create an infusion of an anti-inflammatory hormone! Is that why people say volunteering makes me feel good?

Un-Tour Fund Raiser Update

By Susan Hotzler, Director of Development

Over the past four weeks the Un-Tour fund raiser has collected over \$2000 at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation. Here is the information that was sent to various groups to seek contributions. We encourage you to send this request for a donation to friends and family members who have bought tickets for the house tour in the past. The email receipt sent to the donor from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation does not indicate the funds are for AAUW but please tell your friends and families that AAUW is receiving the funds.

{Copy and paste this information into your emails}

I am asking if you would be willing to donate just \$25 for our UN-TOUR House Tour to support our 2021 scholarship fund. We have arranged with the Gulf Coast Community Foundation to collect your donation. Click on the link to make your donation via credit card:

<https://www.gulfcoastcf.org/give-now>

Follow these steps:

1. Select Give to Fund and click on Give to Now.
2. Fill in the form and be sure to indicate in the **Special Instructions Box at the bottom of the form** that the donation is for **AAUW Venice Scholarship Fund**.
3. Click **Submit** and provide credit card information. You will receive an email with a receipt for your donation.

To make a donation by check: make checks payable to Gulf Coast Community Foundation and indicate **AAUW Venice Scholarship Fund** on the memo line.

Mail your checks to: Gulf Coast Community Foundation
601 Tamiami Trail South
Venice, FL 34285



Cooks Corner is going to have one event this spring on April 21st at 12:00 noon. Trena Kelly will host at her home in Islandwalk.

Our theme will be CORN OR CARROTS. That means the dish you bring to share should contain either corn or carrots. We will have a great covered dish luncheon and then share how we prepared or bought our dish.

Many of us will have had both vaccines by this time. If you have not, be sure to wear a mask and Trena will have outdoor seating for you. Please call or email Trena with a RSVP. Islandwalk is a gated community and she will leave your name at the gate. Also tell her if your vaccines are completed. It's OK to bring a friend who might want to join, too.

MARCH 11, 2021 AAUW VENICE BRANCH GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was held via ZOOM on March 11, 2021.

President Kathleen Pickering called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Minutes of February 11, 2021 were approved as published in Venice Views.

Treasurer's Report – Bobbi Amero

Balances – savings - \$27957.65, checking - \$13799.59, Gulf Coast Foundation - \$30,116.69

President's Update –

Paula Dulski The April Annual meeting will be held at Maxine Barritt Park. See the Venice Views for details. The Book Exchange will be available.

Bea Holt – April 16-18 are the dates for the state convention. See floriVision for the agenda.

Public Policy – Joan Armstrong

Lobby Days will be held virtually, March 17th.

Membership – Kathleen Pickering

New member cocktail hour is scheduled for March 18, 2021 at 5 PM via ZOOM.

Development – Susan Hotzler -

So far the UnTour has raised over \$2,000.

SIGs – Stephanie Hallowell

Active groups - Coastal Cruisers, Book Club, Cooks Corner (Trena Kelly), Exploring with Camera, and possibly Outdoor Adventurers (Silent Sports will rent kayaks).

Education – Pat Weber/Wendy Seeley

Scholarship Luncheon has been rescheduled to the first Saturday in October at the Venetian Golf and Country Club.

Tech Trek – Four students have been nominated; we're awaiting applications.

Programs – Pam Swarts

April program – we will have the opportunity to socialize with the members at the Annual Meeting.

The topic for the May program is giving back to the community. Those who volunteer in outside organizations are encouraged to contact Pam Swarts.

Communications – Judy Houston – The Gondolier published a news release regarding the UnTour fundraiser.

Old Business –

Bea Holt presented detailed information regarding the national proposal to eliminate the educational requirement for membership. Voting on this issue will take place from April 7 until May 17, 2021. On April 25, 2021 at 7 PM, the state AAUW will host a town hall on this issue.

New Business – Kathleen Pickering motioned that the American Fund be capped at \$100,000 and retains the name – Venice Branch American Fund. Motion seconded by Pam Swarts. Motion passed via hand raise. 30 Yes, 4 Abstention, 0 No.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30AM.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Izzi, Secretary

ONE MEMBER'S OPINION

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed action to alter the future of AAUW by permitting women, without university or college degrees, to be members. Such a change, without a concomitant change in the name of the organization is, in my opinion, problematic. I understand the significance of our name, its provenance and the degree to which politicians and power brokers understand and respect the title. However, to change our membership requirements and retain our name is deceitful—it is certainly not transparent and violates the ethical principles of integrity and veracity. I cannot remain a member under such circumstances.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Barbara Zittel

Editors note: The view from AAUW National regarding this point is “Like the YWCA and NAACP, much of the original meanings are no longer accurate. For example, we are international, not just American. We have been open to individuals with associate degrees, not just degrees from universities, since 2005 and open to men since 1987.”



Coastal Cruisers enjoy a beautiful day in February. Shown are Jane Farley, Sue Luterbach, Anita Tedrow, Elaine Izzi and Paula Dulski.
Not shown are Bobbi Amero, Stephanie Hallowell, Patti Warner and Joan Armstrong.



Venice Views Editor for April:
Susan Farstrup
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