

VENICE VIEWS

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SUMMER 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

MAY MEETING FEATURES PANEL DISCUSSION

The culminating program of the 2020-21 year offered ideas for stepping into the ‘new normal’ and volunteering in the Venice area. Entitled “The Reward of Serving,” the program featured a panel of three women leaders from our community.



The panel, composed of Madeline McGrail, Personnel Director and Coordinator of Volunteers of Venice Theatre; Kara Morgan, Director of Venice Main Street and Mary Moscatelli, Executive Director of the Venice Art Center, was moderated by Jane Farley. Their overarching message was two-fold: organizations such as theirs truly thrive on the support of volunteers, and their volunteers often become passionate promoters of the organization.

Following the panel presentation, AAUW members spoke about personal volunteer experiences. These ranged from working with students to keep them interested in books and learning; assisting at a facility that cares for adoptable cats and collecting career clothes and accessories for the Women’s Resource Center.

Overall, the program reinforced the concept that volunteering IS rewarding in countless ways.

by Pam Swarts, Program Chair

A MESSAGE FROM OUR INCOMING PRESIDENT

Paula Dulski



Stay with the script! That is my aim for the Venice Branch. My enthusiasm is due to the important improvements ushered in by Kathleen Pickering over the past four years and a very enthusiastic board to back me up. The Venice branch will continue to be the biggest and best AAUW branch in Florida.

We have recently voted on whether to eliminate the degree requirement to join. I have considered both sides of the issue. One can argue that skills are as important as degrees. Some point out that a membership requirement is not in the spirit of equity. Others feel that maintaining the status quo supports the feeling of consistency, community, and cooperation. Women are proud of the work they put into their degree and enjoy the feeling of sorority. I will accept the results of the vote. It is my nature to consider all sides of an argument when any change is considered.

Our branch will prosper, despite the frustrating isolation required to combat the Covid virus. That was a temporary upset. Pre-pandemic we had about 250 members. The pandemic reduced our branch to about 190 members. I expect to return to the pre-pandemic numbers fairly rapidly. Our community has many women who have time, experience, and interest in our mission. We appreciate our veteran members who stayed with us through the pandemic; we will reach out to past members to rejoin, and we will recruit talented and friendly women who support the AAUW mission.

.....AND FROM OUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT, KATHLEEN PICKERING

Many thanks to Paula Dulski for contributing a portable sound system to AAUW Venice. It works like a charm and will allow our meetings to take place anywhere.

UnTOUR FUND RAISER UPDATE

by Susan Hotzler, Director of Development

Thank you, members, for supporting our UnTour fund raiser. With our media campaign in the newsletter, the email blasts to names collected at the 2019 House Tour and Eleanor Play, and the diligent work of our members, we have raised \$4,210 to support the scholarships awarded this month. Even during the renewal process of their membership, some people are including a \$25.00 donation for the UnTour fund raiser.

I hope everyone has a great summer and we will see you in the fall!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Patti Warner, Membership Director



As you already know, we have weathered the Pandemic waves this year with a smaller membership attending Zoom meetings. The waves are finally smoothing out, so we were able to have another in-person meeting on May 13 at Maxine Barritt Park. Thirty-two members and one guest were in attendance.

Now is the time to renew your membership and commitment to AAUW and its mission.

Please pay your dues by June 30 so you will be included in the printed version of our Membership Directory. Think about how you will be involved in the organization next year and encourage friends that we missed this year to come back. We will definitely have a more normal and fun year next fall. In the meantime, have a safe, healthy, and wonderful summer!

For all our future meetings and activities, we will be following CDC guidelines. Knowing they will be updated as needed, the current recommendations can be found at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>



DUES are DUE

Please pay your dues before **June 30, 2021** to meet AAUW deadlines and to be sure you are included in the 2021-2022 Branch Yearbook.

AAUW Venice Invoice for 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
Paid Life Membership	\$31

Make checks payable to: AAUW – Venice Branch

Mail check to:

AAUW – Venice Branch

Attn: Bobbi Amero

P.O. Box 515

Venice, FL 34284

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

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

If you have questions about the dues please contact Patti Warner, Membership Director or Bobbi Amero, Director of Finance.

Member Profile: Meet Paula Dulski

by Judith Houston, Communications Chair

Our incoming president has an accomplished history with AAUW, beginning with the branch she joined in Freehold, N.J. where she lived. Her achievements there included stints as public policy director and membership director. In addition, she produced the branch yearbook and chaired their traditional fundraiser, a large-scale book sale. Books were collected for eight months and filled nine rooms for the sale. Buyers came from New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware, as well as New Jersey for the three-day sale.

Since moving to Venice full-time in 2015 and joining our branch, she quickly took on the role of membership director (and as president has a goal of returning our branch to its pre-pandemic levels).

She moved up to vice president in 2019 and has taken the lead for us with National's *Start Smart/Work Smart* program. She says, "These salary negotiation programs teach women at all stages of their careers how to negotiate their pay. The goal is to eliminate the persistent gender pay gap. Participants learn how to research competitive salaries and how to articulate their qualifications and experience."

She realizes that "getting back to normal" is an ambitious undertaking that "includes fundraisers and returning special interest groups back to past levels while following all current CDC guidelines." She's also serious about priorities and goals identified in the branch strategic plan.

On the less serious side, she's an avid tennis player and belongs to a boating group, organizing numerous group excursions for our members on their pontoon boats.

She calls her 36-year research career with pharmaceutical giant Merck & Company, "my dream job." Her bachelor's degree was in zoology, and she earned a master's in biochemistry to "stay competitive."

Widowed in 2017, she is close to two sons and their wives and two grandchildren, all in Staten Island, N.Y. She will finally be able to visit her three sisters and their families in Ohio for the 4th of July holiday. She will be spending this coming summer in Rhode Island and planning, while away, to relaunch AAUW Venice in the best ways possible.



Paula at the helm



Sizzling Summer SIGs

For the die-hard Florida residents - we, who scoff at the steamy heat, rally during the rising humidity, and laugh at our scorched locks... our time has come! Yes! There will be SIG groups triumphant through the dog days of summer. Check out the groups below and contact the leader for further upcoming events. Their contact information can be found in our directory. 😎

Book Group: Lynda Weston and Hilda Dillman

Bridge for Fun: Carol Cudia

Coastal Cruisers: Paula Dulski

Duplicate Bridge: Susan Leege

Euchre: Charlene Turczyn

Exploring w/ Your Camera: Stephanie Hallowell

Lunch Bunch: Paula Choyke



AAUW VENICE BRANCH GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 13, 2021

The meeting was held at Maxine Barrlitt Park on May 13, 2021.

President Kathleen Pickering called the meeting to order at 12:57 PM.

April meeting minutes were approved as published in Venice Views

Finance Director – Bobbi Amero reported that the treasury has over \$42,000. The UnTour has brought in \$3500. The Endowment Fund at Gulf Coast Community Foundation is currently over \$31,000.

President’s Update –

The September meeting will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church if possible.

Public Policy – Joan Armstrong

No report.

Membership – Patti Warner

The Membership Interest Survey was completed by those in attendance.

Development – Susan Hotzler -

No report.

SIGs – Stephanie Hallowell

Active groups - Coastal Cruisers, Book Club, Bridge, Exploring with Camera, Euchre, and Lunch Bunch.

Education – Bobbi Amero

The scholarship committee has selected 7 scholarship recipients. 2 will receive \$4,000 each and 5 will receives \$2,500 each.

Programs – Pam Swarts

No report.

Communications – Paula Dulski – Seeking assistance in a finalizing a professional version of the Power Point program produced in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment.

Strategic Plan – Susan Farstrup – Despite the challenges of the past year, progress has been significant.

Jane Farley made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Jeri Jaminet.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Izzi, Secretary

SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

3	Mary	Fritz
3	Peggy	Wespiser
7	Carolyn	Shrauger
9	Judith	Houston
10	Kathleen	Economides
11	Patricia	Comeau
11	Andie	Mercer
11	Beverly	Weltzien
14	Lois	Odom
14	Anne	Russell
16	Jane	Metcalf
16	June Lee	Reninger
17	Pam	Swarts
19	Phyllis	Currier
19	Mitzi	Fiedler
20	Barbara	Zittel
21	Marge	Ostrom
21	Donna	Wilson
22	Connie	Nelson
22	Phyllis	Vogel
23	Nancy	Pike
23	Barbara	Rao
24	Claudia	Hanley
24	Charlene	Turczyn

JULY

2	Deirdre	Christman
5	Bobbi	Amero
9	Joan	Armstrong
10	Susan	Wood
11	Barbara	Tompkins
16	Kindra	Muntz
24	Elaine	Izzi
25	Irene	Walsh
26	Ruth	Sweetser
27	Fran	Brinkman
30	Marie	Ruvolo

AUGUST

1	Jane	Farley
1	Pat	Knasiak
2	Patricia	Orr
3	Ellen	Franck
3	Catherine	Rodriguez
7	Judith	Ammerman
9	Sharon	Cullinan
9	Frances	Potter
11	Jane Ann	Carreiro
11	Jo-Ann	Heilemann
12	Julie	Fiedler
14	Florence	Bennett
14	Janet	Schotz
16	Carol	McGill
22	Meryl	Balko
26	Nancy	Brex
28	Maggie	Surwilo
30	Susan	Farstrup



SIG NEWS

Thursday Duplicate Bridge

The AAUW **Intermediate + Bridge** group is back. We are pleased to have found a new home - The Floridian (thanks to member Elaine Jarchow). The room is delightful-large and airy. Free coffee and some light snacks are available for players.

We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. Play begins promptly at 10:00 and we are done by 1:00. The cost to play is \$1.00 - with prize money awarded to the first and second pairs in each direction. **Pre- registration** is necessary and members should be fully vaccinated to attend. Contact Susan Leege to register.



THE PERFECT EUCHRE HAND

Lucky Ellen Elie and partner Maggie Surwilo. Two red bowers and the Ace, King, Queen of Diamonds wins you four points for a lay down "go it alone hand" every time. Flo Bennett stands by with no possible defense with her partner Patti Warner, who is not pictured.



Venice Views Editor for Summer edition: Susan Farstrup
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