

AAUW Venice Board Meeting July 8, 2025

In attendance : Joyce Mikulski, President
Lynda Weston, Vice President
Paula Dulski, Treasurer
Susan Donovan, Secretary
Rosemary Smith, Program Director
Susan Hotzler, Co-Media Director
Nancy Brex, Co-Media Director
Hilda Dillman, SIG Director
Debbie Blackwell, Public Policy
Leslie Curley, Education Director

Meeting was called to order at 10:40 am by the president.

Presidents comments:

1. Running a zoom meeting, raise hand to signal a wish to comment, respect other's opinions, follow agenda adjourn in a timely manner (one hour).
2. Reminder that AAUW is a non partisan organization and as such we must use discretion in our activities.
3. Education of the members on history, policy and direction of our branch is one of the priorities of the president.

Treasurer report:

Paula will come to general meetings with a computer, ready to help members navigate membership renewals. \$9,400 operating fund, \$9400 in restrictive funds, and \$14000 in non restrictive funds.

Paula will write articles for Venice Views to educate the members on usage of the branch's money.

Vice President report:

Strategic Planning still needs 2 more members. (Leslie Curley promptly volunteered to be on the committee)

Program Director report:

Difficulty in communicating with Sarasota School District Superintendent's assistant due to an assumption about our branch. A later phone conversation was productive. The request for the Superintendent, Terry Conner, to speak at the general meeting will be reviewed and answered at the next school board meeting.

February speaker's purpose was clarified, female lawyer will address women/elder law.

Media Directors report:

one quarter page ad about Venice AAUW will be place in the Venice Mainstreet publication.

Send any articles of interest to the organization to Nancy Brex to post on the web site

SIG director report:

It was verified that the board must approve any new SIG.

A motion was made and seconded to add a new SIG "educational travel" led by Kathy Black and Debbie Blackwell using any travel agency that meets the needs of the planned outing. Passed unanimously

Banned Books SIG has been renamed Hot Topics and led by Lynda Weston.

Discussion of SIG participation, only members should be included except where there's a precedent of having guests (ie "Evening Out").

Public Policy report:

Unified, collaboration, and educate are the main priorities.

9/14/25 is the date for an event at USF to highlight AAUW at the college level and develop a better relationship with college chapters. Leslie Curley and Debbie Blackwell could offer direction for college chapters.

It was suggested that a program of members telling their story/struggle to obtain an education in science and math.

Education director report:

It was agreed that the report of proposed goals/tasks given ahead of the meeting by the director was excellent. The scholarships from Gulf Coast and colleges were discussed. Tech Trek lack of participation due to schools unwillingness or inability to offer students applications was a topic of discussion. A meeting with the superintendent of Sarasota County Schools is needed to determine further involvement of our branch. There are other opportunities in the community.

New Business:

1.The President wants to see the members involved with collecting food for the underserved population. Suggestion-bring food to general meetings.

2.Our branch needs to get involved in the City of Venice Centennial which continues through 2027.

3.Venice AAUW is in its 50th year. We will celebrate with a "birthday party" at an early General meeting. Kathy Black will be asked to give a history of our branch.

4.Paula Dulski will be the backup for Kathy Doucette, the e blast coordinator.

5.11/8/25 is a morning workshop with PEN that will focus on school choice.

6.Liability insurance for our branch? Paula Dulski will check into that.

7.League of Women's Voters give out copies of the US constitution.

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 11:43 am.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Donovan, secretary