

In attendance:

Joyce Mikulski, President

Lynda Weston, Vice President

Paula Dulski, Treasurer

Susan Donovan, Secretary

Cindy Sproehnle, Membership

Rosemary Smith, Programs

Susan Hotzler, Communications

Leslie Curley, Education

Hilda Dillman, SIG

Leona Crosskey, guest, Chair of fundraiser: Champagne Tea

Meeting was called to order at 9:33 am at Gulf Coast Community Foundation building

President's comments: Successful Holiday Party, praised Kathleen Pickering

Discussion about entertainment and suggestions for future entertainment, 2026 party already booked at Pelican Pointe 12/3/26

After Tea Celebration: Naples Soap Co. in March.

Under ten fast pitch softball team: Joyce will send out dates when schedule is set.

Sheryll Faye, impersonator will be at the Venice Library 1/9/26 at 3:00 pm, free

Leona Crosskey: Author's Tea committee has secured Plantation Golf and Country Club for the event on 2/26. Sold 150 tickets thus far and site will hold 300. Held an education session for those who volunteered to garner sponsors. Will have a packet for volunteers which include: Flyer, Letter (tool) stating AAUW purpose of the fundraiser, Receipt for monies gathered from ads, but would prefer donations. Will send out thank you notes to sponsors and donors. Ads must be submitted by 1/31. Lottery tree was not endorsed by most board members. A schedule for the day of the event was discussed. President will have Leona speak at the general meeting so tickets are sold there. Discussion about the web site and Face Book ad about the event.

Rosemary Smith: Program Director, Terry Conner, superintendent of Sarasota County Schools guest speaker for General Meeting on 1/9. Meeting will be held in the sanctuary. A discussion was held about the lawyer (next month's speaker). It was advised that lawyer keep her presentation general information.

Leslie Curley: Education, 17 nominations from 4 schools for Tech Trek. Applications due 1/31. Difficulties with applications, in the future go directly to schools and meet with teachers. Discussion about needy students, our organization paying application fee, maintaining relationship with school system, send 9 girls to the camp. The board discussed the Venice Housing Authority scholarship offered by Sue Lang.

Cindy Sproehnle: Membership, 138 members, mentorship's progressing, new member breakfast in March. Suzanne Biviano will host.

Public Policy: Report given by Joyce, Our branch is unhappy with several state AAUW choice of pending legislation, Lobby days in Tallahassee is not appealing to members. Discuss voucher system in education at meetings. Educate membership about the voucher system's flaws. USF chapter probably will not form because the students already are involved in the university's Women in Leadership and Philanthropy.

Paula Dulski: treasurer, projection of monies coming in and going out. Fundraisers will generate money Jan., Feb., Mar., Paula went over her report.

Susan Hotzler: communications, Venice Chamber of Commerce, non profit center set up in their parking lot. 10:00-1:00 1/30. Discussion about the benefit of belonging, and participating in the event. Tabled. Discussion about events for nonprofits provided by the Gulf Coast Community.

Lynda Weston: Vice President, PEN has disbanded .

Hilda Dillman: SIG, concerned about lack of participation in some of the SIG groups.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42

Respectfully submitted by Susan Donovan