

AAUW Bradenton Branching Out

February 2020



BRANCHING OUT
EXPLORE EXPERIENCE ENJOY

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President's Message

Dear Members,

Well, members, once again **Trivia Night** was a great success! Many of you had a role in this achievement. A special thank you to **Peggy Butkier** for her attention to so many behind the scene details as well as **Sue and David Hauck** for stumping us with some of the questions again, but we soldiered on! We appreciated the ticket sellers (and the buyers!), the donors of door prizes and baskets, those that put together the raffle items, along with the others who helped to make this a fun and profitable evening. Just under 100 tickets were sold to members and guests. Our net profit of \$1643.80 topped last year's total

~~ Continued at [Marcia](#)

Quick Links

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Program:

Attorney Donna Irvin Sobel "Tax Laws and Philanthropy"

When Donna Irvin Sobel faced huge legal decisions on behalf of her father, she realized how complex elder law can be. She decided to switch her law practice to that specialty and has since worked to help clients and their families negotiate the legal issues related to aging. She comes to us prepared to talk about the recent changes in the tax laws as well as answer questions we have in mind.

Menu

- Greek salad (romaine, capers, cucumber, red onion, artichokes, feta cheese, pepperoncini, kalamata olives with Greek Dressing)

Or

Seafood Crepe Mornay
(Shrimp, crab, whitefish with mushrooms and topped with Mornay Sauce)

- Caramel Cinnamon Sundae
- Water, Coffee, Iced Tea

Member News:

Please welcome our two new members:

- Karen Curlin
- Carolyn Sheets

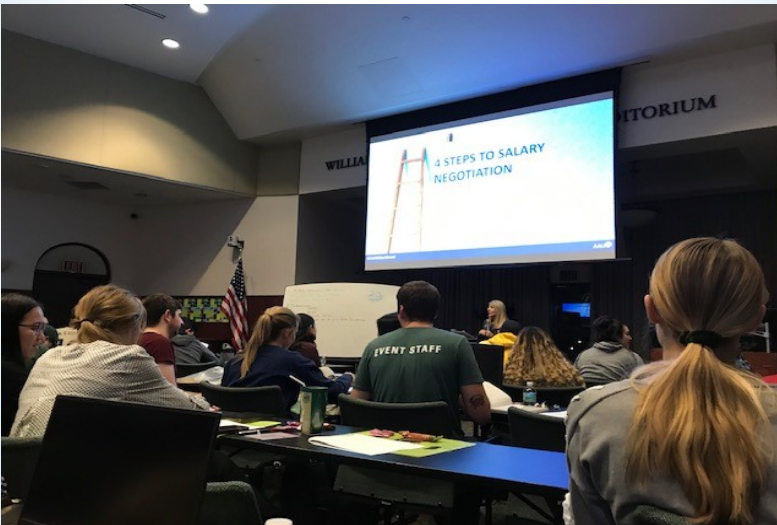
Let's offer a good round of hellos to these folks at our meetings.

Please send any updates or changes to **Barb Coolahan** at bjcoolahan@gmail.com or (740) 816-5095

Marcia –

giving us funds needed to support our branch strategic goals and projects.

Speaking of projects, we co-hosted our 3rd Start Smart workshop Tuesday, February 4, at the USFSM campus. In conjunction with the Women's Resource Center, the Cross-College Alliance, and the Manatee and Sarasota AAUW branches, we welcomed a full house of more than 40 participants from USF, New College and the community. We have added a twist to each workshop we have offered. This session's twist focused on USF Instructor Matthew Karlesky's Strategic Management and Decision-Making Course and was offered as class within the course. Toni Ripo from USFSM's Career Development office facilitated the session. I have included a photo from the evening, but more are posted on Facebook at AAUW-Bradenton Branch.



Our next project in supporting equal pay initiatives (Goal 2 of our strategic plan) is hosting a Work Smart session for local women already in the workforce. We are collaborating with the Women's Resource Center for later in the spring. Want to join the planning team or just have questions about it? Please let know! Our WRC partners are both fun and efficient, so I am sure you'd enjoy it.

Many of you have regularly participated in the Women's Equity Day Celebration each August hosted by the Suncoast Commission on the Status of Women with sponsors including all local AAUW branches and League of Women Voters chapters.

Continued at [President](#)

AAUW BRADENTON

Monthly Meeting

Date: February 18, 2020

Location: Peridia Golf & Country Club, 4950 Peridia Blvd E, Bradenton

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Program: Tax Laws and Philanthropy

Next Monthly Meeting

Date: March 17, 2020

Location: Peridia Golf & Country Club, 4950 Peridia Blvd E, Bradenton

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Program: Suffragettes and Women's Equality

Save the Date

Branch meetings are held 3rd Tuesday monthly September thru May – note time and location each month



On January 15, 2019, the Bradenton Branch of AAUW was awarded \$1350 from the Bradenton Rotary Club. This generous donation will promote participation in the Tech Trek program offered at the state level.

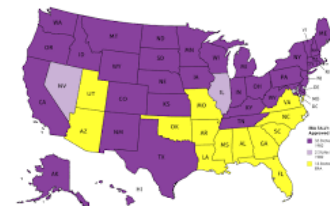
In coordination with the Manatee Branch, it is our hope to sponsor five Middle School participants. The young women who are selected will attend a week-long experience at Stetson University or Florida Atlantic University during June of 2020.

Tech Trek nominees will be recommended through their schools, complete an application, and participate in an interview. Final selections will be made at the State level.

If you wish to make a donation, please contact us at AAUWBradentonbranch@gmail.com.



**ERA Gets #38
Ratification –
Which Means
???**



The State(s) of Equal Pay Laws

For years, state legislators have been making steady strides toward enacting equity laws. In fact, when you step back to see the bigger picture, it looks a lot like a map of the United States. In all, 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico now have some form of equal-pay measure in place. (Mississippi is the lone holdout.)

With the help of our members' advocacy, [last year](#) was particularly active: 11 states passed some form of fair-pay legislation, compared with six in 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015. Of course, we need to keep pushing in 2020 to strengthen state and local laws. If you're interested in working to close the gender pay gap in your state or city, check out AAUW's [state-specific policy guide roadmaps](#), read our latest [research](#), or explore AAUW's [advocacy tools](#). To learn more about state-level developments, check out AAUW CEO Kim Churches' [recent article](#) for MSNBC's Know Your Value.

President --

This centennial year, the luncheon will be part of a multi-day conference at the Sarasota Hyatt Regency. Our branch has always participated in the planning of the luncheon, (thank you, **Mickie McElroy**). We need a representative for this year. The first formal 2020 Centennial Suffrage Conference Committee Meeting is on Wednesday, Feb 26 at 3:30PM at the home of Dr. Mona Jain, 10309 BRADEN RUN, BRADENTON FL 34202 <https://goo.gl/maps/aVhHPqWryqQtZX8eA>

Which of you will represent our branch? Also attending will be Kelly Sciba, Executive Director, and Rita Craig, Chair of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. The committee will discuss arrangements that have been made so far as well as Speakers and Programs for the Conference and 2020 Luncheon to be held at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota from August 21-24, 2020. Chairs and assignments for additional committees will also be discussed. Please email, text or call me if are interested.

Also coming up is the AAUW FL Convention in Dayton Beach, April 18-12. You'll be able to choose from lots of workshops sessions, network with members from throughout the state, enjoy featured speakers such as the keynote speaker Janet E. Petro, Deputy Director, NASA, Kennedy Space Center. Reservations must be made by March 18 to secure the reduced hotel rate. For me, stimulating events like this keep my brain from resembling overcooked squash!

As you can see, we have lots of ways our branch helps support women and girls in our community. I look forward to seeing you for our lunch meeting on February 18th at Peridia and hearing your ideas, too.

Happy February Birthday to **Carol Checovich, Barb Coolahan, Janice Sanburn, and Bridget Windsor!**

Thank you, Marcia

UNWomen hosts 20th year of film festival – Let's Go

This year UNWOMEN is celebrating the 20th year of our film festival, Through Women's Eyes. The films are about, by and for women. We have film films submitted by women from around the world.

There is an Opening Night Party (March 6) and film on opening night at Burns Court, Emerging Filmmakers Showcase (March 7) at Regal Hollywood) and Filmmakers Reception at Sarasota City Center (March 8) in honor of International Womens Day.

More details about individual films and trailers and ticket purchases can be found on the web site, <https://unwomenusa.org/gcc/twe>.



For additional information, contact Eilene Oldwine at beilene1@yahoo.com or at our February meeting.

Mission & Action

AAUW's e-newsletter

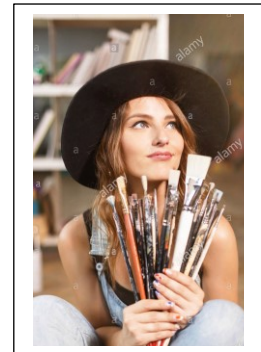


AAUW-Supported STEM Act Becomes Law

In December, the bipartisan [Building Blocks of STEM Act](#) was signed into law, with a little help from AAUW Lobby Corps. The legislation expands educational opportunities in math and science for young women and students of color. Thanks to Nevada Senator Jacky Rosen for championing the bill!

Calling All Artists

Are you a passionate painter? A skillful sketch artist? Do you have a great eye for photography? If so, AAUW offers the perfect opportunity to show off your artistic talents — by submitting to our [11th annual art contest](#)! The contest opened January 7. The rules are simple: submit your photography or a digital image of your painting or sketch through the AAUW website by January 28. We encourage you to consider works that speak to AAUW's mission of advancing gender equity.



Presidential Primary

Voting Dates:



February 6 – 13 - Vote by Mail ballots will be mailed to domestic voters who requested them. Those who have not will receive a sample ballot by mail.

February 18 - Last day to register and/or change your party affiliation in order to vote in the Presidential Primary. Florida is a closed primary state, so **you can ONLY vote for the presidential candidate in the party which you have registered.** Do so online or request a form from the [Supervisor of Elections](#).

Now is also a good time to make sure all your voter registration information is up to date, see where to vote on election day, request a mail ballot, check the status of your mail ballot, and more — again, all online or by phone from your [Supervisor of Elections](#).

March 7 - March 14 - Early Voting Dates. Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

March 17 - Election Day. Find your polling place on your voter information card or from the [Supervisor of Elections](#).



Dear Florida AAUW Members,

Advocacy is an important part of AAUW's mission. We have an urgent request for your advocacy in the pay equity area, and you don't even have to leave home! We need you to **write a physical letter or email from your own address** next week if possible. The Florida legislative session is short and committees will stop meeting in a few weeks.

Background:

Last week, thirty-one members of AAUW of Florida met in Tallahassee to advocate for bills that we consider beneficial to women and girls. One of these bills was very special to us, not only because of its potential impact on the gender pay gap, but because its origin was closely connected with AAUW.

At the 2016 Florida convention, we approached then-Representative Lori Berman, who had just participated in a panel, and asked if she would be willing to write and file an equal pay bill. Florida has a statute that requires equal pay for men and women, but it does not have sufficient detail nor sufficient penalties for non-compliance. It is considered to be a weak statute compared with those in other states. That summer, Berman and her legislative assistant Abby Ross worked with Kate Nielsen from our national office to draft the bill which was filed as Discrimination in Labor and Employment in fall 2016. It was one of the bills up for consideration in the 2017 Florida legislative session. It was filed again for the 2018 and 2019 sessions and is filed for the 2020 session, but neither the House nor the Senate version has ever received a hearing. After Lori Berman moved to the Senate, the House bills were filed by Dotie Joseph and Geraldine Thompson. Sen. Linda Stewart has filed the bill in the Senate for all four years.

Here is a summary of the bill in question (House Bill 739 and Senate Bill 90)

It provides the following protections:

- **Employers can't retaliate against individuals involved in legal proceedings to enforce the law**
- **Employers can't retaliate against employees who discuss wages**
- **Employers can't reduce another employee's pay to comply**
- **Employers can't request salary history**
- **Employers can't provide less favorable career opportunities based on sex**

In addition, employer defenses are clarified: they must be job-related and agreement for a lesser wage is not a defense. The law, if passed, would apply to all employees including those covered by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (which has fewer protections).

What to do now:

As much as we love the AAUW and Florida Action Alerts because of their convenience, a legislator recently told me that the offices often just delete these identical messages. Accordingly, we are asking you to write a physical letter on paper, from your own address; send an email from your own address; or fill in the form on the official website with your own information. It is important to use your own words, but I have prepared a list of talking points that you may use. Do please remember to be civil and respectful. Naturally, these communications are most effective when they come from constituents, but I am hoping this committee chair will recognize her gatekeeper role that affects everyone in the state of Florida.

Continued on Next Page

Florida AAUW Action -- Continued from Previous Page

Write to Chair Fitzenhagen, Vice Chair Mariano, and Speaker Olivia as listed below.

- I am requesting a hearing in the Business and Professions Subcommittee for HB 739, Discrimination in Labor and Employment. (this doesn't have to come first--use your own thoughts, but do include it somewhere).
- Include some of the talking points in the document referenced on previous page.
- Thank the Chair/Vice Chair/Speaker for their attention and work for the people of Florida.

Thank you for being an advocate for women's economic security in Florida.

Sincerely,

Pat DeWitt,

President-elect and Economic Security Chair

Rep. Heather Fitzenhagen

Local headquarters: Fort Myers.

She is an attorney and JD graduate of Nova SE U. She is running for the U.S. Congress seat in her area, District 19, which includes Fort Myers Beach, Bonita Springs, Naples, and Marco Island. If you live there, be sure to mention it! During her tenure as state representative, Fitzenhagen has worked on issues including water quality, mental health, veterans' issues, business deregulation, health care transparency, support for first responders and the fight to end human trafficking. She is interested in ending Federal price supports for industries such as sugar and cheese.

**303 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300**

(850) 717-5078

Direct email: [**Heather.Fitzenhagen@myfloridahouse.gov**](mailto:Heather.Fitzenhagen@myfloridahouse.gov)

Rep. Amber Mariano, Vice Chair

Local: Hudson, FL (Pasco).

She graduated Nova SE U in 2017.

**303 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300**

(850) 717-5036

Direct email: [**Amber.Mariano@myfloridahouse.gov**](mailto:Amber.Mariano@myfloridahouse.gov)

Speaker of the House (has a lot of power and influence)

Jose R. Oliva

Local: Hialeah.

He owns a cigar company.

Address him as: **The Honorable Jose R. Oliva, Speaker Florida House of Representatives**

**420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300**

(850) 717-5110

Direct email: [**Jose.Oliva@myfloridahouse.gov**](mailto:Jose.Oliva@myfloridahouse.gov)

It's Your Vote! Be Heard!



BRADENTON BRANCH AAUW MEMBERSHIP

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

NEW BRANCH MEMBER

****PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY***

Note: The information you provide will be printed in the Branch Membership Directory unless you indicate otherwise.

Member Type and Dues

Membership Type ____ Annual ____ Life ____ Dual (if Dual, name primary branch _____)

____ Dues for Annual Members: \$83 [\$59 National + \$12 State + \$12 Bradenton Branch]
(\$46 of the National Dues plus \$12 Branch Dues are Tax Deductible)

____ Dues for Life Members: \$24 [\$12 State + \$12 Bradenton Branch]

____ Dues for Dual Members: \$12

____ I would like the branch newsletter *emailed* to me monthly - no charge.

____ I would like branch newsletter *snail-mailed* to me. I am adding \$10 to my dues to cover postage.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Nickname: _____

Florida Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Business Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

Email Address _____

The branch sends invitations for monthly dinner meeting reservations by e-mail to save postage. If you do not have email, enter **NONE**. ***Those without email will be contacted by phone.***

Summer Address (if different from above) _____

_____ Zip _____

Summer Phone (____) _____

BRANCH INTEREST -- Check any of the following that you might enjoy.
(It's OK to check all of them!!) (It's also OK to check just 1, 2, or)

- Evening Book Club
- Friday Friendly Bridge Group
- Evening Gourmet Group
- Publicity
- Communications
- Public Policy
- Scholarship Selection
- Membership
- Greeting at Monthly Meetings
- Membership Directory Update
- Website Updates
- Women of Achievement Luncheon
- Trivia Night Event
- Tech Savvy Event
- Work Smart Event
- Other: _____

MAKE CHECK OUT TO "BRADENTON BRANCH AAUW"

MAIL TO:
Barb Coolahan
8832 17t Ave Circle NW
Bradenton 34209
(740) 816-5095
bjcoolahan@gmail.com





Carrie Chapman Catt (1859 - 1947)

A teacher and then superintendent of schools in Mason City, Iowa in 1885, Carrie Chapman Catt went on to serve as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and was the founder of the League of Women Voters and the International Alliance of Women. She was one of the best-known women in the United States in the first half of the 20th century. She was on all lists of famous American women.

Susan B. Anthony selected Carrie Chapman Catt to succeed her as head of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) and was elected president for two terms (1900-1904 and 1915-1920), her second term occurring with the climax of the women's suffrage movement. Catt's controversial decision to support the war effort shifted the public's perception in favor of the now patriotic suffragettes.

Photo Credit: Frances Elizabeth Willard, Mary Ashton Rice Livermore



FRIENDLY FRIDAY BRIDGE GROUP

Every Friday, the Bridge group meets at **10:45 a.m.** at **American Legion** on 75th St. W.

We play until lunch. Then, we order from a menu (good food and reasonably priced) and eat our lunch about 12:00. We follow that with more cards until about 3:00.

From each person, we collect \$2.00 for service tip, and \$2.00 for our Scholarship Foundation.

We welcome new players. Call Lois Blevins at 941.226.2090 (h) or 941.962.0975 (m) to join the group.





The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 pm, in Westminster Tower, Bradenton. All are welcome.

February: Hidden Figures (Margo Lee Shetterly)

The library has 9 hard copies, 1 audiobook, and 1 ebook

Presenter: Mickie

March: Plan for next year

Presenter: Entire Group – bring ideas

National AAUW <http://www.aauw.org/>
Florida AAUW <http://aauw-fl.aauw.net/>

Bradenton Branch

Website: <http://bradenton-fl.aauw.net>

President Marcia Hill: mshanerhill@gmail.com

President-Past: Judy Griffin: jdthgriffin@gmail.com

Scholarship Info: aauwbbscholarship@gmail.com

Meeting Reservations:

AAUWBradentonbranch@gmail.com

Membership: Barb at bjcoolahan@gmail.com

Condolence/Congratulations Cards to Members:
pbissell@gmail.com

Bridge Group: Lois at lwblevins@msn.com

Book Club: Mickie at mickiemc@utexas.edu

Just for Girls: deeisnice@gmail.com

Important to Know

AAUW promotes equity for women, education and self-development over the life span, and positive societal change. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. Founded in 1881, membership is open to all graduates who hold an Associate or equivalent or higher degree.

