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Bradenton Branch

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April President's Message

Dear Members,

I hope you all had a lovely Easter and/or celebratory time with friends and family! It was incredible to see the celebrations of Easter, Passover, and Ramadan all converge this year. I believe we often forget that we have more in common as human beings than many people think. I also believe the work we do as part of AAUW is an important part of building the world we want to see, where all are given opportunities for success, and all are treated with equity and respect.

Many of you probably received the lovely email message from Karen Shimada, the daughter of Lois Blevins. Just in case, I will quote from it below.

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to share the sad news that our beloved Lois Anne Brassor Blevins, 91, passed away on March 3, 2023 from cancer at her home in Bradenton, Florida, surrounded by the family she so loved.

I am attaching the link to her obituary:

<https://baldwincremation.com/obituaries/lois-b-blevins/>.

Please feel free to leave a message or post a memory or photo to share. We will love hearing from the people who cherish and remember her.

She was a remarkable woman who led an extraordinary life dedicated to the children she taught and the family she loved. She played bridge with her friends until weeks before she died, and truly loved every moment she spent with her extended family and friends. Words can't express how deeply she is loved and missed...

In case I may have missed anyone that knew Mom/Lois (my apologies), please feel free to share the link to her obituary. Her address is at the end in case anyone would like to reach out to Bill or our family. In lieu of flowers, there are also two options if you would like to make a donation in her memory.

Thank you for being in her life and holding her spirit and memory close to your heart.
Karen for Lois's Family

Coming so soon after the passing of Mona Jain, I am reminded once again of how much we owe to these inspiring women. Let's rededicate ourselves to being a branch that not only honors the incredible women who have gone before, many of whom are still serving faithfully, but also seek out the women who will create the future!

Meg Newsome, President



SAVE THE DATE

- April 5** **National Election Opens**
Check your email when [National Election](#) voting opens on Wednesday, April 5! This year, AAUW is using a third-party vendor to administer voting. You'll receive a ballot with your unique voting credentials from **vote@simplyvoting.com**. Please add this address to your safe sender list now to ensure your ballot reaches you. Voting closes **Monday, May 15**, at 5 p.m. ET.
- April 18** **Branch Meeting** (Dinner Meeting at Anna Maria Oyster Bar)
For more information, see below.
- April 18** **Rescheduled Webinar - Celebrating Diversity Month**
AAUW's upcoming webinar on Celebrating Diversity Month has been rescheduled to **April 24, 2023 at 2:00pm ET**. If you have already registered, there is no need to take action. If you haven't yet registered, please join us by [registering](#) today. We hope to see you there!
- May 16** **Branch Meeting** (Dinner Meeting at Anna Maria Oyster Bar)
Installation of Officers and Board for 2023-2024.
- May 18** **AAUW Florida 2023 Annual Meeting** will be held via Zoom on Thursday, May 18, 2023, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Plan to participate in the election of officers for 2023-25, hear end-of-year reports from your state officers, and participate in a Town Hall with a representative from AAUW National. Check your AAUW *floriVision* Newsletter for more information.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Our program on the ALICE Project for the United Way had to be postponed.
Instead, our program will be a presentation by

HOPE Family Services

Our guest speaker will be

Dawn Bryant

Chief Operations Officer

HOPE Family Services (HOPE) is a private not-for-profit corporation founded in 1979 and received tax-exempt status under section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in 1980.

<https://www.hopefamilyservice.org/>

HOPE's primary purpose is to provide services to survivors of domestic violence and help them stay safe, gain strength, and evaluate their options.

From the first program until today, HOPE has had one goal; to offer high-quality, life-saving services, which are confidential and offered at no charge for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Our Mission

To promote safety, strength, and well-being for those affected by domestic violence in Manatee County (Florida).

The vision of HOPE is through services and social change; ensure everyone in Manatee County has the skills and information necessary to solve problems in a nonviolent manner, thus eliminating domestic violence.

Services are provided regardless of race, sex, religion, age, disability, ethnicity, national origin, spoken language, or sexual orientation.

Scholarship Foundation News

The completed 2023-2024 report will be presented at a later date.

Please support our scholars by donating to our **Scholarship Foundation** which is a **501 c3**. Make your check, a check from your IRA (RMD), or other payment to:

Make Checks Payable To : BBAUW Scholarship Foundation
Mail To : Bradenton Branch American Association of University Women Scholarship Foundation (BBAUW Scholarship Foundation)
P0 Box 14099, Bradenton, FL 34280

Elaine Graham, President, Bradenton Branch Scholarship Foundation



Tech Trek Update

Greetings AAUW members,

On March 31, 2023, the **Bradenton Rotary Club** awarded **\$1000** to the **Bradenton AAUW Branch**. These grant monies must be used to support the **Tech Trek program**. We have been asked to provide a presentation to the Rotary Club in the Fall of 2023.

On April 7th, we were notified that **3 of our Manatee County applicants** were eligible for participation in the **June 2023 Tech Trek camp**. We will be contacting the families to determine their final decision regarding their participation and college site. Upon their acceptance, our branch will determine how to allocate the funds for 2023 and 2024.

At this time, \$1,107.13 has been generated by our local branch to support Tech Trek. A special thank you to **Mary Schmidt** and all those who have contributed time and money to this great opportunity for our young girls.

Respectfully Submitted by Barb Coolahan, Tech Trek Coordinator



Lobby Days Report - *Continue to Advocate*

Although this year's Lobby Days have ended, our advocacy efforts will continue. The public policy committee is calling on all members to continue to contact your state legislators and share our 2023 Positions on Priority Legislation. [Click here to view.](#)

Let's work to be the change we want to see in Florida.

Please read your **floriVisions** Newsletter for the full report.



Public Policy Positions of Florida AAUW

[Gender Pay Gap Update](#)

What are the country's best-paying locations for women in the workforce? Last week financial website Smartest Dollar published an analysis of data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Census Bureau seeking the answer.

Women working full time in the Tampa Bay area make a median annual wage of \$46,447, compared to the national median of \$49,263, per 2021 data adjusted for cost of living. Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater came in 45 out of 56 large metro areas.

What about men? The national median wage for men is \$60,428. The analysis didn't provide localized data for men.

How does our local area compare? North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton ranked 51 of 94 midsize metros, with women making \$45,675.

What about Florida? Florida ranked last out of all 50 states with women's wage median being \$41,633.

AAUW continues to examine the big picture. The gaps are more staggering for Black and Hispanic women, who earned 70 cents and 65 cents, respectively, to every dollar earned by a white man in 2022. White women earned 83 cents and Asian women earned 93 cents, according to a recently published Pew Research Center [analysis](#).

The 2022 update to AAUW's research report [The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap](#) is available to download from aauw.org/resources/research/simple-truth/

AAUW continues its focus on the gender pay gap as part of the strategic plan's economic security goals.

Read the study from the Smartest Dollar at <https://smartestdollar.com/research/best-paying-cities-for-women-in-2023>

Marcia Hill, Director of Public Policy

NOTICE FROM NATIONAL: Dues Rates

AAUW National dues for FY24 will be \$72 in accordance with the three-year increase implemented by the AAUW Board of Directors back in October 2020. This rate becomes effective in the system on April 1st.

Florida and Branch dues will remain at \$12 for each, or \$24 total.

New members can be submitted at any time and will be charged \$72 for national dues. The Shape the Future discount of 50% off national dues when processing new members remains in effect when applying the coupon code at checkout.



(Clockwise from top Left) CEO Gloria Blackwell at NGO CSW67, Blackwell with AAUW Achievement Awardee and former astronaut Mae Jemison, invitation to White House Women's History Month Celebration, Vice President Kamala Harris, UN headquarters, Blackwell next to portrait of Eleanor Roosevelt. (Center) First lady Jill Biden. Photos courtesy of Gloria Blackwell.

A HISTORY-MAKING MONTH FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Women's History Month is the perfect time to reflect on the progress we've made for generations. AAUW makes history every month through our programs, advocacy and philanthropy. As President Biden noted at yesterday's White House Women's History Month celebration, which I had the privilege to attend, "We reaffirm our commitment to

advancing rights and opportunities for women and girls in the United States and around the world.”

And so does AAUW. Visit our [homepage](#) to see just a few examples of the diverse women who have blazed trails in every field since AAUW’s founding in 1881.

As we move into a busy spring, women’s economic security remains our top policy priority. This month’s Equal Pay Day—where we noted all women workers made only 77% of all men’s earnings in 2021—reinforced that we must push policymakers to [pass the recently reintroduced Paycheck Fairness Act](#) and take definitive action to relieve student-loan debt.

Last week, I was honored to represent AAUW at the 67th NGO Committee on the Status of Women Forum and UN Commission on the Status of Women (NGO CSW67). Our expert panel of fellowship recipients discussed ensuring women aren’t left behind in tech fields and emphasized the urgency of closing the digital gender divide. Programs that engage curious teens—like [AAUW’s STEMEd for Girls](#)—are part of the difference we’re making today to build success for tomorrow.

In Solidarity,

Gloria L. Blackwell
Chief Executive Officer



Leadership

National AAUW: <http://www.aauw.org/>

Florida AAUW: <http://aauwfl.aauw.net/>

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

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Bradenton-Branch-103388217778483>

Bradenton Branch Board: 2022-2023

President: Meg Newsome meggnewsome@outlook.com

Treasurer: Linda Lewis

Secretary: Judy Griffin jdthgriffin@gmail.com

President Elect: Meg Newsome meggnewsome@outlook.com

Director for Public Policy: Marcia Hill mshanerhill@gmail.com

Scholarship Foundation Board President – Elaine Graham: ebebeg@aol.com

Scholarship Information: aauwbbscholarship@gmail.com

Director for Communications: Meg Newsome meggnewsome@outlook.com

