



October 2023

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**Branching Out** is published monthly by the Bradenton Branch of the [American Association of University Women](#), P. O. Box 14009, Bradenton, FL 34280-4099.

**Best Viewed on Full Screen.**

## October President's Post

### Building Bridges

Greetings All,

What a great start to our new year! Your Board members have all participated in planning and preparing for our time together through meetings held in June and September. I am grateful for their active participation and ideas.

Our September meeting focused upon our recent scholarship recipients. Their presentations were inspiring and reminded us of the importance of awarding local scholarships. Through our 50/50 raffle, an additional \$77 was added to the Scholarship Foundation. Thank you to **Sandra Stone** for organizing and leading our program!

On October 17th, we will be meeting at the AMOB (Landside) at 5:30. We will begin with a recent Tech Trek News Video as well as a Question/Answer Session prior to our 6:30p.m. presentation. Two of our Tech Trek Campers will join us via Zoom. Since we are inviting the Manatee Branch members, it is important that you respond to the evite as soon as possible. Seating will be limited to 30 guests. If you have difficulty with the invitation, please contact me and leave a message on my landline 941- 896-6305.

Looking forward to meeting with you!

**Barb Coolahan**  
President

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## Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 17

5:30 PM

Anna Maria Oyster Bar, Landside \*

6906 14th Street West

Bradenton, FL 34207

**SEATING IS LIMITED!**

**RSVP EARLY TO BE ASSURED OF A SEAT!**

### PROGRAM:

We will hear from our Tech Trek Recipients. Manatee Branch is also invited to attend.

Be sure to **RSVP** when you receive the Evite.

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## CALENDAR 2023-2024

<b>Dates:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Topics:</b>	<b>Location:</b>
Oct. 5, 2023	6:00 PM	AAUW Florida Public Policy Issues Forum: discrimination and gender bias in Florida/Title IX (See Public Policy column below.)	ZOOM
Oct. 9, 2023	12:00 PM	LWVMC Hot Topics: Victims of Sexual Exploitation (With <b>Sandra Stone!</b> See below.)	ZOOM
Oct. 17, 2023	5:30 PM	Tech Trek Recipients	AMOB *
Nov. 14, 2023	11:30 AM	Debi Osborne/Land	AMOB

		Conservation Foundation	
Dec. 19, 2023	11:30 AM	Book Exchange/Holiday Celebration	MCF * (Manatee Community Foundation)
Jan. 16, 2024	11:30 AM	Guardian Ad Litem/Toni Jefferies	AMOB
Feb. 20, 2024	11:30 AM	Christi Haley/Pace Center for Girls	AMOB
March 16, 2024	11:30 AM	Cyn McCullough	Country Club*
		Women’s Issues in the Workplace*	
		<b>50th and 75th Anniversary Celebration</b>	
April 16 2024	5:30 PM	LWV Deb Mazzaferro /Floridians	AMOB
		for National Popular Vote	
May 21, 2024	5:30 PM	Installation/plan for 2024-25	AMOB

\* Joint Meetings with Manatee Branch

## October Newsletter - Public Policy

### State Updates

The next **AAUW Florida Public Policy Issues Forum is October 5th at 6pm on Zoom**. AAUW will be welcoming **Nancy Tray** from the **Change the Dress Code Movement** in Florida. She will be talking about discrimination and gender bias in Florida dress codes and the importance of **Title IX**—an essential civil rights law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in education. As you know, this is a key law that guides much of AAUW federal advocacy. Please share with your friends and encourage them to RSVP and join in. More about the forum and the registration link is on the AAUW FL Facebook page and the AAUW-Bradenton Branch Facebook page or you can click on <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/public-policy-issue-forums/>

**AAUW Florida received two requests from the Florida League of Women Voters (LWV)** for branches to help work on voting rights. The **LWV** worked alongside many other organizations to put Amendment 4 on the 2018 ballot and get it passed by over 63% of Florida voters. We anticipated that 1.8 million fellow Floridians would get their voting rights restored when Amendment 4 passed. Sadly, the Florida Legislature undid much of the work of Amendment 4 by passing SB 7066 which drastically reduced the number of people who got their voting rights back. On any given day in Florida, there are approximately 900,000 Floridians who may be eligible to get their voting rights back but may need pro bono legal services to either have their fines and fees converted to community service or to gain assistance in getting those fines and fees paid off.

**Request #1--** The **LWV** has over 500 training legal volunteers who are researching and filing the court documents to help returning citizens get their voting rights restored. If any of you would like to get involved in the pro bono legal assistance, contact me with your phone number and email, and I will forward it to the **Co-Directors AAUW FL Public Policy**. They will arrange for the **LWV** to follow up directly with you.

**Request #2--** The **League** has a list of persons who are returning citizens (persons with prior felony convictions) who may be eligible to have their voting rights restored. They have preprinted postcards that provide guidance on how these citizens can contact LWV's pro bono legal service providers to begin the work of having their rights restored. The LWV simply asks you to address the postcards and write a few words of encouragement on them. The League provides the postcards, stamps, and the list of returning citizens names and addresses but does require the support of the local LWV President who provides a League Leader to attend postcarding events held by nonpartisan local organizations. The League would require you to sign a Nondisclosure Agreement for the protection of the names and addresses of returning citizens.

If you think the branch should honor this request (or if you are interested in it), contact me. I will work with **Kelly Williams, Co-Chair of the Reinstatement of Voting Rights Steering Committee** and a member of the Board of Directors **of the LWVFL** to get us started.

We are always stronger working together!

*Submitted by Marcia Hill, Director of Public Policy*  
[mshanerhill@gmail.com](mailto:mshanerhill@gmail.com) or text 941-704-5381

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**NOTE:** Our own **Sandra Stone** will be a speaker for this timely and relevant discussion!



## UPCOMING EVENT



### **LWVMC Hot Topics: Victims of Sexual Exploitation**

**Monday, Oct 9 • 12:00 PM**

[Click Here to Register](#)

We hear that sexual exploitation and human trafficking is a major problem in the Tampa Bay area and in Florida, and yet we know so little about it. Join this program to learn about the problem, what research shows and how effective are current efforts and resources to tackle the problem. More importantly, what is the impact of those that are being sexually exploited, what happens to those individuals and are there adequate avenues to rebuild her or his life.



Our three speakers include two researchers from the USF Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Risk to Resilience Research Lab, located on the USF St. Petersburg Campus, and the Awareness Coordinator from Selah Freedom, an anti-trafficking non-profit organization headquartered in Sarasota. Dr. Joan Reid, Director of the TIP Lab, is an internationally recognized expert on the topic, and Dr. Sandra Stone has been working with Selah Freedom since 2017. Yvonne Lefebvre represents Selah Freedom, which was established in 2010 and serves victims of human trafficking and the larger community through awareness, prevention, outreach, residential and consulting programs.

***Do not miss this important program!***

**Speakers:**

- **Sandra Stone, Ph.D.** has experience both inside and outside academia in the fields of health, social services and education as a direct service provider, teacher, researcher, administrator and consultant. She has taught a wide range of courses in sociology and criminology, and her primary research interests are in family violence, juvenile delinquency/juvenile justice, women and crime, public policy, and program evaluation. Current research activities include projects with the USF Trafficking In Persons (TIP) *Risk to Resilience* Research Lab, Selah Freedom, and identifying challenges to successful reentry into the community for older, formerly incarcerated individuals.
- **Joan A. Reid, Ph.D., LMHC** is a Professor of Criminology and Director of the USF Trafficking in Persons (TIP) *Risk to Resilience* Research Lab located on the USF St. Petersburg campus. Dr. Reid and her collaborators at the USF TIP Lab are working to transform Tampa Bay from a region characterized by a high risk for human trafficking to a region of resilience. Recently, she was ranked the 5<sup>th</sup> most active human trafficking researcher in the world. Her research has impacted treatment and response to child victims of human trafficking regionally and nationally, and been cited as guidance in human trafficking cases in various State Supreme Courts and the U.S. Supreme Court case *Jane Doe et al. vs. Backpage et al.*, U.S.16-276 (2016).



- **Yvonne Lefebre** is the Awareness Coordinator of Selah Freedom. Yvonne worked as the Practice Manager for several Reconstructive and Plastic Surgery Practices and had television appearances, radio interviews and a column in New York Magazine. When she moved to Florida, she focused on Network Marketing for various Med Spas. When she attended her first fundraiser for Selah Freedom, "Light The Path", she found her new purpose. She is now the Awareness Coordinator for Selah Freedom, and is devoted to spreading awareness on the reality and existence of sex trafficking, and helping turn lives around.

[Click Here to Register!](#)

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**Make a Difference - Join the League!**

**Don't let the name fool you. EVERYONE is welcome.**

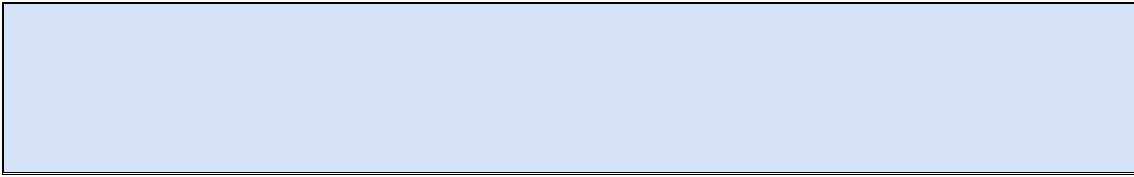
The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state, and national levels.

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**BRADENTON AAUW BRANCH BUDGET**  
**Proposed 2023 - 2024**

**TO BE VOTED ON FOR APPROVAL AT THE OCTOBER 17 MEETING**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Final 2023</b>	<b>Proposed 2023 - 2024</b>
Membership Dues	\$ 1,322.00	\$ 1,248.00
Fundraiser	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Monthly 50/50	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Tech Trek Donations +Rotary Grant	\$ 2,049.00	\$ 1,035.00
Liability Insurance (Foundation share)	\$ 484.50	\$ 250.00
P. O. Box (Foundation share)	\$ 242.10	\$ 125.00
Donations	\$ 55.00	\$ -
Lunches - December	\$ 1,174.00	\$ 750.00
Dinner for Speakers		\$ 160.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 5,326.60</b>	<b>\$ 4,718.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Final 2023</b>	<b>Proposed 2023 - 2024</b>
Membership Dues	\$ 1,169.00	\$ 948.00
Liability Insurance	\$ 484.51	\$ 500.00
Tech Trek	\$ 1,015.00	\$ 1,020.00
P. O. Box	\$ 248.00	\$ 250.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 75.00	\$ 50.00
AAUW Foundation (National)		\$ 200.00
Bradenton Br Scholarship Foundation (Local)	\$ -	\$ 800.00
Supplies (Stamps, Printing)	\$ 39.55	\$ 50.00
Lunches	\$ 788.97	\$ 600.00
Dinners for Speakers	\$ 66.17	\$ 160.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 3,886.20</b>	<b>\$ 4,578.00</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ 1,440.40</b>	<b>\$ 140.00</b>
<b>Linda Lewis, Treasurer</b>		
	<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>7/1/2023</b>
		\$ 13,855.49
	<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 140.00</b>
<b>* From 2022 - 2023</b>	<b>6/30/2024</b>	<b>\$ 13,995.49</b>
<b>Not all income and expenditures from 2022-2-23 are listed</b>		



### **Spotlight on Marianne Harrison**

Each issue of our newsletter will feature one of our members in “the Spotlight.” Our new Director for Programs, Marriane Harrison shines under October’s “spotlight.”

Marianne is a Philly native, but she has lived all over the country from Massachusetts to Hawaii with stops in Illinois and California. Her favorite spot is Half Moon Bay, California where she spent 45 years prior to moving here.

After earning a BA in English from Trinity College in Washington, DC, Marianne pursued in a variety of career roles. She was a cartographer at the University of Chicago, an elementary teacher, and a social worker. In San Mateo, California, she served as the director of a non-profit organization, 4C.

She is no stranger to AAUW. Marianne has been an AAUW member for 47 years. It’s a bonus for us to have her experience from San Mateo as we rebuild our branch after the pandemic. In addition to AAUW, Marianne serves the local community on the United Way Leadership Council as well as working with the Coastside Community Action Council.

Marianne knows how to have fun, too! She isn’t just a worker. She enjoys traveling,

especially to visit her sisters (in St. Petersburg and Mexico) as well as her four children and 4 grandchildren in Texas and California. She visits her brothers and others throughout the country. She has grandchildren in college in Scotland and Norway, offering lots of opportunities for travel.

When she's not zooming away to visit, she likes to hike and swim. She's also active in book clubs.

Marianne's October 8<sup>th</sup> birthday makes her a Libra. Libras are known for being fair, wise, helpful, and friendly. Sounds like the foundation for building a good friendship, so if you don't know Marianne maybe it's time to introduce yourself!

*Submitted by Marcia Hill*

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## **AAUW - Bradenton Branch Strategic Plan 2023-2024**

### **Mission**

**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.**

### **Value Promise**

AAUW promotes programs and research to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

### **Vision Statement**

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

### **Diversity Statement**

AAUW seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

### **Goals and Strategies**

#### **Goal 1 – Membership – Increase and sustain a diverse membership in the Bradenton Branch of AAUW.**

\*Increase media exposure of all Branch projects and activities.

\* Develop a marketing plan that includes outreach to other girls' and women's organizations, communities, schools, colleges and universities, sororities, etc.

#### **Goal 2 – Public Policy – Engage and support the Bradenton Branch in strengthening the AAUW efforts and initiatives.**

\*Increase participation in the 2 Minute Advocate.

\*Support Equal Pay Initiatives.

\*Collaborate with the League of Women's Voters on voter registration.

#### **Goal 3 – Branch Initiatives – Promote and increase engagement in the Bradenton Branch activities and initiatives.**

\*Sponsor Tech Trek STEM Camp for girls entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

\* Provide scholarships for deserving students.

\*Engage and support all Branch activities and initiatives

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**LEADERSHIP TEAM**  
**Officers and Directors for Bradenton Branch**  
**2023-2024**

**President/Administrator**  
**Barbara Coolahan**

**President-Elect/Director for Membership**  
**Mary Schmidt**

**Treasurer/Director for Finance**  
**Linda Lewis**

**Secretary/Director for Diversity**  
**Judith Griffin**

**Director for Programs**  
**Marianne Harrison**

**Director for Public Policy**  
**Marcia Hill**

**Director for Communications/Webmaster**  
**Margaret (Meg) Newsome**

**President Scholarship Foundation/College University Relations**  
**Sandra Stone**

**Treasurer Scholarship Foundation/AAUW Funds**

**Linda Guilfoyle**

**Tech Trek Chair/STEM**

**Linda Guilfoyle**

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

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

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**Committee Members**

**Tech Trek**

Linda Guilfoyle, Marianne Harrison, Patty Benson (Manatee Branch), Marlene Yarnelli (Manatee Branch)

**Scholarship**

Linda Guilfoyle, Sandra Stone, Sue Hauck, Marcia Hill, Doreen Colkert

**Communications**

FaceBook ( Marcia Hill), AAUW site (Barb Coolahan), Evites and Newsletter (Meg Newsome)

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*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.*



## Important to Know

*National AAUW*

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

*Florida AAUW*

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

## About AAUW

We are tenacious and trailblazing — advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future!





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