



President's Message

Spring is finally here. It's such a pleasure to see the grass and trees come to life as the sunny days get longer and the weather gets warmer.

I'm happy to report that our branch will experience a spring renewal as well. We have a slate of officers to elect at our April meeting. You can find the full slate elsewhere in this newsletter. Please plan to attend the April meeting to show your support and appreciation to our soon to be 2026-27 Board of Directors.

If you haven't already done so, reserve your seat for the May luncheon. Marina Jack is the perfect spot for a lovely lunch and lively conversation.

Lois Fisch, President



End-of-Season Luncheon

As we wrap up another meaningful year, we invite you to join us for our End-of-Season Luncheon at Marina Jack's this spring!

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Deadline to Register: Friday, May 8, 2026

Time: Seating begins at 11:30am | Lunch served at 12:00pm

Location: Marina Jack Restaurant, 3rd Tier, 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota, FL 34236

This special gathering is more than just a luncheon. It's a time to:

Reflect on all we've accomplished together in 2025-2026

Celebrate the impact we've made

Connect and strengthen friendships

Debrief, dream, and set our intentions for 2026–2027

There's something powerful about being in one room with women who care deeply about education, equity, and lifting one another up. Let's close this chapter strong, and look ahead with purpose. Seats fill quickly, so please RSVP as soon as possible!

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Kathy Schersten and Carol Bernasconi

RVSP BY COMPLETING THIS REGISTRATION FORM!

SAVE YOUR SPOT VIA OUR WEBSITE HERE!

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NEWS FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee will present the following names for Board positions to be voted on at the April meeting:

President: **Liz Smith** and **Jackie Zukley** as co-Presidents

Treasurer: **Janice Sladzinski**

Director for Programs: **Carol Bernasconi**

The other current officers have one more year in their terms.

Diana Sells

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DUES UPDATE

As of April 1, 2026, AAUW Sarasota dues increased to \$109 because national member dues will increase by \$2 to \$76. The AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase national dues last February 2025.

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PUBLIC POLICY

Reminder: If you choose to use a mail-in ballot, you must renew your request with the Supervisor of Elections after every general election. It's an easy thing to forget.

The Primary is August 18.

It isn't too early to learn about the candidates. They all have websites that can provide lots of valuable information on policies and programs.

Sue McGowan

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BOOK CLUB



The Gulf Gate Book Group

**Tuesday, May 12th, 2026 –
11:30 AM**

**Location: Gulf Gate Library 2nd
Floor Conference Room**

Linda Cornell will be leading the discussion of Sweetland by Michael Crummy. For further information, you can contact Jocelyn Baskey on

Tel. # (419) 559 6319 or email baskey0@gmail.com.

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AAUW Sarasota Ballet Enthusiasts



NEXT PROGRAM

PROGRAM 7
**Foundations of
Royalty**

Sarasota Opera
House

May 2nd, 2:00pm

If you are interested in more information about our Ballet Enthusiast Interest Group, please contact Nancy Brennan at nbrennan617@gmail.com.

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Third Friday Bridge



If you enjoy good company, friendly competition, and a few hours of engaging conversation, we'd love to have you join our Third Friday Bridge Group! Whether you're a seasoned player or just looking to reconnect with the game, this is a wonderful opportunity to gather, play, and build community.

The group meets on the third Friday of each month. If you're interested in participating or would like more details, please contact Maureen Firth at firthent@yahoo.com.



Meeting Dates

Board Meetings

May 5 - 11:00-1:00

June 2 - 11:00-1:00

Branch Meetings

March 18 - 2:00-4:30

April 15 - 2:00-4:30



Save The Date- May 21st
Annual Florida Meeting and Townhall
6:00pm

AAUW Florida
2026 Regional Conferences

*"Leveraging Public Policy as a
Leadership and Membership Tool"*

Join us to network, learn to leverage public policy, advocate, and celebrate!
Registration is Required for Attendees. The Cost of the Event is \$50.
Payment/Registration Details are Below.

Register for 2026 South West Florida
Regional Leadership Conference

<https://www.aaffy.com/en-us/ticketing/2026-west-florida-regional-leadership-conference>



SOUTHWEST REGION

MAR 19: 10am - 3pm

Venice Art Center
300 Nokomis Ave. S.
Venice, FL
Host Branch: Sarasota

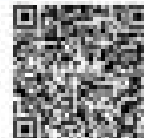
NORTH REGION

APR 11: 10am - 3pm

Cypress Knoll Golf Club
53 Easthampton Blvd.
Palm Coast, FL
Host Branch: Flagler

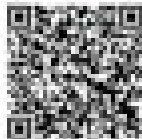
Register for 2026 North Florida Regional
Leadership Conference

<https://www.aaffy.com/en-us/ticketing/2026-north-florida-regional-leadership-conference>



Register for 2026 Southeast Florida
Regional Leadership Conference

<https://www.aaffy.com/en-us/ticketing/2026-south-florida-regional-leadership-conference>



SOUTHEAST REGION

APR 25: 10am - 3pm

N. Palm Beach Library
305 Anchorage Dr.
N. Palm Beach, FL
Host Branch: N. Palm Beach

Save The Date- September 25-27, 2026
AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference 2026
Lancaster, PA!



2025-2026 Board of Directors

Lois Fisch President	Marcia Hill Secretary	Ellen Roche Treasurer
Diana Sells Memberships	Silvia Blanco Director of Programs	Sue McGowan Public Policy
Sue Casey Past President	Estephannie D. Synthesis / Communication	

AAUW SARASOTA

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