



President's Message

Here's a great big thank you to all of you who have provided your hard work, your wisdom, and your support during my two terms. It has been a pleasure to serve as your President.

As I step down, I am very grateful to be passing the gavel to our incoming **Co-Presidents Jackie Zuckley and Liz Smith**. They are ready to lead the Board and the Branch with enthusiasm and dedication. And I am no less grateful to **Janice Sladzinski, taking over as Treasurer; Carol Bernasconi, reprising her role as Director of Programs; and returning Board members Marcia Hill, Secretary; Diana Sells, Membership; Sue McGowan, Public Policy; and Estephanie Dickinson, Communication.**

2026-27 is going to be a great year!

But, the year isn't over yet! If you haven't already done so, please plan to attend our May luncheon. It's not too late to reserve a seat. Let's end the year with good food, good friends, and a toast to an exciting future!

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,

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!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please welcome **new member Vicki Waters**, who will be another dual member with the Manatee branch. Vicki is a long-time AAUW member and has been on the state Public Policy committee. Her email is vwaters@earthlink.net

I regret to announce the death of **Margaret Mills**, who joined AAUW in 1968(!) and was a member in Sarasota for many years as well as in New Mexico, where she had been President of the Santa Fe branch. She moved back to Santa Fe in 2025 so was no longer a Sarasota member but many of us will remember her with pleasure.

Diana Sells

AAUW ELECTIONS



It's now time to vote in the **AAUW Election 2026**. The election ends on **May 12, 2026 at 5:00 pm ET**.

For more information on the candidates and ballot initiatives, please visit <https://act.aauw.org/MemberVote2026>.

If you have any questions, or updates regarding your membership or changes to your address or email, please contact connect@aauw.org.

Thank you for taking the time to vote on these important matters.



BOOK CLUB



The Gulf Gate Book Group

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

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

The Gulf Gate Book Group will meet on Tuesday, May 12 at 11.30 pm in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at Gulf Gate Library. Linda Cornell will review [Sweetland](#) by Michael Crummey. For further information: Call Jocelyn at 419-559-6319.

Below is the list of books selected for the 2026/27 season.

Many thanks, Jocelyn Baskey

[CLICK HERE FOR THE 2026/2027 BOOK SELECTION LIST](#)





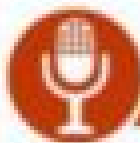
2026
ANNUAL MEETING
(VIRTUAL)

Townhall & Q&A:

Hear from **Ms. Gloria Blackwell**,
AAUW National CEO

AAUW Business & Elections

40% of branches must be present for
business & elections to take place



LOCATION
VIRTUAL

MAY 21, 2026; 6:00PM



Use the QR Code
to Register



Get the Virtual
Meeting Link
after Registering

Are you unable to use the QR Code?

Access the registration page directly by [Clicking Here](#)

For information contact:

- President– K. Lee-Smith, Ph.D.
- President-Elect– Rose Llanos, Ed.D.
- Director for Communications & FloriVision Editor– Demetrix Rostick-Owens, Ed.D.

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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.

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Summer
SIZZLER

This summer Diana will again organize a luncheon at a restaurant for anyone in town who would like to meet up once a month. The dates will be the third Wednesday of June, July, and August, that is:

June 17

July 15

August 19

Please email Diana (dsells55@yahoo.ca) if you would like to be on the email list when the venues are decided. There is no obligation by being on the notification list - you will have to reserve each time if you plan to attend. Last year we went to Seasons 52, Connors, and Cooper's Hawk. Diana is open to suggestions for this year or we can repeat.

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2026 / 2027 MEETING DATES

Board Meetings

First Tuesday of the month at the Women's Resource Center

10:00am - 12:00pm starting in September

May 5 11:00am - 1:00pm

June 2 11:00am - 1:00pm

September 1

October 6

November 3

December 1

January 5

February 2

March 2

April 6

May 4

June 1

Branch Meetings

Third Wednesday of the month at the Women's Resource Center

1:00pm - 4:00pm

May 13 Luncheon at Marina Jack's

September 16

October 21

November 18

December Holiday Luncheon TBA

January 20

February 17

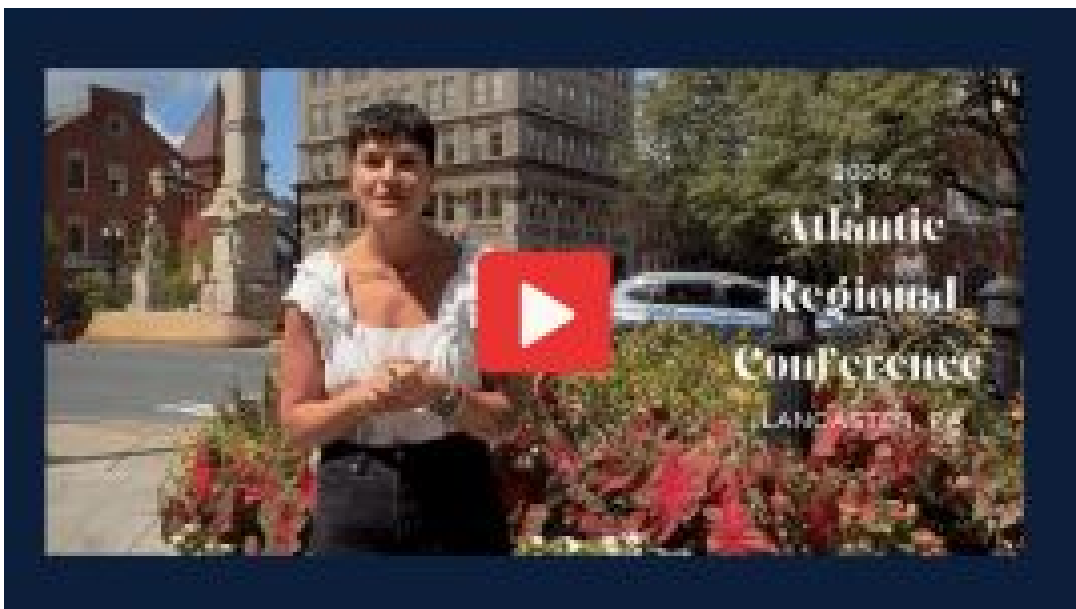
March 17

April 21 Annual Meeting

May Spring Luncheon TBA

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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	Estephanie D. Synthesis / Communication	

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AAUW SARASOTA

PO BOX 3554, SARASOTA, FL 34230
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