



President's Message

Many of us are troubled by laws and mandates that jeopardize education, equity and empowerment for women and girls on local, state, and national levels. AAUW has made it incredibly easy for you to advocate for change while helping our branch achieve one of its strategic goals.

Strategic Goal 3C: Achieve 100% Branch member registration for the Two Minute Activist.

If you have not yet registered, simply go to AAUW.org and click on Take Action. Scroll down to AAUW Action Network and click on Take Action Now. On that page you can sign up for the Two-Minute Activist and you can also submit comments on issues of concern to AAUW.

It costs nothing and truly does take no more than 2 minutes to send a message to a Senator or Congressperson.

At our October meeting, we will be discussing our philanthropic spending priorities for the year. Please look at the Goals you are passionate about through the lens of fiscal reality and practicality. In other words, how much money will it cost to meet the goal, who will manage the details of implementing the goal, and how many volunteers are needed to make it happen. I see some Goals that have already been met, some that would be relatively easy to meet, and others that might take a year or two to get off the ground. Let's do what we can in the short term, but let's also get started on at least one of those long-

term goals. Change can't happen unless we make it happen! We can do it!

Lois Fisch, President

Click the button to view the Strategic Plan

Strategic
Plan



Membership Dues Change



The AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase AAUW **individual member dues** at their February 2025 meeting. Individual member dues will increase \$2 on April 1, 2026. Member dues are an important

funding source for AAUW. While costs for member support increase annually, dues have not kept pace. During the feedback process, we heard from more than 750 members. The Board's decision to increase dues by \$2 reflects an adjustment to the original proposal to lessen the burden of a dues increase on members while keeping pace with inflation.

Read more about how your member dues help fund member services by clicking on the button below:

[Member Dues Information](#)



North County Book Group

Tuesday, October 21st, 2025 –
11:15 AM

Location: Betty J. Johnson
North Sarasota Library

On our next book club meeting, Sheila Donnell will lead a discussion of **Burn Book: A Tech Love Story** by Kara Swisher. Note: We will meet 15

minutes later than our usual time for just this one session. We look forward to having you joining us on our next great read!

Thank you, **Lois Fisch**



The Gulf Gate Book Group

**Tuesday, October 28th, 2025 –
11:30 AM**

**Location: Bay Village
Community**

On our next book club meeting, Jocelyn Baskey will lead a discussion of **The Wide Wide Sea** by Hampton Sides. We look forward to having you joining us on our next great read!

Thank you, **Sylvia Rosenfeld**

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Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Fall Luncheon!

The food was delicious, the conversations were inspiring, and it was wonderful to reconnect with so many of you. What a great way to kick

off our new AAUW season ahead and we're excited for all that's to come!



AAUW Sarasota Recognized in the Five Star Program!



We are proud to share that AAUW Sarasota has been awarded Four Stars in the AAUW Five Star Program, recognizing our achievements in Advancement, Communications, Programs, Policy, and Governance. This honor highlights the dedication and leadership of our members as we continue advancing AAUW's mission of equity and opportunity.

To view all the 5 Star Program branch awardees, visit the website:

[5 Star Program Website](#)

The AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forums

Wouldn't you like more in-depth information on the important issues facing Florida from an equity-focused, nonpartisan viewpoint? Then be sure to attend as many **AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forums** this year as you can. All sessions start at 6:00 PM on Tuesday evenings. They are open to AAUW members and guests. All sessions require pre-registration.

If you have any questions, contact Mary Gatta, AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forum Organizer at gatta.mary@gmail.com

[Click Here to PreRegister](#)

You will need to RSVP for each session individually (links below). Once you RSVP you will receive a Zoom link for the session via email.

[Book Bans & Public Education 10/9/25](#)

[Florida Legislative Preview 11/18/25](#)

[Women in STEM 1/20/26](#)

[Women's Economic Security 3/31/26](#)

AAUW Sarasota Ballet Enthusiasts



Hi, Ballet Enthusiasts

We are quickly coming upon the 2025-2026 season of the Sarasota Ballet. Sue McGowan is taking a much deserved break from several years of coordination of the group, and a BIG thank you to her from all the Ballet Enthusiasts for her service to us over the years. Nancy Brennan will be taking on coordination duties this year for the Ballet Enthusiasts group.

Please see below the programs selected to share this season as members of the Ballet Enthusiasts of Sarasota AAUW. Also, please let Nancy know if you would like to know her seat numbers before you make your ballet reservations, so you will at least know where one of us is!

For a more complete description of each performance, visit SarasotaBallet.org. For tickets, contact the Sarasota Ballet Box Office at 941.359.0099.

This year, we will meet for lunch at a nearby restaurant prior to each performance. To be on our mailing list for reminders and lunch reservations, please send an email to nbrennan617@gmail.com.

If you haven't participated before with us, give us a try and welcome!

PROGRAMS		
PROGRAM 1 Intrinsic	FSU Performing Art Center	October 25th 2:00pm
PROGRAM 2 Written Motion	Sarasota Opera House	November 22nd 2:00pm
PROGRAM 4 Notes Unspoken	FSU Performing Arts Center	January 31st 2:00pm
PROGRAM 7 Foundations of Royalty	Sarasota Opera House	May 2nd 2:00pm



Calendar of Events & Meeting Dates



Calendar of Events			
DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
10/09/2025	6:00pm	Book Bans & Public Education	Zoom
10/15/2025	2:00pm	General Meeting	Women's Resource Center
10/21/2025	11:15am	North County Book Group	Betty J Johnson

			North Sarasota
10/25/2025	2:00pm	Ballet Performance	FSU Performing Arts Center
10/28/2025	11:30am	Gulf Gate Book Group	Bay Village Community

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Meeting Dates

Board Meetings

September 30- 11:00-1:00

November 4 - 11:00-1:00

December 2 - 11:00-1:00

January 6 - 11:00-1:00

February 3 - 11:00-1:00

March 3 - 11:00-1:00

April 7 - 11:00-1:00

May 5 - 11:00-1:00

June 2 - 11:00-1:00

Branch Meetings

October 15 - 2:00-4:30

November 19 - 2:00-4:30

January 21 - 2:00-4:30

February 18 - 2:00-4:30

March 18 - 2:00-4:30

April 15 - 2:00-4:30



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
	Estephanie D. Synthesis / Communication	



AAUW SARASOTA

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