

March 2025

BRANCH BEACON

ANNUAL MEETING & SPRING BREAKFAST

Saturday - April 19 – Water's Edge – 9:30 AM

Reserve with Georgianna (863) 678-1349 or gpentinen@tampabay.rr.com.
Election/installation of officers and the announcements of the Educational Achievement Award recipients are the highlights of the annual meeting. For the first time this year, the meeting will be a breakfast instead of a lunch.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Applications for our Educational Achievement Awards are available on our web site: <http://lakewales-fl.aauw.net/>. The deadline for applications is March 31.

Pauline Phillips, Chair, Awards Program



AAUW was formed in 1881 by seventeen women from eight colleges.

The Lake Wales Branch was founded May 16, 1953.

The purpose of this branch shall be to unite graduates of different educational institutions in order to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.



NEXT DINING GROUP:

Harry's Old Place – Winter Haven
Friday March 28 – 1 PM

Contact Linda (lady with the hat) to join this fun group
Tel. (231) 420-0991 Lindabrown306@hotmail.com

February's lunch was fun at TEQUILA AZUL in Lake Wales

LAKE WALES PUBLIC CANDIDATES FORUM

March 20 - 5:30 PM – Water's Edge Auditorium
10 W. Grove Ave., Lake Wales

Lake Wales mayoral candidates
Curtis Gibson and Mayor Jack Hilligoss have been invited.

After opening statements, the candidates may answer questions provided in advance.
Everyone – including non-residents - is invited to ask questions.

For more information: Contact Charlene Bennett, AAUW Lake Wales
Tel. (863) 978-3484 or email charleneben@earthlink.net



November branch meeting

Susan la Francois spoke at November's branch meeting about Women and Girls in STEM today. She is a professor of Data Sciences and Chemistry at Florida Polytechnic University

Standing: Carol Gillespie, Dorothy Scott Wilson, Jennifer Nanek, Kay Bean, Betty Martin, Nancy Gossard, Speaker Susan la Francois, Linda Brown, Georgianna Pentinen, and Susan Hagan

Seated: Pauline Phillips, Charlene Bennett, and Victoria de Lissovoy.

****** MARCH 15 – BRANCH MEETING ******

The public is invited.

10:30 AM Program - Water's Edge – 10 Grove Ave. W., Lake Wales -

9:30 Breakfast \$15

Please reserve with Georgianna (863) 678-1349 or gpentinen@tampabay.rr.com.

In celebration of Women History Month, AAUW Lake Wales presents the Way Off-Broadway premiere of "HERstory-Florida Edition."

You won't want to miss this star-studded performance featuring Betty, Gloria, Mae and Pearl!!

Pauline Phillips, Program Co-VP

CARD AND GAME PARTY NETS \$700

We had a great time at the Card and Game Party in February and raised funds for the Educational Achievement Awards. Unfortunately, we did not make our \$1,000 goal. If you could not attend, please consider donating to the fund.



?? CAN YOU GIVE US A HAND TO PULL US OUT OF THE RED ??

Thanks, Linda Brown and Betty Martin

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

March and April will be busy for us. The Nominating Committee will announce candidates for VP for Program and Finance Director at our March 15th Breakfast meeting. (See position descriptions below.)

Also at the March meeting, our branch will present a Way-Off Broadway production in celebration of Women's History Month. You won't want to miss this one-time presentation!

The election and installation of officers will take place at our Annual Meeting and Spring Breakfast on Saturday, April 19th.

Don't forget the Lake Wales Candidates Public Forum for the two candidates vying for the office of mayor on Thursday, March 20th.

Lastly, on March 29th, I will be at The Villages for the Florida North Regional Conference 2025. This meeting replaces the AAUW Florida state conference.

Other invited branches include Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Flager, New Smyrna Beach, Orlando/Winter Park, Gainesville, and Lake Sumter.

Topics are Leadership, Membership, Public Policy, Financial Management, Branch, Successes, and Community Impact. It will be interesting to hear how other branches are addressing these topics.

I am looking forward to sharing ideas with members.

Georgianna Pentinen, President

The Lake Wales branch by-laws state that the position of **VP for Program** shall serve as chairperson of the committee on program development and perform duties of the president when the president is unable to serve.

Spotlight on the VPs for Program

A diverse and active membership is imperative to our branch's success. Naturally, the more active members we have, the greater our advocacy can be and our impact on our community more significant.

Kristin Vanpraet, Public Policy Officer

Featured this month:

**Jennifer Nanek and Nancy Gossard
Co-Treasurers/Finance Directors**

Serving as co-treasurer for our AAUW chapter for the past several years has been a truly rewarding experience. While my primary duties involve managing the financial side – depositing funds, writing checks, and preparing monthly reports for the board – it's a role I have found to be challenging and fulfilling. It's challenging because math is not really my strong suit. I have spent hours looking for pennies on a spreadsheet.

The fulfilling part is that it gives me a way to contribute. When I first joined AAUW I could not go to the Tuesday meetings and so the treasurer job gave me a way to help.

I'm grateful to have Nancy Gossard as my co-treasurer. Her assistance with collecting the money at our meetings is invaluable and makes the entire process run smoothly. It's an honor to contribute to our chapter's mission in this way, and I appreciate the opportunity to work alongside a great team.

Jennifer Nanek

The Lake Wales branch by-laws state that the **Finance Director(s)** shall be responsible of collecting, distributing, and accounting for the funds of the Affiliate. The finance director shall collect and remit dues to the Association and the state AAUW by the specified deadlines. The finance director shall send moneys for the AAUW Funds by the specified deadlines and shall keep separate ledgers for each type of account.

BOOK STUDY GROUP

March 12 – 10 AM – Blue Palmetto Café – Bok Tower Gardens

Selection:

THE WOMEN: A NOVEL by T. C. Boyle



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A “riveting” (The Wall Street Journal) and “wonderfully entertaining” (The Boston Globe) account of Frank Lloyd Wright’s life, told through the experiences of the four women who loved him.

“Boyle handles the big themes—Wright the genius battling an uncomprehending, philistine world and Wright the man loving and loathing his women—with extraordinary brio.”—San Francisco Chronicle

The book study group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Blue Palmetto Café at Bok Tower Gardens at 10:00 AM. All who are interested are welcome to attend.

Carol Gillespie, Chair, Book Study Group



AAUW First Fridays' Wine and Conversation
beginning March 7 will be held at

The Thirsty Dragon

126 N 1st Street, Lake Wales - Phone: (863) 275-0923

4-6 PM first Friday of each month

BRING A FRIEND!

“Come Cool your flame - Broad selection of great draft beers and fine wines to accompany a menu of popular light and tasty treats”

<https://thirstydragonpub.com>

This newsletter is a publication of:

The American Association of University Women

Lake Wales FL Affiliate, Inc., P.O. Box 1264, Lake Wales, FL 33859-1264

Branch Officers 2024-2025:

President: Georgianna Pentinen **Immediate Past President:** Juanita Zwaryczuk

Co-Vice Presidents Programs: Charlene Bennett & Pauline Phillips

Vice President Membership: Juanita Zwaryczuk

Communications Secretary: Margaret Swanson

Recording Secretary: Sharon Becker Allen

Co-Treasurers: Jennifer Nanek & Nancy Gossard

Bylaws and Parliamentarian: Dianne Schmoyer

Historian: Betty Martin

Public Policy: Kristin Vanpraet

Newsletter Editor: Margaret Swanson MAGJS@yahoo.com