



APRIL 2022

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The Tiempo

Dear reader the following is for your convenience and information on AAUW's Public Policies Priorities.

***2021–23 AAUW PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES**

ADOPTED MAY 2021

The Public Policy Priorities underscore AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. The work of AAUW builds upon responsible public participation, and the following priorities provide a basis for AAUW members' actions at the local, state, national, and international levels. Implicit in each is support for government agencies administering programs, including adequate appropriations, effective and accountable administration, and provision for citizen participation. We advocate public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these priorities. We work to increase the number of women, and the diversity of backgrounds they represent, including race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual identity, in policy- and other decision-making positions. Our positions are shaped by our commitment to being nonpartisan and fact-based, and to acting with integrity. We strive for our work to be inclusive and intersectional, collaborating with diverse allies and coalitions to achieve equity for all.

Basic to all of AAUW's public policy efforts is the understanding that true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community. AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals.

AAUW believes that high-quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society and the key to improving economic prosperity and gender equality. We advocate equitable access to education and climates free of harassment, bullying, and sexual assault. We support academic freedom, civic education, protection from censorship, bias-free education, and responsible funding for all levels of education, including early childhood education and programs for students with disabilities. We advocate for increased and more equitable access to higher education, that is affordable and yields high quality credentials or degrees. We promote intentional, equity-focused efforts to close the persistent learning and opportunity gaps that disproportionately affect students from low-income and minority groups.

AAUW promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons. Essential to that well-being are an economy that provides equitable employment opportunities; reduction of poverty; a living wage; quality, affordable dependent care; paid family and medical leave; safe, livable, and affordable housing; quality, affordable, and accessible health care for all, including reproductive health care; and a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. We support a Social Security system that provides inflation-protected, guaranteed lifetime benefits with a progressive benefit formula, spousal and widow benefits, and disability and survivor benefits. We support robust and strong Medicare and Medicaid systems and oppose any efforts to undermine them, including privatization and block grant proposals. AAUW recognizes that gun violence is a public health and safety crisis.

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From the Desk of Dr. Sandra Johnson Austin, President

Dear AAUW Tampa Members,

I do not know about you, but I cannot help but think about the impact that the invasion into Ukraine is having on women and their families. We are witnessing the devastation and atrocity from afar, but the visuals are forever etched into our memories. Just last month, we witnessed the separation of women from their newborn babies as they lie in bunkers being cared for by others. Images of children traveling alone to safety in a foreign land has become the norm. These are the stories of our global sisters, who if given the opportunity would bring diversity of thought and innovation to our everyday lives. I #StandWithUkraine as they fight for their independence.

April is Fair Housing Month. You may recall hearing in the news that families were protected against being evicted during the coronavirus pandemic. Well, the moratorium will be lifted beginning April 1st. The implications of this alone are startling given that here in Tampa, Florida 50% of households with children have female head of household and 84% of all households were headed by a female (Affordable Housing, 2022). Furthermore, 89% of all voucher households were headed by minorities with 65% of all heads of households being Black and 2% being Hispanic. Every community should be concerned with the prospect that the home environments of Black and Hispanic children can affect their learning. Will the digital divide become greater for these demographic groups? Does their situation limit their access to programs that focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)? Will girls have equal access to STEM programs?

One of the reasons that I became a member of AAUW was because of the organization's focus on engaging girls in STEM. To address some of the concerns mentioned previously, perhaps our community efforts could include targeting schools with the demographic profile of students less likely to participate in STEM programs, which would include students who receive free or reduced-price lunch. Our greatest asset is that we represent members of the communities in which we live and work. The opportunity awaits us to continue expanding our membership to those who are teachers, librarians, docents at museums, and theater goers. Essentially, people who are often passersby. While we are holding steady at maintaining 90 percent of our membership from last year, which meets a component of the five-star program as a branch, our goal this year is to increase membership to 68. We are currently at 50 members. When a new member joins this time of the year, their membership includes an additional three months! So, let's each one bring in a new member this year while we still have time! Remember that we are tenacious trailblazers!

[Tampa Housing Authority, FL | Public Housing and Section 8 \(affordablehousingonline.com\)](https://www.affordablehousingonline.com/)



AAUW's Mission:

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



Kimberly Rostick 8

Joyce Ellsworth 17

Irene Bembry 26



SELF-CARE CORNER ...

April showers bring May flowers, as the saying goes. How will you plant the seeds of growth and self-care this month? I also see spring as a renewal. Look back at the goals that you have set for yourself earlier this year. Where are you at? Have you accomplished them? Have you fallen off the wagon? I struggle with that wagon, and almost every day, before I start work, I sit quietly and repeat to myself "Today is another day to make good decisions". Beating myself up is no longer an option.

So, for this spring season, renew your goals. Renew the determination to accomplish your wants and dreams. The next day is not guaranteed to us. But, one thing is for sure. If we are blessed to see another day, it is another day for self-care and the opportunity to make good decisions. And as Ketanji Brown Jackson says "Persevere".

Be Renewed,

Catherine Martin, Member and Contributor



WELCOME

to our newest members.

We look forward to getting to know you.



<https://www.facebook.com/tampafilaauw/>

It's Election Time!

Members have the opportunity to run for open positions AND to vote for the slate of candidates.

Attend the general meeting, Saturday, April 16, 2022. **VOTE!!**

2022 Nominating Committee Slate of Nominees

Committee: Paula Stewart (Chair), Rev. Martha Vaguener, and Pat Tabone

President - Shella Miller

*Vice President - Catherine Clarke Martin

Director of Communications - Dr. Demetrix Rostick-Owens

*Director of Membership - No Nominee

*Director of Public Policy - Dr. Kayester Lee-Smith

Erica Hall

**Recording Secretary - Paula Huzella

***Director of Scholarships - Dr. Gloria Hilton

Director of Tech Trek - No Nominee

Please Note:

* According to our Bylaws, the Vice President is elected in an odd numbered year. The nominee is elected to fulfill the remainder of the 2021-2023 term, which is one year or 2022-2023. The office is up for election in 2023.

** According to our Bylaws, the Recording Secretary is elected in an odd numbered year. A Recording Secretary was elected for the 2021-2023 term but resigned in 2022. The nominee would be elected to fulfill the remainder of the 2021-2023 term, which is one year or 2022-2023.

*** According to our Bylaws, the Director of Scholarships is elected in an even numbered year. In 2021 the incumbent served the remainder of the former elected officer's 2020-2022 term, which is 2021-2022. The incumbent is seeking nomination for 2022-2023 only to fulfill her personal two-year commitment to this office.

Administrative Information:

Voting will take place during the April 16, 2022 Annual Meeting.

New paper ballots will be mailed to nine members who have requested paper ballots. The ballots are to be completed and returned, postmarked by April 9th. Nominations from the floor will be accepted during the April 16th Annual Meeting.

Paper and in-person totals will be counted during the April 16, 2022 Annual Meeting. The new officers will be announced during the April 16, 2022 Annual Meeting.

Installation of new officers is scheduled for the May 21, 2022 general membership meeting.

Committee Recommendation:

For the offices of the Director of Membership and the Director of Tech Trek, consideration should be given for these offices to be held as co-chairs.

AAUW Tampa
Welcomes

KATIE MCGILL

“ Dressing for Success”



For more than 25 years, Katie McGill has provided unparalleled opportunity and resources to thousands of women in Tampa Bay. She is best known as the driving force behind Dress for Success Tampa Bay, first as a volunteer and then as Execu-

tive Director. She has played a role in helping more than 12,000 women get back on their feet with a new outlook on life. Prior to becoming Executive Director of Dress for Success Tampa Bay, Ms. McGill, spent ten years working with the Centre for Women, nine years volunteering with the Hillsborough County Women's Correctional facility, and twenty years volunteering with the Crisis Center of Tampa. At each juncture, she has empowered women to gain economic independence and accept personal responsibility for their growth. Her dedication has earned awards, including the Tampa Bay Business Journal 2013 Non-Profit of the Year, 2015 WEDU Be More , 2016 Black Girls Rock Tampa Bay, Tampa Bay Rays Jackie Robinson Breaking Barriers, and The Tampa Bay Lightning distinguished Lightning Community Award. Additionally, in 2019, Ms. McGill was a recipient of the AAUW Tampa, Inc. Ribbon of Honor Award.

Bring a friend and join us at this meeting.

Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club.

**Saturday, April 16, 2022
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**



Board Meeting
April 9, 2022
10:30 to 11:15 am
Via Zoom

General Meeting
April 16, 2022
11:00 am-1:00 pm
In person

Board Meeting
May 14, 2022
10:30 to 11:15 am
Via Zoom

General Meeting
May 21, 2022
11:00 am-1:00 pm
In person

Board of Directors

President	Dr. Sandra Johnson Austin
Vice President	Vacant
Director for Programs	Dr. Bert Dunbar
Director for Membership	Dr. Demetrix Rostick Owens
Director for Finance	Dr. Lucinda Hovi
Director of Public Policy	Ms. Erica Hall
Director for Scholarships	Dr. Gloria Hilton
Director for Tech Trek/STEM	Ms. Dree Jenkins
Director for Communications	Mrs. Franca Washington
Facebook Manager	Ms. Erica Lewis
Recording Secretary	Vacant
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Connie Fountain
Copy Editor- This Issue	Mrs. Franca Washington



**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS!**



Tampa (FL) Branch

AAUWTampaMembership@gmail.com

**Your membership makes our powerful
voice even louder on critical issues
affecting women and girls**

Please Join Us Today

<https://tampa-fl.aauw.net/membership/>



<https://tampa-fl.aauw.net/membership/>

If you have questions, please contact
Ms. April Cobb
Director for Membership

**WE VALUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP
AND
INVOLVMENT!**

Tips for Inviting guests to AAUW...

1. **Know what you are going to say.** Have a simple script in mind. You can use something like the following:
Hi _____. What are you doing on _____. I would love to invite you as my guest to an AAUW meeting on _____ at _____ time at the Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club. AAUW is an organization that empowers and uplifts women. We usually have guest speakers on different topics. I would love it if you could join me.
2. **Be Excited:**
People can hear excitement in your voice. The more excited you are about something, the more likely someone would be willing to join you.
3. **Make the invitation personal.** Invite in person or over the phone. It's more personal than a text or an email. It is so much easier to say no over email or text.
4. **Keep it Simple:**
Don't overcomplicate the invitation. Ensure you explain, what, where, when, and what time.
5. **Invite and then follow-up:** People forget, so follow-up the week of the meeting, letting the person know how excited you will be to have them as your guest. Let them know they can also invite a friend if they want.

PUBLIC POLICY CORNER ...

FAFSA and money for Technical College, Community College, or University

Last year, Florida students alone left over \$304 million in Pell Grants on the table. Florida also ranks 48th out of the 50 states and Washington, D.C., for its FAFSA completion rate. In fact, only 23.5 percent of graduating high school seniors completed a FAFSA in 2021, a 2.3 percent decrease from 2020. Louisiana was the first state to fully implement the policy that in order to graduate, students must complete the FAFSA. Doing so closed the complete-rate gap between the low-income and high-income districts from 8.5 percent to 1.1 percent in just one year. In addition, four out of five high schools went from one-third of students completing the FAFSA to a completion rate of 65 percent or higher. Since then, seven other states have enacted similar legislation or added it to graduation requirements through administrative change. The versions in each state differ in the degree of support offered to schools and students to complete the form. They also differ in how schools are incentivized for the students who complete the FAFSA and subsequently attend college.

A recent study from the University of Florida of academically successful community college students who did not finish their degree shows that the top three reasons for not completing their degree are financial: the cost of tuition and fees, the cost-of-living expenses, and no longer being eligible for financial aid. It also found that students of color were disproportionately impacted and had higher non-completion rates than their white counterparts. This study echoes findings from other studies that show gaps in college completion rates of 18 percent between Black and Latina/o students as compared to white students. How can AAUW Tampa help disadvantaged graduating seniors in our community complete the FAFSA? Send your responses to aauwttampainfo@gmail.com

<https://www.floridapolicy.org/posts/ensuring-florida-students-get-all-the-financial-aid-they-deserve>

<https://www.floridapolicy.org/tags/education>

Erica Hall, Director of Public Policy

2021 By the Numbers



A CALL TO ACTION...

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has already made history as the first Black woman nominated to the Supreme Court of the United States. Now the U.S. Senate must swiftly and unanimously confirm her.

Getting Started

1. **Use the right hashtags.** Include relevant hashtags like #ConfirmJackson, #JusticeForAll and #SCOTUS in your social media posts for greater visibility. Take it a step further, target your hashtag to a particular issue to really connect with what is at stake (#SaveOurHealthcare, #ProtectTheVote, #EqualRights).
2. **Use photos.** Tweets with photos perform five times better than those without, and good photos are priceless on all social media platforms. While we offer image options on this page, we encourage you to use photos from your own life that are relevant and showcase your advocacy.
3. **Tag @AAUW.** We look forward to sharing your content and recognizing your hard work. Make sure to follow AAUW on the following social platforms:
4. Facebook: [@AAUW.National](#) and [@aauwaction](#)
Twitter: [@AAUW](#) and [@AAUWActionFund](#)
Instagram: [@aauwnational](#)

Support Judge Jackson's confirmation to the Supreme Court—make your voice heard!

Source: AAUW Nation website: [aauw.org](#)

TECH TREK HIGHLIGHTS:



Tampa Branch Tech Trek candidate was officially accepted into the Florida Tech Trek Summer Virtual Camp. Her name is Zahara Narain, from Williams Middle Magnet School. We wish her a summer to knowledge and innovation.

Dree Jenkins, Dir. of Tech Trek

AROUND THE TOWN Special Interest Group Invites you to plan to attend as a group **Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill** at

The Free Fall Theater in St. Petersburg, Florida. The Play Lady Day at Emerson Bar and Grill. The time is 1959. The place is a seedy bar in Philadelphia. The audience is about to witness one of Billie Holiday's last performances, given four months before her death. More than a dozen musical numbers are interlaced with salty, often humorous reminiscences to project a riveting portrait...

As an on the town event we could look at April 9 or April 23 as an event together. During the week tickets are 45.00. Weekend 55.00. You could visit the website for more information, [freefalltheater.com](#)
It is sure to be fun!

Contact Irene Bemby
beckybembry52@gmail.com,

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

If you did not attend the November general meeting, it is not too late to join this group or one of the other special interest groups. Contact the coordinator(s) listed below:

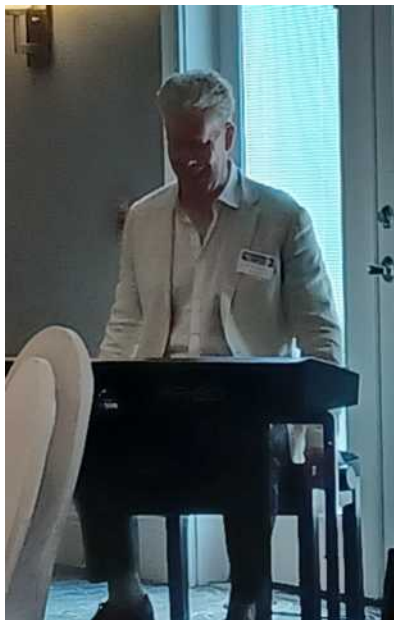
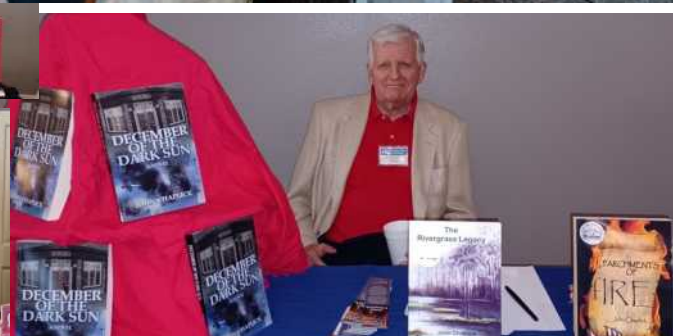
Around the Town- Irene Bemby @ beckybembry52@gmail.com, assisting, Mattiebp@gmail.com.

Bridge-Want to learn. Or, ready to play- John Chaplick @ Jpchaplick@gmail.com, assisting Dr. Cindy Hovi @ cindyhovidc@gmail.com.

Camera Group- novice or expert- Catherine Clark Martin @ ccmartincu@gmail.com.

Special interest groups were created to help contribute, to building camaraderie, trust, respect, opportunities for mentorship, and fun. Research has shown that teams that play together are more committed and productive.

Highlights from our Member



ership Drive and Fundraiser



Thank you for your generosity. You shared your time, talents, and treasures. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Planning /Program Committee,



Continued from page 1...

AAUW believes in the right to privacy and freedom from violence. We firmly believe in the separation of church and state. We support a fair, balanced, and independent judiciary. We support public budgets that balance individual rights and responsibility to the community. We see an urgent need for meaningful campaign finance reform, open and fair elections that are broadly accessible to all voters, and nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in appointed and elected office.

AAUW believes in the need to end white supremacy and address structural and systemic racism. Efforts to improve racial, ethnic, and gender justice must be embedded into every initiative. This includes working to eradicate intersectional bias and creating a culture of involvement, respect, inclusion, and connection, where the richness of diverse ideas, backgrounds, and perspectives is fully appreciated, understood and utilized.

AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies against human trafficking and that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people. We support the civil and human rights of all immigrants, including a fair and just path to legal status. We support a strengthened United Nations and its affiliated agencies. We advocate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action from the 4th World Conference on Women and subsequent declarations.

We affirm our active participation in the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women and our commitment to ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). We support international family planning programs that are consistent with AAUW policy.

Biennial Action Priorities

National priorities inform state and local action. Biennial priorities for national action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership. Additional policy priorities are also critical to ensure equity for all. No further order of importance for the additional priorities is implied.

To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls, AAUW advocates.

To achieve economic security for all women, AAUW advocates.

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW advocates.

Source: *AAUW Nation Website. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>



WE'RE TENACIOUS AND TRAILBLAZING.
*Advocating equity for women
and girls in Florida since 1929.*
<https://www.aauwaction.org/>



Making a Difference for Over 100 Years

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following information should be given exactly as you wish it to appear in the yearbook:

NAME _____

First

Middle

Last

ADDRESS _____

Street or PO Box

Apt. No.

PHONE (H) _____ (C) _____

E-MAIL _____

BIRTHDAY (MM/DD) _____ **OCCUPATION** _____

EDUCATION _____

List degree(s) earned and field of study, college or university, year degree awarded.

ASSOCIATES _____

BACHELOR _____

MASTERS _____

DOCTORATE _____

I certify that the above information is correct.

SIGNATURE _____

Complete this form and return with your check payable to AAUW Tampa Branch.

Two Methods of Payment:	Dues
1) Make check payable to AAUW Tampa, Inc. and mail the form and check to: AAUW Tampa, Inc., P.O. Box 172715, Tampa, FL 33672 OR 2) Use online mobile banking to send dues via Zelle to AAUWTampaFinance@gmail.com. Mail this form to the PO Box above and check the box <input type="checkbox"/> I have paid via Zelle.	\$62.00-Association \$12.00-State \$13.00-Branch \$ 87.00-Total Annual Membership extends from July 1- June 30