

Good Day AAUW Tampa-

I hope each of you are well. This month's newsletter has come at a time when AAUW Tampa is heading into a great deal of organizational change and decision-making regarding how **WE** persist, remain viable, and continue to grow through times of challenge and uncertainty. As you will read in the President's Message, recent changes have left our branch searching for a new meeting location, beginning a more intensive outreach effort to secure leadership succession, and determining how we continue on as the seminal AAUW branch in Florida. All members are urged to review the President's Message and **COMMIT** to taking-action to be apart of the branch's solutions to these concerns. **Would you join us?**

While there is a lot of sobering business in the newsletter, you will also see that great glimmers of light and hope are still very much present within our branch as we have been quite agile in moving our February 17 (11am) meeting online to Zoom. That's right, we are still meeting. Thank you, Vice-President Martin for making this pivot! Let's show up to celebrate AAUW Tampa's three recent scholarship winners, who will be joining us and sharing reflections on academic journeys in STEM, internships, and future career aspirations.

The fun doesn't stop there, you will also read about opportunities for involvement and engagement with AAUW Florida with an invite to register for the 2024 Regional Conference being held at the Villages Recreation Center on March 16, 2024 (10am-3:30pm, cost of \$25, lunch included). This is a great way to network with other AAUW Florida members, to learn about how to sustain branch success and to better understand pathways to leadership within the organization. You'll also read how you can perform your civic duties by letting your voice be heard by voting on AAUW National's Bylaw Amendment to reconsider how membership eligibility is defined. Last but not least, Happy Birthday to those born in February, view calendar activities, and take a moment to learn about a few special people as we celebrate Black History Month!

Take care and enjoy the newsletter,
Demetrix Rostick-Owens, Ed.D.
AAUW Tampa, Director of Communications

A Message from the President

A Call to Action: Tampa Elections

Meeting Details

AAUW Florida and National News

Calendar Events, Birthdays, & Black History

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CONTACT US:

tampa-fl.aauw.net or AAUWTampaInfo@gmail.com or PO Box 292275, Temple Terrace, FL 33687

A Message from the President

Greetings AAUW Tampa Members

In honor of black history month, I'd like to open my comments up with a famous quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that states "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of convenience and comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." To me this quote means during hard times, do we have what it takes, deep down, within us to withstand the pressure, challenge, and difficulty to be victorious over our circumstances and triumphantly succeed. This quote not only applies to us in our daily lives, but also from the lens as members of AAUW.



Shella Miller,
President
AAUW Tampa
2022-2024

With that being said, I want to share with you some challenges we are facing in AAUW that we are looking to overcome to ensure that the Tampa AAUW Branch, oldest at 104 years old in Florida, remains viable into the future for another 100+ years. This will take intentional efforts by the board, members, and friends and supporters of AAUW Tampa.

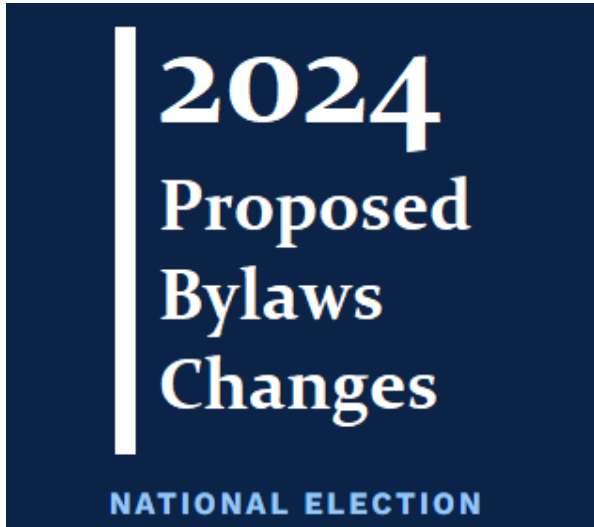
The first challenge that has presented itself to us, as we enter the second month of 2024, are the changes occurring at our regular meeting location at the Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club. As a result of changes in management and processes, we will need to identify alternate location(s) for our future meetings. We need the assistance of anyone who has ideas on meeting location suggestions that do not have a cost or have minimal cost. We are currently in the process of finding a permanent option; however, in the meantime, our **February 17th, 2024 AAUW Tampa meeting** will be held from **11am-12pm on Zoom**.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89483921402?pwd=ZWJ1L0hQWFlnUFBJalhXK01jLzU0Zz09>

The second challenge is the need for members and leaders to step up to the challenge to help lead the organization into the future. Many of our board positions are coming due for election in April, yet there has been very little interest in officer roles. Any membership organization can only be successful with the recruitment and commitment of people who will help lead through shared governance. The Board of Directors are meeting on February 8, 2024, to discuss these challenges and we will have an update on recommended directions at our February 17th general membership meeting.

Lastly, at the AAUW FL President's meeting held on Monday January 29th, we discussed the proposed Bylaws change that is up for vote that would adopt a new definition of AAUW Member eligibility if it successfully passes. This has been a controversial topic for some branches because the proposed amendment would remove the degree requirement to be a part of the organization. Some states are in favor and some are not. When it was previously presented in 2021, FL only had a 41% vote in the positive, while nationally the vote was at 63%. Each AAUW member will have the ability to vote on the issue. Voting will begin April 3 and end May 15, 2024. Every AAUW member should have received the proposed Bylaw change by Email from National. If you did not receive the email, this is the link to read more about the proposed Bylaw. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>. I am not going to tell anyone how to vote, but encourage you to read the information thoroughly to weigh the pros and cons and make an informed vote that would set AAUW up for future success, understanding the current state of the organization. It takes a 2/3 majority for the Bylaw to Pass.

A Message from the President, cont.



THE PROPOSED REVISION OF ARTICLE III WOULD:

- Replace the Individual Members paragraph of the Membership Qualification provision (currently Article III Section 2 a) with new language indicating the sole requirement for membership is support of AAUW's purpose.
- Delete the provision on Student Associates (currently Section 3) since students would be allowed to join as full members of AAUW thus eliminating the need for a Student Associate provision.
- Renumber Section 4 Dues as Section 3 and delete the reference to "categories of membership" in this section to permit the board to set different dues for student members as previously allowed when Student Associates were listed as a separate category rather than included as part of the Individual Membership category.
- Make no changes to Article III Section 1 or Sections 5 and 6 on Life Membership and Membership Decisions, except that Section 5 Membership Decisions, and Section 6 Affiliates would be renumbered as Sections 4 and 5, respectively, with no other change.

Switching to several positive announcements. I wanted to remind you that AAUWFL will be hosting the regional conference for our region at The Village on Saturday, March 16, 2024 (\$ Registration fee, includes lunch. I encourage our branch to have a great turnout! Payment details are coming.

The day's activities and topics to be addressed will include:

- 10:00 - 10:15 Registration - Meet your Counterparts
- 10:15 - 10:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:30 - 11:15 Introducing the '*Pathway to Leadership*' Project
- 11:30 - 12:15 **Sharing Branch Successes**
- 12:15 - 1:15 Lunch - Mix and Mingle
- 1:15 - 2:00 **Promoting Public Policy Issues - A Year-round Endeavor**
- 2:15 - 3:00 **Achieving Sustained Membership Growth**
- 3:00 - 3:30 Wrap-Up and Adjournment

The other positive announcement is the success of the State of Florida Tech Trek nominations. On January 13 the state of Florida hosted a successful info session capturing participation of 80 nominees from the state. Program information was provided to parents to encourage their kids to complete the second step of the process, submitting the completed application by January 31st. Hillsborough County received 14 nominees. Special thanks to Ms. Kim Rostick, Director of Tech Trek, who continues to do a stellar job in this role. Thank you, Kim! We will keep you posted on the girls our branch will be supporting this summer.

As I close, I aim to remind everyone that change is inevitable and necessary. Be encouraged in knowing that we can overcome any challenge when we work together. Many from the civil rights era boldly stood in the face of extreme challenges to create change that we all benefit from today. Ask yourself, "Am I up to the challenge of seeing AAUW into the future as we continue to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, advocacy?" If you are, let's Stand and Advance Together with Intention!

There is a place for everyone in our chapter. No level of assistance is too small. We can only accomplish what we do with your support and partnership. Please continue to recruit our future leaders of AAUW. Thank you and enjoy the issue! I look forward to connecting with you all on Zoom February 17th.

Best Regards,
Shella M. Miller, FACHE
AAUW Tampa Branch President

A Call to Action- Urgent Membership Update

AAUW Tampa members, have you ever taken the time to read our tag line?
If you haven't let me remind you with a simple picture...



The AAUW Tampa Branch, established in 1916, is the SEMINAL branch in Florida! In 108 years, the Tampa Branch has been a living embodiment of change for women and girls in the Tampa Area, **but our survival is now under threat** as we face the continuation of pervasive vacancies of our Board!

AAUW Tampa will not exist without a Board!

AAUW Tampa is at the crossroads of leadership change! Board vacancies have been pervasive for years; however, we are at a critical point where the change in guard of board members who were elected to 2-year terms in 2022 and board members who were appointed to 1-year terms in 2023 have converged, leaving 85% AAUW Tampa Board vacancies! We cannot go on like this!



AAUW Tampa Members

The disheartening reality is

YOUR, MY, OUR branch's survival is on the line!

**This is your CALL-TO-ACTION to step up and run to fill one of the
following board vacancies:**

President * Vice-President * Director of Programs * Director of Membership *
Director of Communications * Recording Secretary * Parliamentarian * Director of
Social Media * Director of Public Policy * Director of DEI * Director of Scholarships

Ready to step-up? Let us know today!!!

Email your intent or questions to Vice President Martin at

ccmartinaauw@gmail.com

AAUW Tampa Board Opportunities

Shared leadership is an important part of any organization's governance, and it takes a team to bring AAUW into the future. We look forward to working with and developing new leaders to help carry out plans and actions for AAUW Tampa.

If you are interested in running for office, please contact AAUW Tampa's Vice President, Mrs. Catherine Clark Martin to share your interest in a position

Elections are coming! Consider joining the team!

Tampa AAUW is in need of future leaders!

Without leaders, there is no branch!

The current leader's terms are ending in June.

YOU have the ability to continue our 105 year legacy by filling in these shoes.

Volunteering for a position comes with full support from the current leaders. You can be mentored and ease into the position.

Co-director positions are available for ALL roles.

In order to keep AAUW Tampa going after June, we need your help, your leadership, your ambition.

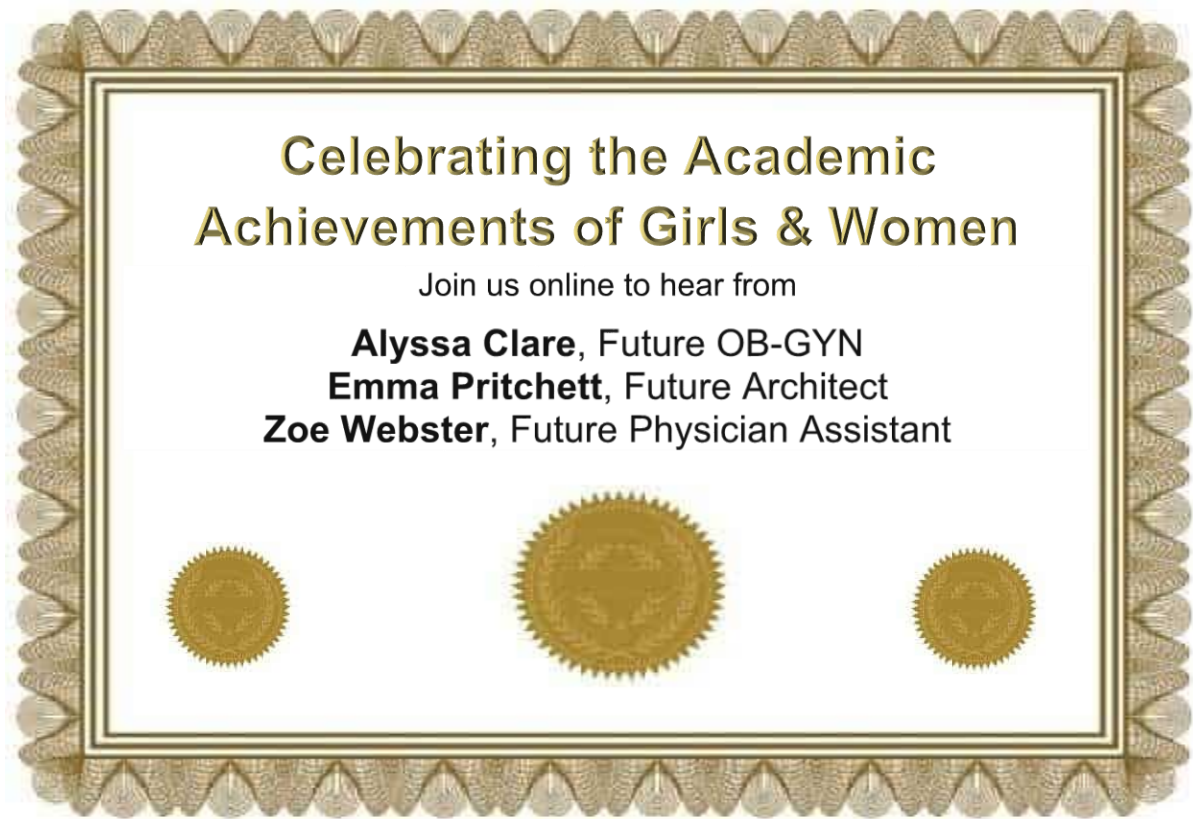
Reach out to anyone in the administration for information on any role that you may be interested in.



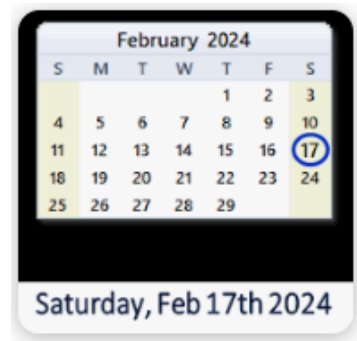
February 17 - Zoom Meeting

Tampa members and friends-

We are excited to welcome three of AAUW Tampa Branch's *2023-2024 STEM Scholarship Recipients* to our virtual monthly meeting on February 17 from 11am-12pm. This will be a great opportunity to hear about the students' academic journeys, internships, and future career ambitions in STEM!



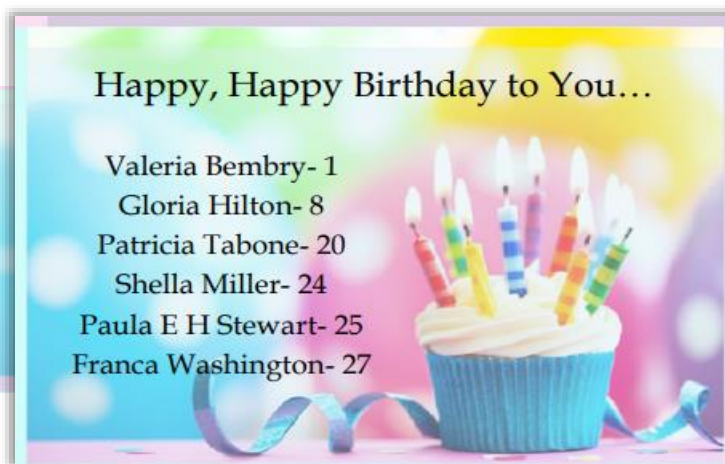
Meeting Reminders!!!



Join us: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89483921402?pwd=ZWJlL0hQWFlnUFBjYXlhXk01jLzU0Zz09>

February 2024

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Black History Month American Heart Month	National Cancer Prevention Month	National Embroidery Month		1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4 World Cancer Day	5	6 Safer Internet Day	7 National Girls & Women In Sports Day	8	9	10 Lunar New Year
11 Super Bowl Sunday	12 NAACP Day	13 Mardi Gras	14 Ash Wednesday/ Valentine's Day	15	16	17 AAUW Monthly Meeting
18	19 President's Day	20 World Day of Social Justice	21	22 Be Humble Day	23	24
25 Quiet Day	26	27	28 National Pancake Day	29 Leap Day		



Happy, Happy Birthday From AAUW Tampa!

AAUW Tampa News

AAUW Tampa Continues to Enrich the Lives of Students! Spread the word!! The STEM Scholarship Applications are due February 16, 2024!!!



AAUW Tampa is moving forward with our plans for Florida Tech Trek. There will be two camps: Stetson University, June 9-15 and Florida Atlantic University June 16-22, 2024. The AAUW Tampa Branch Tech Trek Committee looks forward to interviewing seven 7th grade girls from John Long Middle School, Martinez Middle School, Rampello K-8 Downtown Partnership Magnet School, York Innovation Academy, and Young Middle Magnet School. These students have been nominated by teachers and expressed an interest in STEM with the potential impact of an experience like Tech Trek encouraging them to take more science and math classes. And who knows, maybe pursue a career in the STEM. Families only pay \$50 registration fee.

The cost for Tech Trek is \$1,200. **Currently AAUW Tampa has enough funds to send to TWO students.** We would love to send all seven. Please consider donating to help fund five more Tech Trek Campers (at a total cost of \$6,000). Send digital payments through Zelle using the AAUW Tampa Finance email: aauwtampafinance@gmail.com. In the memo please write Tech Trek donation.

Or

Send a check made out to AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, Inc. with Tech Trek on the memo line and mailed to Tech Trek, P.O. Box 126, Palm City, FL 34991.

The poster is divided into several sections. At the top, it says 'Application due Friday, February 16, 2024' with a small atom icon. The main title is 'The American Association of University Women Tampa Branch 2024 STEM Scholarship'. Below this, there are four small images: a microscope, a person in a lab coat, a person in a lab coat with a mask, and a person in a lab coat. The 'Eligibility' section lists: Undergraduate Junior, Undergraduate Senior or Graduate Student in 2024-2025; Full time enrollment (Undergraduate must have minimum of 12 credit hours); STEM Major; Minimum GPA of 3.0; Resident of the State of Florida; U.S. Citizen; Financial Need. It says 'Apply TODAY' with the URL <https://tampa-fl.aauw.net/scholarship/> and a QR code. The bottom right section says 'Award \$1,000 & One year local membership to AAUW Tampa Branch'. At the very bottom, it says 'Questions? Email us at AAUWTampaScholarships@gmail.com'.



Shout Outs are in order for the following schools who have nominated young girls for 2024 Tech Trek

John Long Middle * Martinez Middle * Rampello K-8 Downtown Partnership Magnet * York Innovation Academy * Young Middle Magnet

Recognizing Black History Trailblazers



Sadye Gibbs Martin (pictured below) was the first black woman to be a Plant City commissioner (1982) and to serve as mayor for 7 terms. proponent of education, Ms.

Martin worked in the Hillsborough county school system for 33 years. Learn more at: [Sadye Gibbs Martin](#)



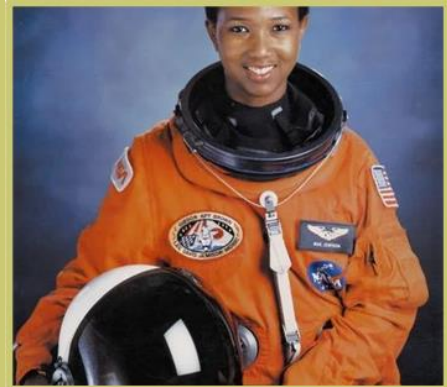
Venus & Serena Williams (pictured above) are sisters who have won a combined 122 tennis singles titles, including Wimbledon. Starting their careers as teenagers in the 1990s, both sisters have played professionally well into their 40s. Learn more at:

[Venus and Serena Williams](#)

Condoleezza Rice (pictured above) is an American diplomat, political scientist and 66th Secretary of State. Rice was the first black woman to serve in the role, where her tenure lasted 4 years. Rice has gone on to serve as an administrator and to write books about her career. Learn more at: [history.state.gov](#)



Maria Van Britton Brown (pictured below) was responsible for patenting the first closed-circuit television security system on December 2, 1968. This closed-circuit television system was the precursor for home security systems. Learn more at: [Marie Van Brittan Brown](#)



Zora Neale Hurston (pictured below) a well-known researcher and writer who came to prominence during the Harlem Renaissance. Hurston's most celebrated novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, was published in 1937. Learn more at: [zoranealehurston.com](#)



Mae Jemison (pictured above) is a physician and engineer, who is best known for being the first black woman to travel to space aboard the *Endeavor* on September 12, 1992, as a NASA astronaut. Jemison has served as teacher, medical officer, and researcher. Learn more at: [Mae C. Jemison Quick Facts](#)



Trailblazers, Who! What do you recall?

You just learned about 7 great women and trailblazers in Black History!
How much can you recall? Take a few minutes & test your memory with the following symbols?

		Who Are We and Why We Trailblazers?
		Who Am I and Why am I a Trailblazer?
		Who Am I and Why am I a Trailblazer?
		Who Am I and Why am I a Trailblazer?
		Who Am I and Why am I a Trailblazer?
		Who Am I and Why am I a Trailblazer?

Stay Connected, Like & Share

AAUW Tampa: <http://tampafl.aauw.net/>

AAUW Tampa Membership:
<https://tampafl.aauw.net/membership/>

Access the AAUW Tampa Branch Bylaws:
<https://tampafl.aauw.net/bylaws/>

Share the benefits of membership with others:
aauwkampmembership@gmail.com

Access the AAUW Community Hub to renew membership: <https://my.aauw.org/onlinejoin>

Learn more or find out how to donate to AAUW Tampa Tech Trek: aauwkampatechtrek@gmail.com

Share your interests related to forming a Special Interest Group: aauwkampainfo@gmail.com

Stay in the Know with AAUW Florida:
<https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/>

Stay in the Know with AAUW National:
<https://www.aauw.org/>