

Good Day AAUW Tampa-

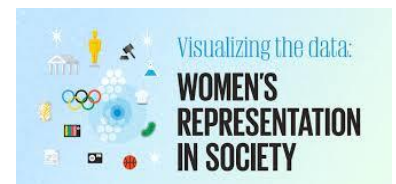
I hope each of you are well as we spring into March and recognize, honor, and celebrate all women during Women's History Month. Before more discussions about Women's History Month, I wanted to provide an AAUW Tampa general meeting update. **As we are in a season of change, I wanted to draw everyone's attention to the fact that we will be meeting on March 23 from 10AM to 11:30AM at the Children's Board of Hillsborough County (1002 E. Palm Ave, Tampa, FL 33605).** This information is further referenced in the President Millers message on pages 3-4 of this newsletter. As this is a new location to many of us, you are advised to plug the Children's Board of Hillsborough County's address into your navigation tool ahead of the meeting day and time to determine how long it will take you to arrive and the best travel route from your home.



Please note, in the remainder of the newsletter you will find:

- Our speaker for this month will be Dr. Kayester Lee-Smith, AAUW Tampa's Director of Public Policy (p. 5), who will provide an enriching presentation on topics of equity for women.
- Important and fun things happening in Tampa during the month. (p. 6)
- A sample copy of the 2024 AAUW Tampa Elections Ballot and related details. (p. 7)
- Special write ups from Dr. Rukmini Potdar (AAUW Member and guest speaker at the general meeting in April 2024) on *the Critical Need for Volunteers and Mentors for Children in Foster Care*, and Kim Rostick with at Tech Trek update and a Tech Trek Donation Opportunity. (p. 8)
- And general AAUW news including how to access AAUW career tools and resources, information on the upcoming Bylaw Vote, and details related to registering for "Securing our Future," an AAUW National Advancement Committee webinar offered free to members. (p.9) As always you can find ways to Keep Connected with AAUW on the final page of the newsletter. (p. 10)

Now shifting back to Women's History Month. Making up 50.4% of the population, women have been credited for creating practical items for moms such as reusable covers for diapers (attributed to Marion Donovan), designing safety commodities for homeowners with more technologically driven products such as the video home security system (attributed to Marie Van Brittan Brown), and contributing to the discovery of HeLa Cells through one's personal cancer cells (attributed to Henrietta Lacks). The span of contributions to our society by women is truly infinite and this is why we celebrate!





Though I am aware of Women’s History Month, I have never taken the time to learn about the origins. According to The National WWII Museum of New Orleans, Women’s History Month was facilitated by the direct actions and perseverance of women from the National Women’s History Association (NWHHA). As an output of their dedication to “preserving women’s history,”¹ in 1987, members of NWHHA petitioned Congress to set aside a month to commemorate the history of women and their accompanying contributions. After

Congress passed legislation, the first Women’s History Month was acknowledged in 1987.

Three things stand out for me after learning more about this month. The first is- the catalyst for change is dedication to your mission. The second is, dedication + action are needed to foster change. The third is- sustained change persists only through our perseverance and commitment to advancing the mission through collective and focused actions. Without all three, the desired output of sustained change is impossible. As we have seen over the past month, our organization has had to face hard truths about how we will persist.

As you will read in the March 2024 President’s Message, knowing that it “takes all of us to run a successful branch” ... in the last month, thankfully, through many conversations and honest talks, several members of AAUW Tampa have embraced the call for continued and sustainable internal organizational change and have “stepped up to the call and put” their “names into the running for the upcoming elections.” (President Miller, p.2).



This was a necessary action to ensure the sustainability of our organization! However, this is only one step! The remaining steps will come as new and returning AAUW Tampa members remember why **WE** are dedicated to the mission, how **WE** can combine **OUR** dedication with purposeful action, and ultimately, how we continue to contribute to the sustainability of **OUR** organization. This Women’s History Month, I challenge all members to remain dedicated to the mission, to put in the work and take actions to move us forward and persist and persevere even when things look bleak. Together we are truly stronger!

Until we meet again, take care, and enjoy this month’s newsletter!

Demetrix Rostick-Owens, Ed.D.

AAUW Tampa

Director of Communications

2022-2024

2023-2024 BOARD	
PRESIDENT: Shella Miller	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY: Dr. K. Lee-Smith
VICE PRESIDENT: Catherine Clark Martin	DIRECTOR OF SCHOLARSHIPS: Princella Evans
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS: Dr. Demetrix Rostick-Owens	DIRECTOR OF TECH TREK: Kimberly Rostick
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE: Dr. Ebony Shoemo	DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION: Vacant
CO-DIRECTORS OF MEMBERSHIP: Tara Perkins & Yvette Williams	PARLIAMENTARIAN: Dr. Gloria Hilton
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS: Rev. Martha Vaguener	SECRETARY: CORRESPONDING: Paula Thomas
	SECRETARY: RECORDING: Paula Huzella
	SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER: Solana Rostick
CONTACT US:	
tampa-fl.aauw.net or AAUWTampaInfo@gmail.com or PO Box 292275, Temple Terrace, FL 33687	

¹ An Introduction to Women’s History Month. 2023, March 1. The National WWII Museum of New Orleans. <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/introduction-womens-history-month#:~:text=Congress%20passed%20Pub.-L.,March%20as%20Women's%20History%20Month>.

A Message from the President

Greetings AAUW Tampa Members:

It is the start of spring, and we are less than 4 months away from the end of our 2023-2024 membership year. We are also well into Women's History Month! This year's national theme is "Women Who Advocate for Equity,



Shella Miller,
President
AAUW Tampa
2022-2024

Diversity, and Inclusion." The theme pays homage to women in the community who continue to make their voices heard about the importance of inclusion and addressing bias, discrimination, and inequities for a better society on all levels, including academia. This is so important in the world around us today, where certain actions attempt to devalue and silence the benefits of bringing awareness to DEI Access.

There is much work to be done in educating our community on the laws and directives that are working to undermine the efforts that so many have fought for in the DEI and civil rights space. As we celebrate and honor Women's History Month, this is a perfect opportunity to invite guests to our March meeting. During that meeting, our speaker will be Dr. Kayester Lee-Smith, our AAUW Tampa Branch Public Policy Director and State of Florida President-Elect.

She is no stranger to sharing her voice on the issues within the DEI and Public Policy Space. Her talk will be highly informative. This meeting will be an excellent opportunity to invite guests to Honor Women's History Month as we celebrate women and their contributions to our past, present, and future.



Please be reminded that the March meeting will take place on Saturday, March 23, from 10am to 11:30am at the Children's Board of Hillsborough County at 1002 E. Palm Avenue. **Please note this is a change in date, time, and location!!!** We moved it from the 2nd Saturday due to the Regional Conference being held at the Villages on our customarily scheduled weekend. At our March 23 meeting, we will also hear updates from those who attended that regional meeting. It will be a great gathering, and we look forward to seeing you and your guests. Below are additional updates for your awareness:

Meeting Day and Time
March **23**, 2024
10AM-11:30AM



Meeting Location
Children's Board of Hillsborough County
1002 E. Palm Ave,
Tampa, FL, 33605

Fundraiser

Our fundraiser will be held in May this year. Our VP, Ms. Catherine Clark-Martin, is coordinating details that will be shared at the March meeting. This year, we will have a murder-mystery luncheon with the Sun City Player's Club. A maximum of 70 tickets will be sold, so you will want to get your tickets early. We will also have themed basket winners and our Ribbon of Honor Winner recognition. A message should have gone out to all members with the Ribbon of Honor nomination criteria. All nominations will be due to Dr. Ebony Shoemo by April 15, 2024.

A Message from the President, cont...

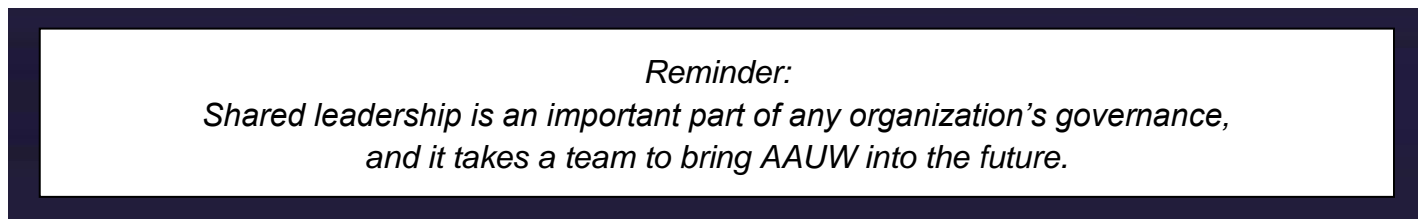
Voting on Bylaws that opens AAUW Membership

On **April 3**, **bylaws voting** will commence on the membership change that will open membership in AAUW to any individual supporting AAUW's critical mission of advancing equity of women and girls. Voting will close on May 15. Review the proposed bylaw changes [here](#). You can also view the open membership toolkit [here](#) and AAUW's statement on civility and inclusivity on the website [here](#).



April Elections

Our Nomination Committee has been working diligently to assemble a nomination slate for the April elections. Thank you to those who have stepped up to the call and put your name in the running for the upcoming elections. It takes all of us to run a successful branch, and many hands make a light load. I am confident with upcoming officers; we will keep the AAUW Tampa Branch moving forward well into the future. Thanks to our VP Catherine Clarke Martin and the Nominations Committee for all your efforts and persistence.



Tech Trek

Special thanks to Kim Rostick, Director of Tech Trek, and her entire committee that worked to interview 7th-grade girls for the summer Tech Trek Program. Our Tampa branch nominations have been sent to the State of Florida AAUW with 5 nominations. If anyone has any connections/networks with potential sponsors, please share the AAUW Tech Trek sponsor letter with them during March, when there is focused attention on women and women's issues. Please email Kim Rostick at aauwtampatechtrek@gmail.com if you need the letter.

Have a fantastic Women's History Month, and remember to support the women around you, including yourself. Without each of you, there would be no hands-on deck for our noble mission to serve and advocate for other women and girls. **Where there is Unity, there is Strength.** I hope everyone enjoys the issue, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Dr. Demetrix Rostick-Owens!



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

Join us at the Children's Board-March 23



MEETING NOTICE!

Day:

Saturday, March 23, 10am-11:30am

Topic:

DEI & Public Policy with Dr. Kayester Lee-Smith

Location:

Children's Board of Hillsborough County

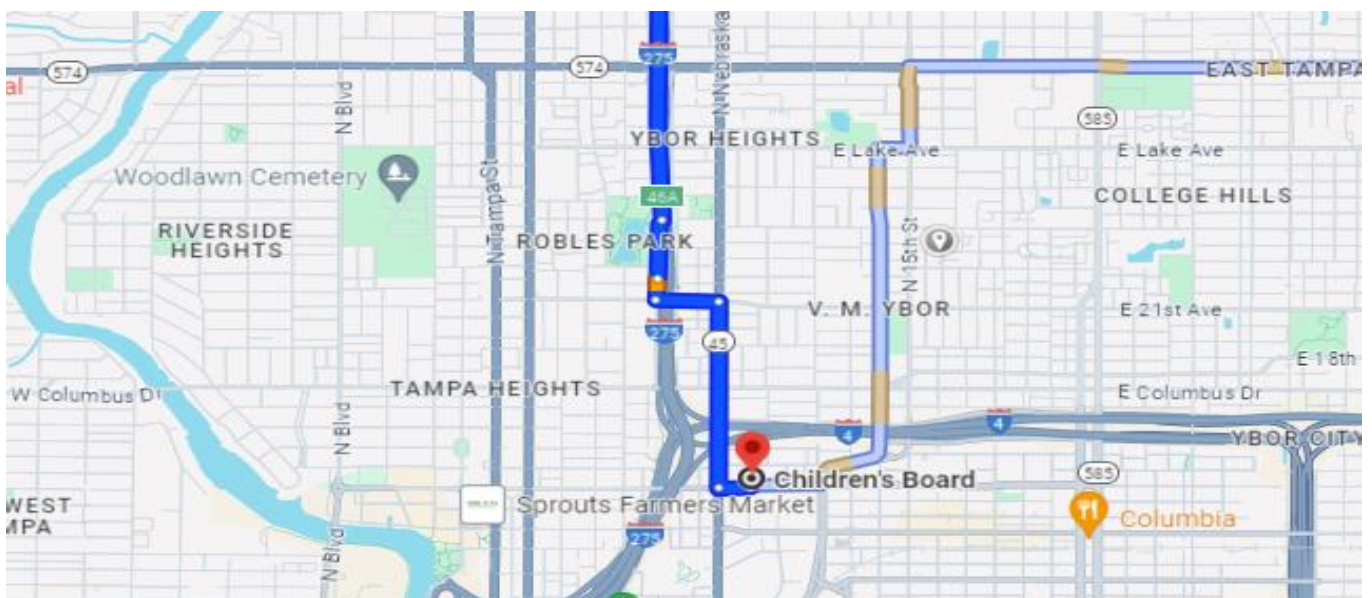
1002 E. Palm Avenue

Tampa, FL 33605


(Lunch will not be included)

Directions:

[Click here to get directions from your location!](#)



Important Dates in March

Day	Activity
Mar. 8	International Women’s Day; Click here to learn more
Mar. 10	Daylight Saving Time Starts; New Sunrise (7:45am) and Sunset (7:36pm)
Mar. 15	Consider asking a business owner to contribute \$1,200 to help support the 7 th graders we send to Tech Trek 2024; Download and use the sample letter (click here)
Mar. 16 10a-3:30p	2024 Northwest Regional AAUW Florida Conference @ the Villages Recreation Center
Mar. 17	St. Patrick’s Day and River O’ Green, an Irish-themed celebration hosted by the Tampa of City at Curtis Hixon Park in Downtown Tampa
Mar. 18	
Mar. 17 7:30pm	<p><u>Belles of Broadway: Musical Tribute to Broadway Female Icons</u> @ the Westcoast Black Theater Troupe</p> <p>The little lady with the big voice, Delores Elizabeth McKenzie is a child prodigy of Nate Jacobs and graduate of Bethune Cookman University. You have seen her in a number of shows at WBTT including Sistas in The Name of Soul, Eubie!, Joyful! Joyful!, and Broadway in Black. She has traveled all over the world on top-tier cruise lines and now she is bringing her talents back home. In this intimate evening, Delores will pay tribute to some of the Iconic Women of Broadway.</p> <p>Buy Tickets</p>
Mar. 19	2024 First Day of Spring
Mar. 23 10a-11:30p	<p>AAUW Tampa Branch General Meeting</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Dr. Kayester Lee-Smith, AAUW Tampa Director of Public Policy</p> <p>*New location: Children’s Board of Hillsborough County, 1002 E. Palm Ave., Tampa, FL 33605</p>
Mar. 26 7pm-EST	<p>Webinar: “Securing our Future”- learning about AAUW Branch recruitment and retention.</p> <p>Click here to register</p>
Mar. 27-31 Various Times	<p><u>Girl from the North Country</u> @ the Straz Center</p> <p>Written and directed by celebrated playwright Conor McPherson and featuring Tony Award-winning orchestrations by Simon Hale, Girl From the North Country reimagines 20 legendary songs of Bob Dylan as they have never been heard before, including “Forever Young,” “All Along the Watchtower,” “Hurricane,” “Slow Train Coming” and “Like A Rolling Stone.”</p>

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



AAUW Tampa Elections 2024: Ballot

Over the next few weeks, you will be receiving information related to AAUW Tampa's upcoming board elections. As you may recall from the February newsletter, very few candidates had been nominated or self-nominated by mid-February. In order to spur interests, the Election Committee, led by AAUW Tampa VP Catherine Clark Martin, engaged in the *Call-To-Action* calling and communications campaign during the final week of February. Thankfully, many members stepped-up and now most of the board vacancies have candidates. See the sample ballot below. As a reminder, all AAUW Tampa members are welcome to serve in a position. It is not too late to get involved!!!

A BIG THANK YOU is given to Marjorie Fontalvo, Paula Huzella, Catherine Clark Martin, Mattie Parr, Ebony Shoemo, Paula Thomas, and Dee Owens for volunteering to call and spread the word about the need for candidates!

Submitted by Catherine Clark Martin and Dr. Demetrix Rostick-Owens, AAUW Tampa VP & Communication's Director

Instructions: Mark your choices by filling in the box or placing an "X" in the box. Please see the examples: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/> You may only fill out one box, per candidate.		
Note: You may write in a candidate's name for any position listed, as each are open for all members of AAUW Tampa. Please make sure you have spoken with the write-in candidate and received their approval first.		
OFFICE	CANDIDATE	VOTE
President (2-year position)	Shella Miller	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Vice-President (1-year position)	Dr. Ebony Shoemo	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Director of Program Development (1-year position)	Carolyn Austin	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Director of Tech Trek (2-year position)	Kim Rostick	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Director of Communications (2-year position)	Dr. Demetrix Rostick-Owens	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Director of Public Policy (2-year position)	Dr. Kay Lee-Smith	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Director of Scholarships (2-year position)	Dr. Gloria Hilton	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Recording Secretary (1-year position)	Nominee Needed <i>Self-Nominate or Nominate Someone</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
D.E.I. Chair (1-year appointed position)	Nominee Needed <i>Self-Nominate or Nominate Someone</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Website and Facebook Manager (1-year appointed position)	Nominee Needed <i>Self-Nominate or Nominate Someone</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Corresponding Secretary (1-year appointed position)	Nina Thomas	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Critical Need for Volunteers and Mentors for Children in Foster Care

Submitted by Dr. Rukmini Potdar, AAUW Tampa Member

The Florida Guardian ad Litem Office represents abused, abandoned, and neglected children in court and the community. Through the collaboration of a multi-disciplinary team that always includes a Guardian ad Litem Attorney, a child welfare professional, and hopefully a trained volunteer or pro bono attorney from the child's community, if one is available, our team provides quality, independent legal representation for Florida's most vulnerable children while assisting the child in expressing their needs and wishes. Our unique approach allows us to support the whole child, addressing their physical, educational, mental, emotional, social, and legal needs. We need more community volunteers and mentors for the children we represent.

What is a Guardian ad Litem Volunteer? A Guardian ad Litem Volunteer is a team member that collaborates to provide proactive, child-centered advocacy for children in foster care. Currently, there are more than 2,500 abused, abandoned, and neglected children in Hillsborough County who are the subject of dependency proceedings. When you join our Florida Guardian ad Litem Office Team, you positively impact a child's life. No experience is needed, and training is free.

What is a Mentor? Our Hope Florida – A Pathway to Promise mentors help youth aging out of the foster care system, many with nobody to turn to. Youth are partnered with a mentor who will serve as a committed, caring adult as the youth transitions to adulthood, providing a lifeline for questions and advice related to living independently. It is easy to become a Mentor; training is online, self-paced and free.

Need for Donations: Your tax-deductible donation to the Florida Guardian ad Litem Foundation is a wise investment in the future our foster children deserve. Your donation will assist with much-needed normalcy needs.

To learn more, please visit www.guardianadlitem.org.

Tech Trek: Donation Opportunity

Submitted by Kim Rostick, AAUW Tampa Tech Trek Director

Interviews have concluded for the five students who submitted applications for Tech Trek. The Tech Trek Chair, Kim Rostick, extends a huge thanks to the Tech Trek Committee made up of Rukmini Potdar, Dee Owens, and Pat Tabone who coordinated communication and Zoom interviews with parents and students. Those students have now been ranked and sent to Tech Trek Florida who will make final decisions by March 30th on campers at the two one-week camps in June. If these talented and enthusiastic students are any indication, the future of women in STEM is bright! We look forward to making official announcements in the April newsletter.



For most students this will be a summer of firsts: first sleepaway camp, first time on a college campus, first STEM immersion, first time meeting cohorts from across the state of Florida, first time being mentored and challenged to develop their skills in STEM, first time having roommates and building relationships with others outside the home, a first taste of independence

(within boundaries). Families are asked to pay a \$50 registration fee. AAUW Tampa Branch pays \$1,200 per camper for this priceless life changing adventure. We need your help to raise more funds. If 12 AAUW Tampa Branch members contribute \$100 each, it will fund one student's priceless experience. We realize that is a big ask for some.

But if you consider asking a business owner to contribute \$1,200 that becomes a tax, write off. A win-win. We have made it easy. [Download and use the sample letter \(click here\)](#) to ask potential sponsors in your neighborhood and community to support AAUW mission of empowering women since 1881.

AAUW Career Tools & Resources

The Women’s Economic Empowerment Initiative of AAUW “gives women the skills they need to thrive and build strong financial futures.” Through a series of training models, AAUW is “showing women everywhere how to negotiate their salaries, grow in their careers, and bolster their financial literacy.” Take a moment to familiarize yourself with AAUW’s Career & Leadership Tools, and other resources which can help you fund your graduate program and/or navigate your career.

- [Start Smart](#): These workshops teach college and university students how to negotiate salaries
- [Work Smart](#): These trainings show early and mid-career professionals how to negotiate on their own behalf—for fair salaries, better benefits and advancement opportunities.
- [Money Smart](#): This program provides women with the personal finance information they need to ensure their own financial security.
- [Empower](#): This program is designed to enhance women’s leadership skills at every stage of their careers.
- [Get Your Resume Straight](#): This resource guide encourages job seekers on tailoring their resume for the job they want.
- [8 Great Job Boards for Diverse Professionals](#): This resource provides 8 diverse and inclusive job boards which can be viewed to navigate when job seeking.



Retrieved from: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/womens-economic-empowerment-initiative/#programs>

Bylaw Vote

Learn everything you need to know about the AAUW National Bylaw Amendment Vote that will determine the definition of AAUW Membership going forward. As stated on aauw.org, “The AAUW Board of Directors and Governance Committee recommend approval... to eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. This change will align our membership practices with our purpose of advancing equity for women and girls and enable us to include members with the diverse backgrounds and perspectives needed to achieve our purpose in today’s world.”

VOTING
OCCURS
APR 3-MAY 15



*Click the statements below to view the
2024 Proposed Bylaws Changes*

"Securing Our Future" Webinar

The AAUW National Advancement Committee has organized an online webinar to share best practices and enhance AAUW Branch membership retention and recruitment.



MARCH 26, 2024
7:00PM (EST)

Register @ https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YjCSrLLGT1qt-5fcAEP3VA

Keep Connected!

AAUW Tampa:

<http://tampaf1.aauw.net/>

AAUW Tampa Membership:

<https://tampaf1.aauw.net/membership/>

Access the AAUW Tampa Branch Bylaws:

<https://tampaf1.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://aauf-fl.aauw.net/>

Stay in the Know with AAUW National:

<https://www.aauw.org/>