

**Greater Naples Branch AAUW**  
**Branch Meeting – Saturday, October 7, 2017**  
**Unitarian Universalist Church**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Vice President Glenda Struthers, who welcomed everyone and said that President Marcia Turner was unable to attend as she was at a funeral.

**President's Report.** Glenda read President Marcia Turner's report. Marcia said that our board members and Special Interest Groups have been busy during the summer making plans for what is sure to be an exciting season of activity for the membership. She thanked the generous sponsor who is providing us with a great venue for our meetings, which enables us to meet on Saturdays again. She also thanked: Laura Candris, who has been very busy with membership and has created a great committee and has been working on new ideas for increasing membership; Ardel Nelson and Karen Clegg, who have spearheaded the revival of our Public Policy committee and have been very busy keeping us connected to the community and the priorities of AAUW; Lanetta Warrenburg and her STEM committee; Bonnie Butcheri and Stephanie Smith for getting massive updates done to the website; and Vi Steffan, who has been researching grant opportunities and formulating plans for fundraising. Marcia emphasized that AAUW-GNB is our organization and that suggestions and ideas are always welcome and that our involvement is encouraged whenever and wherever we are able to participate.

**Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Ardel Nelson pointed out the treasurer's reports that had been placed on many of the seats. Those reports were the Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Statements for both the branch and the foundation.

**Programs.** Glenda Struthers reported about the programs coming up this season: November 4 – Eileen Connolly-Keesler, executive director of the Community Foundation of Collier County (CFCC) will focus on two things, the recent report titled "Status of Women in Florida by County: Poverty and Opportunity" and the Women's Foundation at CFCC; January 13 – Dress for Success, which provides work clothing, support and career development tools to women; February 3 – Chris Nind, executive director of Literacy Volunteers of Collier County, will tell about the many programs offered, including preparation for the citizenship test and family programs such as Children and Parents Reading Together; March 3 – Smart Start – we'll hear about this training from AAUW that some of our members provide for graduating college students and have a chance to participate in some it.

**Tours and Talks.** The Public Policy committee is presenting the first Tour and Talk at the Lorenzo Walker Technical Institute on Tuesday, November 28. Ardel Nelson, Public Policy co-chair, explained that we will have a tour of the facility, a lunch by the school's culinary team and a presentation about jobs that students are being prepared for, including opportunities for female students. Glenda said there are plans for one or two more Tours and Talks in the new year. She encouraged anyone with ideas for Tours and Talks events or anyone who would like to help on the program committee or the Tours and Talks committee to let her know.

**Holiday Luncheon.** There will not be a program in December; instead there will be a holiday luncheon on Saturday, December 9, at Le Lafayette Restaurant. An invitation was distributed. Laura Candris encouraged members to donate items for the white elephant sale at the luncheon.

**Communication.** Stephanie Smith said that she and Bonnie Butcheri have been working on updating the website and Facebook page. She encouraged people who participate in an activity related to AAUW or its mission to post a summary (with photo, if possible) on the blog on our website. The deadline for

submissions for the November newsletter is October 15 – submissions should be sent to her this month instead of to Mary Uhl, who is the newsletter editor, and also to Bonnie. Stephanie introduced Ann Hughes, who is in charge of our publicity and press releases.

**Public Policy.** Ardel reported that this committee now has 29 members. They will meet later in October. One of their goals is for members to collect names on petitions asking for voting rights reinstatement for felons (with some exceptions) who have completed their sentences and probation. This committee will not be meeting monthly but will be working on various projects. Everyone is welcome to help and can choose which projects they want to work on.

**Membership.** Laura Candris introduced the new members present and welcomed them. She also introduced the members of her committee who were present, including Laura Scott, Judith MacGregor, Ellen Newell and Elaine Wade, as well as meeting Ambassadors Nancy Beights, Susan Becker, Judy Blackburn and Rose DiBaisi. Judith announced a Cocktails and Convos event on October 19 at Fish Restaurant at The Shops at Venetian Village. It is purely a social event, a time to gather and chat. Flyers for the event were distributed. Laura encouraged all members to check the Directory and report any changes that need to be made in their contact information and to let her or Bonnie or Mary know if they do not receive the newsletter at the end of the month. She also referenced the Member Information Sheets that were distributed, which identify the officers, committee and SIG chairs, how to access the on-line membership directory, the urls for the National, state and local websites, as well as our FaceBook and Linked In pages. She also discussed the Elevator Speech document which was developed from an exercise in which the members engaged last October, writing down their reasons for belonging to AAUW. These can be used to talk to friends and acquaintances about our Branch. She encouraged members to pick up one of the new color brochures to share with women who would be good members, pointing out that the more members we have, the more we can accomplish.

#### **School and Community Relations.**

**RIF.** Rose DiBiasi reported for Karen Clegg that the RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) program will continue this year, again without federal support. The program is held at grade schools that have a very high percentage of students who receive subsidized lunches. The school media specialists order books with donations provided and our members help children select books, write their name in them, and stamp them as gifts from our branch. Those interested in helping should contact Karen Clegg.

**Scholar Bowl and STEM.** Lanetta Warrenburg reported that there is a very large demand for helpers with Scholar Bowl this year. Volunteers in various positions are needed, such as timekeepers, question readers and judges. Anyone interested in helping should contact her. Lanetta will discuss our February STEM event in detail at the next branch meeting.

**Fundraising.** Vi Steffan did not have an official report but is working on various ideas in the fundraising area.

**Fiction/Non-Fiction Book Group.** Susan Becker invited interested members to join this group, which meets on the second Friday afternoon of the month in a member's home. Books have been selected through the December meeting and at that meeting the books for the rest of the season will be chosen.

**Great Decisions.** Ardel Nelson spoke on behalf of this group, inviting members to join. Participants receive a book with information about pending U.S. foreign policy decisions and one of those topics is presented and discussed at each meeting.

**Movies and a Meal.** Laura Candris explained that this group, which meets on the second Wednesday of the month, gets together for lunch and to see a film chosen by the attendees.

**Mysteries and Thrillers.** Judy Blackburn said that the membership of this long-standing group has decreased and that the group may need to be restructured.

**Non-Fiction Book Group.** Rose DiBiasi, reporting for Karen Clegg, said that this group meets at the Government Center on Orange Blossom Road, typically on the last Monday of the month at 5:30 pm, and discusses a non-fiction book that has been chosen by the group. Those who wish to dine together after the discussion go to a nearby restaurant. She invited members to join.

**Non Sequitur.** Nancy Beights explained that this group does various activities over the course of the season and passed out a hand-out of the season's schedule. Activities include dinners at various restaurants, a book discussion, a Public Policy discussion, and an Ides of March event at a member's home. She said that the group consists of articulate women with diverse viewpoints, political and otherwise, and that they know how to disagree without being disagreeable. Their first event is a dinner at Alexander's on October 12. She encouraged members to give the group a try.

Glenda remarked that some board members were unable to attend today's meeting and will report at the November meeting. The topics will include Bylaws, Educational Opportunities, Local Scholarships, and Nominating Committee. Glenda announced that the board is currently seeking a secretary and a treasurer and she encouraged anyone interested in either position to contact Nominating Chair Janet Ankiel, President Marcia Turner or anyone else on the board. The nominating committee will soon begin to work on the slate of nominations for 2018-2019.

A 50-50 drawing was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Glenda Struthers,  
Acting Secretary