



American Association of University Women  
AAUW Flagler County Branch  
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## COASTLINE – SEPTEMBER 2025

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### August 26th was Women's Equality Day!



### Women's Equality Day Gathering at Mezzaluna Pizzeria Tuesday, August 26, 2025

**Women's Equality Day** is observed annually on August 26th in the United States to mark the anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The 1920 passage of this amendment, 105 years ago, granted women the right to vote, a pivotal moment that redefined the meaning of democracy and justice in our nation.

The Women's Equality Day Gathering was a big success! In addition to 8 AAUW Flagler County members, 2 husbands and 2 member guests, the 16 attendees included 4 potential new AAUW members. The conversation was lively and the food and service at Mezzaluna Pizzeria were excellent!

Many thanks to AAUW Member Kathy Reichard-Ellavsky who prepared a brief history of Women's Equality Day she submitted as a *Letter to the Editor* to the Palm Coast Observer. Unfortunately, her submission was not selected for publication. Her article is very informative and is included in its entirety on the next to last page of this newsletter. Please read and share it with friends and family.

## September Greetings:

It is hard to believe Labor Day is here and we are already moving into fall. The upcoming cooler weather will be a welcome change from the hot and humid summer of 2025! Reading Women will begin the 2025-2026 season with a luncheon on Saturday, September 6 and our first General Membership Meeting & Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, October 11. I am looking forward to reconnecting with all of you!

Thanks for all you do!

*Gail Palmer*

Gail Palmer, President  
AAUW Flagler County Branch



## Women's Equality Day Gathering – August 26, 2025

### Upcoming - September AAUW events:

- **September 6, 2025: Reading Women** will meet for lunch at 11:00 am on Saturday, September 6, at the Olive Garden Italian Restaurant, 5294 E Highway 100, Palm Coast, FL 32164. The purpose of this meeting is to select the next 8 book titles the group will read.
- **September 9, 2025: AAUW Florida Public Policy Issues Forum Zoom** meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 9, from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. The topic is "Book Bans and Public Education". AAUW members, Nancy Tray, St Johns County Organizer of Families for Strong Public Schools, and Anne Tressler, a Florida education advocate, will speak about book bans in our Florida schools. They will examine the reasons behind bans, the types of books most frequently targeted, the impact of censorship on education and free speech, and what we can do about book bans. [Click here to register for this session](#)
- **September 18, 2025: AAUW Fall Member Gathering** will be held on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. At this special event, outstanding AAUW supporters and branches will be recognized, the new Strategic Plan's 3 key priorities will be discussed, results of AAUW FY25 Branch Survey will be shared, and information will be provided on AAUW's 5 Calls to Action. [Register here and join us for AAUW's Fall Member Gathering!](#)

- **September 20, 2025:** Another “Just for Fun” event is **tentatively** planned for Saturday, September 20, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you are interested in attending the Florida Highwaymen Art Show featuring artist R.L. Lewis at Poppy’s True Market, 803 East Moody Blvd, Bunnell, FL 32110 followed by lunch at Terranova’s Restaurant & Pizzeria, 208 N State St, Bunnell, please email Gail Palmer at [gmpalmer120@brighthouse.com](mailto:gmpalmer120@brighthouse.com) no later than Wednesday, September 10. Friends and family are welcome to attend this event with you.
- **September 26, 2025:** The first **AAUW St. Augustine Branch Film Festival** will be held at The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave, St. Augustine from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm on Friday, September 26. The event is a fundraiser for Tech Trek and STEM camps and will feature refreshments, raffle baskets and interesting films BY and FOR Women. Tickets are \$25 and are available on Eventbrite. A copy of the flyer announcing the festival is included at the end of this issue of Coastline. If you are interested in attending, please contact Gail Palmer at [gmpalmer120@brighthouse.com](mailto:gmpalmer120@brighthouse.com). Depending on the responses, carpooling may be available.

### Looking Ahead – October AAUW events:

- **October 4, 2025: Reading Women** will meet at 11:00 am on Saturday, October 4, at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 156 Florida Park Dr N. The October book selection is *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker.
- **October 11, 2025:** The **October General Membership Meeting & Luncheon** will be held on Saturday, October 11, at the Cypress Knoll Golf & Country Club. Member and guest check-in will begin by 10:30 AM followed promptly by the Branch business meeting at 11:00 AM. As planned, the program will include one or more of the four 7th grade girls we sponsored at Tech Trek 2025. In addition to hearing from our campers, Angela O’Brien, Flagler County’s Assistant Superintendent of Schools, will address the current state of Flagler County schools. Please invite a potential new member and plan to arrive early so you will have time to greet our guests and find a seat prior to the Call to Order.

### Get Involved:

- Help our organization grow by inviting potential new members to attend our general meetings and events with you. AAUW National’s **Shape the Future Campaign** offers a 50% discount off national dues when prospective members join AAUW at an event or meeting. AAUW membership is open to anyone with an associate (or equivalent, e.g. RN) degree or higher from an accredited educational institution.

### Stay Connected:

- Webmaster Theresa Owen is continually updating our website, [flaglercounty-fl.aauw.net](http://flaglercounty-fl.aauw.net). This resource provides information about AAUW Flagler County, an Events Calendar, and password protected access to our Membership Directory (password is “coastline”, all lower-case letters. Please do not share the password with non-members). The website also has active links to AAUW National’s website and to AAUW Florida’s website.



- If you have not already done so, use the following steps to set up your online member account with AAUW National:
  - Go to [aauw.org](https://aauw.org).
  - Click on 'Log In' in the upper right corner. The "Welcome" page displays.
  - Enter your email address, click 'Forgot your password?' located below the 'Log In' box, and follow the prompts.

With your online member account, you can securely pay dues, make donations, update your contact information, sign up for webinars and the Two Minute Activist, and access all the benefits and perks offered through National's website. If you are not currently receiving regular emails from AAUW National, you can opt-in or resubscribe through your online member account by selecting My Preferences on the Personal Snapshot page.

### Member Benefit - Back to School with ODP Business Solutions

- [Take advantage of your AAUW membership to stock up on eco-friendly essentials.](#) From sustainable office supplies to environmentally conscious breakroom products, we have everything to bring joy and sustainability to your workspace. Let ODP Business Solutions help you prepare for a productive year while contributing to a cleaner office and a greener planet.

### Looking Back – Tech Trek 2025



**Camper Kennedy Hardie with Directors  
Florida Atlantic University**



**Campers Analiah Hester, Sophia Costa, and  
Gabriella Hille  
Stetson University**

**Letter To The Editor, Brian McMillan - Palm Coast Observer – 8/15/25**

**by Kathy M. Reichard-Ellavsky, AAUW Member**

**The Flagler County Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is proud to commemorate Women's Equality Day, celebrated annually on August 26. It was on this date in 1920 when Congress officially ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote.**

**Representative Bella Abzug (D-NY) introduced a bill in 1971 to advocate for this commemoration. The first official recognition came in 1972 when President Richard Nixon issued a proclamation to honor the day. The following year Congress passed a joint resolution officially establishing Women's Equality Day. The resolution included a request that the President issue an annual proclamation which has been observed for over 50 years.**

**There are many milestones to recognize in the ongoing struggle for women's equality which officially began in 1848 in Seneca Falls, NY. The first Women's Rights Convention was a hastily organized event designed to coincide with the scheduled speaking tour of Lucretia Mott, a famous Quaker orator and abolitionist. The two-day event drew approximately 300 participants who attended lectures on law and various discussions about the role of women in society.**

**The sessions resulted in the Declaration of Sentiments, a document modeled after the Declaration of Independence, along with a list of resolutions to be debated and modified prior to being ratified. A woman's right to vote was a contentious concept that eventually was included in the resolution at the urging of Frederick Douglass, the famous abolitionist and sole African American attendee at the convention. On the final day of the convention exactly 100 people, 68 women and 32 men, signed the document.**

**The first Women's Suffrage Amendment was introduced in Congress in 1878. It would take over four more decades before the 19th Amendment would finally become law. Although this legally granted all women the right to vote nationwide it didn't guarantee this right in practice. African Americans were often disenfranchised due to discriminatory practices such as poll taxes and literacy tests. It wasn't until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that legislation finally protected the voting rights of all people regardless of race.**

**Women's Equality Day serves as a reminder that while progress has been made, significant work remains to achieve full equality in areas like equal pay, economic empowerment, and representation. The AAUW promotes education as the gateway to women's economic security and offers scholarships to enhance opportunities for higher learning.**



# AAUW ST. Augustine Film Festival

## A celebration of films BY and FOR Women

SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2025 | 6:30 PM TO 9:30 PM

THE WATERWORKS |  184 SAN MARCO AVE,  
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084

All proceeds support the S.T.E.M. Tech Trek Program for middle school girls in our Community. Join us on for a fun-filled event  
Dessert Bar, Raffle/Silent Auction and Q&A Session!

[Eventbrite](#)



Tickets \$25