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## Lobby Day

**Monday, February 1, 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting**



Karen Anderson, our Public Policy director and Nancy Sapiro, our new lobbyist have scheduled a virtual Lobby Day for Monday, February 1, 2021. They are developing plans for the meeting and a list of bills for us to support.

All members are encouraged to participate. Public Policy chairs at the branch level can help organize the attendees. The planners will need a list of attendees and their e-mail addresses by Monday, January 25, 2021.

More information can be found in the advocacy article [below](#).

## President's Message



Mary Williams  
President  
AAUW Washington  
[president@aauw-wa.org](mailto:president@aauw-wa.org)

I think we all have to agree that 2020 has been a very strange year. We seem to move from one anxiety producing crisis to another. I know I'm having trouble staying focused and engaged, and I'm sure you are, too. It's hard to imagine what else can be thrown at us, and it seems like this is a giant test of our resilience. I'd like to think that if we hang on, use every last bit of tenacity we can muster, and just take it day by day, we'll come out on the other side in a stronger, better place.

We are an organization that has always thrived because of our relationships, our discourse, and our ability to raise money for scholarships and programs through in-person activities. When I first realized that I was going to be "the pandemic president," I wondered if AAUW would survive in a world where a virus has relegated us to socially distanced isolation? Would you all decide to renew your membership when most everything you were familiar with and looked forward to was being canceled? Was I going to be the president that had to sit back and watch our once vital organization die? Well, I'm happy to say that renew you did. While our numbers are down a little, my guess is that most of it is because of normal attrition. I don't think we have the growth in new members that we would ordinarily have, but I'm convinced we can find ways to attract new members given a little time.

It was a sad day for your state board when we realized that we were going to have to cancel the Joint Convention with Oregon last April. So many hours of planning had gone into it, and we had gathered an amazing roster of presenters. We never expected to be in the same place six months later, but just a couple of weeks ago we made the difficult decision to cancel our contract with the Enzian Inn in Leavenworth. where we had planned to hold our 2021 Annual Meeting. Without a working crystal ball, we just couldn't risk losing the deposit we'd made that was still refundable, and we wanted to focus on planning the best virtual event possible. Later in this EL you'll find a

“Save the Date” asking you to put April 21<sup>st</sup> on your calendar. We hope you’ll join us in April to see what we’ve come up with.

It seems like every day I am copied on an email about some activity one of our branches has planned. Our larger branches have been able to pivot and are offering an impressive array of virtual programs, but it’s been a real struggle for many of our smaller branches. The board is committed to making this an equal opportunity organization, so over the next couple of months we are going to try to put together some groups and activities that will be open to all members across the state. We are also going to develop some other means of effective communication so that we can let you know what we’re up to and what we’re thinking about. I hope you’ll remember that we’re learning how to cope with this new reality just like you are. If you have ideas for webinars or a speaker series that we could offer virtually, please send me a note at [president@aauw-wa.org](mailto:president@aauw-wa.org).

While we’re figuring this out, please be kind to yourself and each other. Fortunately, I have avoided the virus so far (knock on wood), but many is the day that I end up with a pretty bad case of Zoom fatigue. If you’re like me, your neck hurts from hours with a laptop in (where else?) your lap, if your eyes are so dry and bleary you can barely focus, take a break and go for a walk. Check out some meditation apps (I love [www.tenpercent.com](http://www.tenpercent.com) ). Just a few minutes a day can make such a difference in your stress level. Or grab your AAUW branch directory and call someone who may need a kind word from a friendly voice. The phrase is becoming trite, but it’s true: We can get through this together.

## State News

### *AAUW-WA Advocacy 2020-2021*

Karen Anderson  
Public Policy Director  
AAUW Washington  
[advocacy@aauw-wa.org](mailto:advocacy@aauw-wa.org)

Our advocacy efforts last year had mixed results as some measures passed and others did not. One was vetoed by Governor Inslee for budget reasons. Now, we face the challenge of lobbying in a virtual environment and expressing our views on the budget process as well as on new and continuing bills. **Mark your calendars for February 1, 2021, which will be the date for our first virtual Lobby Day.** Fortunately, we will be aided in this effort by our new lobbyist, Nancy Sapiro.

Nancy brings years of experience and expertise to her work on our behalf. As a lawyer and contract lobbyist Nancy has represented clients in Olympia since 2012. Her lobbying portfolio includes health care, including reproductive health, civil rights, economic and social justice issues, domestic violence, and civic engagement. Prior to this, she worked as a staff attorney for a women’s legal

rights organization that worked to advance the law through litigation, legislative advocacy, and legal rights education strategies. Nancy also worked for over seven years as a public defender representing individuals charged with crimes as well as indigent parents and children involved in the juvenile justice/child welfare system. She received her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 2008 she was honored by the King County Washington Women Lawyers and given the Friend of the Judiciary Award for her work championing women's rights to comprehensive health information and care. Welcome, Nancy!

Thanks to all of you for your work on behalf of R90, which passed easily in the November election. As you may remember, we also lobbied for this bill on our last Lobby Day. So, take a victory lap! You have earned it! The girls and boys of Washington are the beneficiaries of your efforts. For some, the education they receive will create lifetime benefits.

What will it mean to engage in virtual lobbying? What can you do to begin preparations for this experiment?

1. **Make sure your branch has someone assigned to oversee public policy.** This is very important!
2. Identify your legislators and make contact with them or their legislative aide early. You will need to provide them with information about AAUW and arrange for meetings with them. We will be providing advice on this process.
3. Recruit as many members as possible to attend our virtual Lobby Day on Feb. 1. It will include speakers on our bills, a short workshop on creating candidate comparisons for future elections, and information on techniques for virtual lobbying.
4. Watch for the materials I will create and send in advance that will include summaries and talking points for our bills and information on how to prepare for virtual lobbying.
5. As soon as you know you will be able to participate, send your name and email address to [advocacy@aauw-wa.org](mailto:advocacy@aauw-wa.org). **We will need to have the names and email addresses from your branches of those who will be participating by January 25, 2021.**
6. Cultivate the habit of reading the AAUW-WA website and the Evergreen Leader by all your members. We plan to use them to keep you up-to-date on all our advocacy activities.

*AAUW-WA 2021 Annual Meeting*

*Save the Date:*  
*Saturday, April 17, 2021!*  
**WE WILL BE VIRTUAL!**

Mary Williams  
President  
AAUW Washington  
[president@aauw-wa.org](mailto:president@aauw-wa.org)

The 2021 AAUW – WA Annual Meeting will be held virtually on Saturday, April 17, 2021. By making this decision now, we can move forward with our planning and ensure a great day. Please block April 17<sup>th</sup> and plan to join us.

**Your state board has decided that once again this meeting will be offered at no charge. All AAUW – Washington members are invited to attend.**

We will have a full morning of engaging mission related speakers and/or presentations. The afternoon will be all about the business of maintaining a vibrant state organization.

Election of our 2021-23 State Officers

Review and potential adoption of any proposed changes to our Bylaws and Policies and Procedures

Adoption of AAUW-WA Public Policy Priorities

Consideration of any resolutions proposed by the Board or Branches



Karen Manelis  
Tech Trek Director  
AAUW Washington  
[techtrek@aauw-wa.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-wa.org)

### *Tech Trek 2021 in the Time of Covid-19*

At this early date, the AAUW CEO and board have determined that all Tech Trek camps in 2021 will be virtual or not at all. The feeling is that there are too many moving targets to even consider face to face based on continuing outbreaks and potential liability.

So, Tech Trek WA will plan for a virtual camp, knowing that if conditions do change sufficiently, we can more easily pivot to the in-person model than the reverse. We have truly been blessed with a cadre of veteran teachers who return year after year and are all on board with this change. The state Tech Trek committee is aware of the concern at the branch level about teachers having enough student contact to be confident in nominating girls to attend for 2021 and the impact of additional virtual learning. However, we have over 100 girls selected as 2020 campers statewide who were promised a Tech Trek experience in summer 2021. Because of AAUW's decision on use of name, etc., these campers will be asked to participate in a virtual 2021 camp. Our hope is that branches will solicit campers for 2021 to join them. One advantage of a virtual camp is that campers from throughout the state can be serviced at the same time. Again, the 2020 and possibly the 2021 campers will go forward on a virtual platform at the same time.

Our initial thoughts are to prepare a "program in a box" kit for the 2021 camp and ship to campers. Some activities will be self-driven and some will be group activities on a virtual platform. New Mexico tried this method this past summer but without any virtual platform. They sent "kits" of activities for the girls to do and had them post their results on designated websites. They included Kindles pre-loaded with specific programs and graphing calculators; we would possibly have to supply some of this type of equipment along with hot spots for some areas of our state.

We don't have a cost for any of this, but we know there will be a cost for virtual programming, no matter what we do. It may be just technical assistance to handle the virtual platform. Right now, we have sufficient funds to fund the three weeks of in-person camps originally planned for 2020, so branches may only need to do minimal fundraising for 2021 campers served in 2021 virtually as the anticipated numbers could be lower than usual and the per camper cost may be

lower for virtual camp. Once we go back to fully in person camps in 2022, we will set another budget.

Worst/best case at this moment is to provide a virtual experience for the girls selected in 2020 and then service the girls selected by branches as 2021 campers in summer 2022 OR accommodate girls selected in 2020 and 2021 in a virtual setting, and go back to in-person model for 2022 campers.

Soon after the new year, we will provide further guidance to the statewide Tech Trek community regarding more detailed 2021 summer plans and when we think best to serve 2021 campers.



*AAUW National Five Star Program*

India Nishi  
Five Star Program Director  
AAUW Washington  
[fivestar@aauw-wa.org](mailto:fivestar@aauw-wa.org)

Congratulations to the newest WA branch to earn AAUW National Five-Star recognition: WA Online Branch! They earned two stars – one for Advancement, and one for Communications & External Relations. Great job, WA Online! In addition, Walla Walla earned two more stars – one for Governance & Sustainability, and one for Programs. This is added to their previous star earned for Advancement. Well done, Walla Walla!

There is still plenty of time left this year for branches to earn stars and recognition from National. A presentation which outlines the program is available on AAUW Washington’s website at: [https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/files/2020/07/AAUWWAConfAug2020\\_5Starprogram.pdf](https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/files/2020/07/AAUWWAConfAug2020_5Starprogram.pdf).

Lots of the criteria are fairly easy to do, and you may find that your branch has already accomplished several of them. If you have questions about the program or your branch would like assistance or a presentation on the program, feel free to contact state focal India Nishi at [fivestar@aauw-wa.org](mailto:fivestar@aauw-wa.org).

*2016-2020 Financial Review Complete*

India Nishi  
Five Star Program Director  
AAUW Washington  
[fivestar@aauw-wa.org](mailto:fivestar@aauw-wa.org)

In late August, a financial review team was chartered by Mary Williams to review AAUW WA financials for the last four years. The team was quickly formed and worked over the next two months to review financial data and controls. Working with the records they were able to obtain, the team reviewed transaction records, bank statements, and internal control procedures. They found that the financials looked at appeared to be materially correct. The team reported several findings, primarily related to process and record keeping, as opposed to misstatement of financials. The team then prepared a report, which was presented to the board last month. The report provided details on the findings which focused on controls and processes. It also proposed a set of recommendations. Upon acceptance of the report by the board, Mary chartered a new team which will develop both new and enhanced financial policies and procedures, based on the presented recommendations. They plan to begin this work shortly.

Thanks to the team members – India Nishi (team lead), Jo Herber, and Dorothy McBride for their hard work. Thanks as well to State Treasurer, Kyle McEligot, who provided invaluable assistance as the team worked through the review process.

*2020 – 2022 Budget Development*

Mary Williams  
President  
AAUW Washington  
[president@aauw-wa.org](mailto:president@aauw-wa.org)

One of the activities that your 2020-21 State Board has been working on is the annual budget for this year and next year. As you can well imagine, the realities of 2020 changed many of the facts that were used when we developed our 2020-2021 budget last year. We were also required by our current Bylaws and Policies and Procedures to develop and approve a tentative budget for 2021-22 this fall. A Budget Committee was appointed to complete these tasks. Members were Finance VP Kyle McEligot, State President Mary Williams, State Secretary Susie Johnson, Director Karen Manelis, and former director Jeanie Glaspell. Several meetings were required to develop recommendations that were presented to the full State Board and approved at our October meeting.



Here's what you need to know:

- AAUW-WA ended fiscal year 2019-20 with an ending balance in the bank of \$60,341.78 and one outstanding check of \$4,926.32.
- After much discussion, the Committee recommended, and the Board approved, that we maintain a balance in a reserve account of \$25,000. These funds are not restricted, so the board can approve their expenditure, but our goal will be to carry them from year to year for the purpose of maintaining cash flow and establishing an emergency fund.

Our final approved 2020-21 budget is:

Carryover from Previous Year	55,415.46
Total Anticipated Income	14,612.00
Total Cash Available	70,027.46
Budgeted Operating Expenses	13,389.00
Reserve Account	25,000.00
Remaining Unbudgeted Funds for Contingencies	31,638.46

The tentative budget for 2021-22 is:

Total Anticipated Income	14,612.00
Budgeted Operating Expenses	14,265.00
Ending Balance	347.00
Reserve Account	25,000.00

The budget for operating expenses covers things like the cost of our lobbyist, our internet and website expenses, bank charges, board expenses, office expenses and transportation. This year, we are planning to provide our three major events, the Summer Leadership Meeting, Lobby Day, and the Annual Meeting at no cost to participants since we will be conducting them on Zoom. We will be establishing a separate budget for each event and allocating funding to cover costs from the Unbudgeted Contingencies Fund. Once we know what 2021-22 brings, and we know whether we can meet in person once again, we will reevaluate whether we continue to offer these events at no cost or make them self-supporting.

## Branch News

Editor's Note: The AAUW-WA Communications team asked branch presidents for information on their successes with virtual meetings. The articles below demonstrate how they have adapted to the new methods. The articles have varying levels of detail, but all insights on how we can use technology to meet with each other and pursue our mission in these difficult times.

### *AAUW Port Townsend*

Mary Biskup and Gina Webber  
Co-Presidents  
AAUW Port Townsend  
[porttownsend@aauw-wa.org](mailto:porttownsend@aauw-wa.org)

### **Step by Step -- Learning How to Stay Connected Virtually**

Last summer it became clear our 180+ member Branch would not be able to meet in person in the Fall, and many members asked if we would meet at all. Our answer was a resounding "Yes! We will meet and stay connected!" But How? Now, with two successful virtual Branch meetings under our belt, and many of our Interest Groups and Neighborhood Groups humming, we have partially answered the question. It has been a step by step process, learning as we go. We'd like to share a few of these steps here.

Our August Board planning and input from members confirmed a definite interest in virtual Branch meetings, especially if these included social time for members to visit with friends. We knew that many of our members were not comfortable with Zooming, and that many different types of devices were in use. In preparation for our First Ever Virtual Branch meeting with Break-Out Sessions, we established "Zoom Buddies" within our neighborhood groups to help members learn how to Zoom on their device. Further, to ease members into our first Zoom Branch meeting, we began the morning with break-out sessions with trained hosts to facilitate participation in the general meeting. Our Webmistress met virtually with each host to go over the tips and techniques needed for a smooth Zoom experience.

We realized we would need a scripted Agenda, with detailed prompts for the audio and video aspect of each part of our Zoom Branch meeting. And so, we formed a sub-group of our Board, called the Virtual Branch Meeting Working Group. This small group led by one Co-President, includes our very tech-savvy Webmistress, IT-proficient Board members, and one non-tech savvy Co-President, who has been willing to learn! After the monthly branch meeting agenda is drafted, the Working Group meets to define how it will be presented on Zoom, and then invites all presenters to a practice walk-through of the program. Following the Branch meeting, the group meets again to discuss further improvements. All of these meetings are key to smooth presentations.

We also tell our members how to join the upcoming Branch meeting, often. In our Branch newsletter, emailed at the first of the month, we introduce the program, and provide specific links with clear instructions on how to join. Then, on the Monday before the meeting, the Co-Presidents email a “Note” to all members which also includes the links. Last, on the Friday before the meeting, a final short email reminds members of the link and encourages all to attend.



September Branch Meeting

Our September and October Virtual Branch meetings have been well attended and well received. Our break-out sessions provide socialization as well as time to gather input from our members, including ideas for future programs. In September when we held the break-out sessions before the general meeting, we found that placing arriving members into their correct neighborhood groups was challenging and time consuming. Members were left in the entry waiting room for too long. At our October meeting we shifted our break-out sessions to the end of our Branch meeting and placed members into random groups hosted by Board members. We found that process ran much more smoothly, and encouraged new connections. We call these sessions “Coffee Rooms,” although they may become “Mimosa Rooms” for our December Holiday meeting!

Initially, we thought we might need to hire an external Zoom administrator/host to conduct our virtual Branch meetings. But with a willing and talented Webmistress and an experienced Board member, both of whom act as our behind-the-scenes Zoom hosts, we have been able to produce these meetings internally. These virtual Branch meetings take at least twice as much work and planning as in-person Branch meetings. But thanks to our hard-working Board and our willing and engaged membership we have been successful so far -- working step by step, and learning as we go.

Members also stay connected through our Interest Groups, facilitated this year by the introduction of a virtual catalog and an online system for joining. Most of our Interest Groups (currently 27 of them!) are meeting on Zoom. Our Branch is divided into eight neighborhood groups led by one or two Neighborhood Liaisons who keep the groups informed and in touch. Our Branch newsletter has become even more important in these days of social distancing, and welcomes articles by members, with lots of photographs.



A socially distancing book group meeting

We've participated in two in-person rallies in our community -- outside, socially distanced, wearing masks and carrying signs -- the first to celebrate the Centennial of Women's Suffrage and the second to urge citizens to Vote. And at our last Branch meeting we heard about a planned fundraiser in the Spring, a virtual Home and Kitchen Tour. We are pleased to report that in these challenging times AAUW Port Townsend is meeting and keeping connected, in so many ways.



Centennial of Women's Suffrage

*AAUW Puyallup*

Joan Cronk  
Publicity Chair  
AAUW Puyallup  
[puyallup@aauw-wa.org](mailto:puyallup@aauw-wa.org)



Despite the Coronavirus and the challenges it has brought, the Puyallup Valley Branch of AAUW seems to have hit their stride and maintaining some normalcy.

Zoom has offered an option to stay in touch, and a recent Zoom event brought 20 members together to celebrate the Women's Suffrage movement. Led by our co VPs of Programs members appeared sporting fancy hats and sashes and after a brief slide show, shared stories of their first experience voting.

Regular book club get-togethers and Bridge games have kept members connected as we all stay safe in our homes.

Some have visited on their doorsteps with fellow AAUW members, social distancing of course, but it is wonderful to see each other face to face, even though wearing masks.

Tech Trek discussions have continued and ideas shared about how we can continue that program under new conditions.

*AAUW Southeast King County*

Kathleen Rathbun  
President  
AAUW Southeast King County  
[sekingcounty@aauw-wa.org](mailto:sekingcounty@aauw-wa.org)

My Southeast King County branch is conducting meetings on Zoom which is an ongoing learning process for all in our new normal. As president, I want to use our meeting time to build and maintain our community. We discuss assigned Ted Talks first then go on to any old or new business.

Recently I attended the webinar, *Programming in a Pandemic for Branch and State Leaders* with Kim Churches. This was very informative to learn what other branches are doing around the country. We learned that some have dressed up and prepared dinner to share virtually, had speakers, hosted virtual auctions, partnered a How-to series, guided tours, product sales, virtual movie screenings, cooking lessons, book reviews, virtual fund raisers, a virtual walk, “No Run Run”, and for the holidays, an ugly sweater contest with a musician.

This gives us a few ideas for the future.

*AAUW Stanwood-Camano*

Elaine Richards  
AAUW Stanwood-Camano  
[stanwoodcamano@aauw-wa.org](mailto:stanwoodcamano@aauw-wa.org)

Since 1998, the Stanwood/Camano branch of the AAUW, in partnership with the Stanwood Camano News, has offered a Candidate Forum. This year it was held October 14th and because of the COVID-19 pandemic it was a virtual event, held as a Zoom Webinar.

The Stanwood Camano School District graciously allowed access to their Webinar license and offered technical support during the Forum. About 100 people watched the live event and many more have since viewed the on-line recording of the nearly 2-hour live event. Eighteen candidates from Stanwood, Island County and North Snohomish County were invited to participate. Nine local races were featured, including the US Congress Representative District 2, 10th Legislative District State Senate position and both 10th Legislative State House positions, two Island County

Commissioner races, Snohomish County Judge Position 8 and Island County Judge Position 2, along with Snohomish County PUD District 1.

Candidates were paired on screen with the opponent in their race. Each one was given three minutes to introduce themselves and then Moderator Jackie DeFazio asked them questions. During registration for the Forum, registrants were encouraged to submit questions for candidates and members of the AAUW chapter also developed questions. Candidates were allowed one minute for answers and then allowed one minute for a summation. Mail-in ballots were mailed the same week so those viewing the Forum had fresh information about the candidates and could make better informed voting decisions. It's a public service and tradition that AAUW intends to keep.

## State Officers

Role	Name	E-mail address
President	Mary Williams	<a href="mailto:president@aauw-wa.org">president@aauw-wa.org</a>
Vice-President	Karen Anderson	<a href="mailto:vp@aauw-wa.org">vp@aauw-wa.org</a>
VP of Finance	Kyle McEligot	<a href="mailto:finance@aauw-wa.org">finance@aauw-wa.org</a>
Secretary	Susie Johnson	<a href="mailto:records@aauw-wa.org">records@aauw-wa.org</a>
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