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**President’s Message**



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

I’d like to think we’ve rounded the corner, winter is in the rearview mirror, and spring is on the horizon. Unfortunately, I think I may be a bit early. As I write this, we are looking at a forecast that predicts the coldest days of the winter later this week. With Lobby Day behind us, and our Annual Convention seemingly just around the corner, I’m ready to see daffodils and tulips, daylight savings time bringing the ability to have dinner before dark, and a potential end to the pandemic sometime soon.

We’ve started working on the convention in earnest now. A couple of speakers are confirmed, and we’re hoping to add several other names to the list in the next few days. We’re also looking at what we will need to take care of at our business meeting. Since last year’s convention was cancelled, we will have several years of changes to make. The



convention, like everything else this year will virtual. We're hoping that we can make that transition as seamless as possible.

I want to thank the nearly 140 of you who attended our first ever virtual lobby day. As much as I'm ready to hit the highway again, I was really grateful to not have to spend several hours on the road in the dead of winter. It remains to be decided as to whether we make this change permanent or try to come up with a hybrid mode so that the hundreds of members who would have to cross the mountain can still participate in one of our most important activities each year. In the next few weeks, we will be surveying branches to learn about your experiences as you met with legislators and participated in the democratic process on your computer screen.

My last plea is that you read and think about the help wanted ads later in this document. We are seeking candidates for the vacant seats on our state board. We would also like to hear from you if there are other ways you would like to participate in state leadership activities. We're all working hard to make AAUW – WA the dynamic and influential organization we know it can be.

## Advocacy

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

Despite all the obstacles posed by the pandemic, we have made great progress on our public policy goals. On February 1, 2021, we held our first virtual lobby day with over 140 people participating. Several presenters provided useful information on a diverse range of topics, including Margaret Babayan, who talked about women's need for tax reform in Washington, and Dr. Laura Sienas, who detailed the risks to women's health created by hospital systems that take medical decisions out of the hands of patients experiencing crises in pregnancy and the health professional caring for them. Sandra Distelhorst presented a very useful workshop on creating candidate comparison forms on issues central to AAUW's mission. For those who missed all or part of our meeting, the recording will be available on our website and can be accessed at <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/2020/12/28/lobby-day-2021/>.

We also urged our members to continue lobbying through multiple means, including virtual visits with their legislators. Reports on conversations with lawmakers should be sent to me at [advocacy@aauw-wa.org](mailto:advocacy@aauw-wa.org). Any recommendations for actions that would encourage them to support our policy agenda (without watering it down) will be very welcome. We want once again to encourage everyone to sign up for the two-minute activist at <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>. We can use it to advance our policy agenda now and in the future. You don't have to be a member to sign up.

You can also sign in for laws and leave a brief written comment. To do so, go to the Washington State Legislature bills information at <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>. Type in the four-digit bill number (do not add SB or HB here) and it will take you to that bill. There you will find the bill and information about its location in the process. Click on Comment on the Bill and fill out the information. Leave a one-sentence or longer statement that says something like “I support HB\*\*\*\* because it will protect women’s health or provide low-income women with crucial resources.” Talking points can be found in the bills summary we provided for Lobby Day. Thank you so much for your efforts on behalf of AAUW-WA advocacy.

## State News

### *Call for Nominations*

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

Our state convention is just over 60 days away, on Saturday, April 17, 2021. At the convention we will be electing officers for the state board for the 2021-2023 term. Because we have been unable to recruit a Nominations Committee Chair or committee members, the State Board has been forced to act in this capacity. Our current state Bylaws require that we make a call for nominations no less than 60 days prior to the election.

Our current bylaws require that we elect a secretary and two board members in odd numbered years. Any AAUW-WA member can nominate a candidate for office by submitting that person’s name to the Board. YOU MUST HAVE THE PERMISSION OF THE PROPOSED CANDIDATE PRIOR TO SUBMITTING HER NAME. Please submit nominations to [president@aauw-wa.org](mailto:president@aauw-wa.org) no later than March 8, 2021.

A slate of candidates for office will be published in the March 15<sup>th</sup> Evergreen Leader. There will also be a call for nominations and nominations will be accepted from the floor (does zoom have a floor?) at the Annual Meeting portion of the state convention, which will be held on the morning of April 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Help Wanted!*

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

Your AAUW – WA State organization needs you! Are you as sick as I am of the current platitude of choice: Teamwork Makes the Dream Work? Its stuck around for so long because it's true. It takes an entire team to do this work and do it right. And, we need your help. Here are a few of the opportunities that are available if you think you might be interested in joining our team:

1. **State Board Member(s)** – we currently have 2 vacant seats on the Board of Directors. One is to fulfill the commitment of a board member who resigned. Term of office – now to June 30, 2022. The second seat has been vacant for some time, with a term of office ending June 30, 2021.
2. **Book Club Coordinator** – statewide book club. See the January EL for more information.
3. **Book Club members** – we are interested in starting a statewide book club, particularly for members from small branches who are interested in a book group but don't have enough members to support one in their own area.
4. **Nominations Committee Chairperson** – the State has been without a nominations chair for several years. Your job this year would be to work with the state board to identify members who are interested in taking on a leadership role at the state level.
5. **DEI Chairperson** – we need to focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Ideally, this would be a state board position, but if we are unable to find someone willing to do this important work while sitting on the board, we need to identify members who are interested in working on this effort in conjunction with the board.



### *Tech Trek Needs a Few Good Women!*

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

Plans are well underway for our Virtual Tech Trek camp in 2021. Dates are set for all campers as July 11-16. Girls from both 2020 and 2021 will attend this camp from every corner of Washington. With the virtual format for this year's camp, we need even more volunteers to act as Teaching Assistants throughout the week. Openings are for five mornings (Monday-Friday, July 12-16, 8 am-12:30 pm) OR afternoons (Monday-Thursday, July 12-15, 1-5 pm), OR BOTH! We are contacting Tech Trek alumnae who are now in college, but we're also looking for our members to participate. Check out the job description on our website [here](#).

Branches should also encourage their STEM Recognition Scholars to consider serving as teaching assistants at Tech Trek. They should also complete the inquiry form on the Tech Trek WA website. If you or others in your branch are interested, please complete the inquiry form on the Tech Trek WA website, [techtrek-wa.aauw.net](http://techtrek-wa.aauw.net), at the link above. **Deadline to apply March 15.**

Core classes will include chemistry, climate change issues, cybersecurity, human physiology and robotics! Campers will select one core class from those offered (attended four days during week). The core classes will be taught by highly qualified middle school teachers, almost all veterans of in-person Tech Trek camps. Afternoon offerings will include hands-on labs in areas not specifically covered in the core classes. The need for additional teaching assistants this year is because each class will have multiple breakout sessions which need to have moderators. We are engaging the same technology experts that were successfully used by AAUW WA for last August's Summer Leadership Meeting and the recent Lobby Day, so there will be plenty of technical help.

Each camper will make a short video of her work in her core class. Friday, the last day of camp, will be devoted to the girls finalizing their videos and making an afternoon presentation to all campers and families able to attend. We will gladly provide the link for this closing session; just email your request to [techtrek@aauw-wa.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-wa.org).



*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 latest Five-Star award recipients! This month, Stanwood-Camano achieved their first three stars, and are working hard on the last two. And AAUW Washington achieved their first star. Only one state so far has achieved three or more stars, so hopefully we can be one of the next.

Other branches are continuing their work to achieve 5-Star status too, and it's not too late for your branch to get started. There has been some talk of extending the program, given that COVID has made things more difficult, but for now the program runs through the end of June, 2021.

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) . We are also in the process of setting up a Five-Star page on the AAUW WA website, so keep your eyes open for that in the coming weeks.

Remember, if your branch wants to participate, you will probably find they have done many of the tasks already, and can quickly earn recognition for it. And, as always, 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) .

## Calendar and Upcoming Events

### *AAUW-WA State Calendar*

#### FEBRUARY

18	State Board (Exec. Committee) Meeting	Noon
22	Presidents Meeting	10:30 AM

#### MARCH

15	Evergreen Leader	
18	State Board (Exec. Committee) Meeting	Noon
29	Presidents Meeting	10:30 AM

#### APRIL

1	April Fool's Day	
4	Easter	
15	State Board Meeting (Full Board)	Noon
17	<b>CONVENTION</b>	All Day
26	Presidents Meeting	10:30 AM

#### MAY

15	Evergreen Leader	
24	Presidents Meeting	10:30 AM
27	State Board (Exec. Committee) Meeting	Noon
31	Memorial Day	

#### JUNE

12	<b>WOMEN'S HEALTH SUMMIT</b>	All Day
15	Evergreen Leader	
24	State Board (Exec. Committee) Meeting	Noon
28	Presidents Meeting	10:30 AM
TBD	State Board Transition Meeting	

*Preview of Coming Attractions*

**AAUW-WA Convention**  
**Regroup, Reimagine, Recommit**

Jeanie Glaspel  
Program Director  
AAUW Washington  
[programs@aauw-wa.org](mailto:programs@aauw-wa.org)

When: Saturday, April 17, 2021  
Where: On a computer screen near you

It will soon be spring! And with spring comes our state Convention scheduled for your ZOOM participation on April 17th.

We will start at 8:30 with our annual business meeting for branch delegates and interested observers. It will include a vote on by-laws changes, ratification of an update of our public policy priorities, and the election of our state secretary and up to 4 directors who will serve from July 2021 through June 2023.

All State members will want to be present for the afternoon session beginning at 12:00. Several informative and energizing speakers will keep us up to date on topics of particular interest. We will hear from AAUW-National regarding the proposed by-laws amendment, from an OSPI official about the current state of public education, and from Lisa Maatz on the current employment outlook for women and how AAUW might respond to the challenges. Many of you will remember Lisa as National's Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy for many years. Several other speakers, both educational and entertaining will round out the afternoon.

I am looking forward to seeing so many smiling faces. Mark your calendar for Washington State's 2021 Convention on April 17th. Once again, this event will be provided without a registration fee. Check the March edition of the Evergreen Leader, the AAUW-WA website, and your local branch communication for registration details.

### AAUW-WA Women’s Health Summit

Mary Williams

President

AAUW Washington

[president@aauw-wa.org](mailto:president@aauw-wa.org)

When: Saturday, June 12, 2020

Where: Wherever you Zoom

As we were developing this year’s public policy platform, we realized that there are so many issues related to women’s health that we needed gather experts from across the state to help us understand and prioritize what we need to do personally and legislatively. Watch future Evergreen Leaders for details and how to register.

### Puyallup Valley Guest Speaker

Joan Cronk

Publicity Chair

AAUW Puyallup Valley

[puyallupvalley@aauw-wa.org](mailto:puyallupvalley@aauw-wa.org)



On Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, AAUW Puyallup Valley Branch will host a Zoom presentation through Humanities Washington featuring Brian G. Henning, a professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies at Gonzaga University, as our speaker. During the Zoom event Henning, who has earned a PhD in philosophy, will present Heating Up: The Ethics of Climate Change and pose the question, “What if we could tell ourselves a new story about climate change and, in doing so, alter our relationship to our planet?”

In his presentation Henning will discuss how global warming itself is not the only problem - “It is a symptom of a larger issue concerning how we conceive of ourselves and our relationship to the natural world.”

Henning, who lives in Spokane, is a speaker through Humanities Washington and has delivered nearly 100 community presentations to general and academic audiences. The link to pre-register for the event appears below.

<https://gonzaga.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwocOmpqDsiHdlo9CLhdFS9FtrQe8QO7B3>

**AAUW WA Online Branch Programs**

Kelvie Comer  
AAUW-WA Online Branch  
[waonline@aauw-wa.org](mailto:waonline@aauw-wa.org)

**ZOOM, 4 PM – 4:45 PM Thursday, February 25, 2021**  
**Pre-registration required**

Naomi Ishisaka, Seattle Times  
Viewing Leadership, Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Development:  
A major influencer speaks Her Truth in Changing Times

Join us for a spirited discussion of leadership, diversity, inclusion and community development through the eyes and voice of Naomi Ishisaka, the Assistant Managing Editor for Diversity, Inclusion and Staff Development and the Social Justice Columnist for *The Seattle Times*. A Major Influencer in the Seattle region, she is an award-winning columnist and photographer. Naomi edited *Colors NW* and under her leadership the publication received over 50 awards, and she personally received 5 of those awards. Naomi Ishisaka speaks about our communities and works tirelessly to address that truth through her Seattle Times column. Her experiences as an editor, writer, artist, and columnist offer insights for AAUW members and leaders in Washington State and across the US. We are fortunate to have her join us for an open conversation.



Register to attend this ZOOM meeting by 4 pm Wednesday, February 24, to: [waonlinebranch@gmail.com](mailto:waonlinebranch@gmail.com) Include your name, branch, if appropriate, state, and phone number.

We live in changing times and that’s not easy. Many of us remember Bob Dylan’s 1964 song-- “The Times They Are a-Changin’”—which reflected the sentiment that imminent change was in the air. Soon the country was torn up by war and peace movements; civil rights and assassinations; women’s rights and abortion reform. Today, once again, we can sing Dylan’s song loud and strong: the pandemic rages; the number of deaths roar up – impacting minority populations, especially people of color, disproportionately, while shots in arms cannot get in fast enough to meet the potentially deadly mutations. Black Lives Matter and Me Too challenge our communities to see differently. We are at another crossroads as a country; for all of us – what is fair, reasonable, equitable? Can we see each other as individuals worthy of respect in our communities? What is TRUTH? Whose truth is it?

AAUW as an organization has long been committed to diversity and inclusion. The AAUW Foundation supports diversity through major grants in all programs. The [AAUW-WA On-Line Branch](#) seeks to further our diversity and inclusion mission through programming and strategic planning.

Thursday, April 22, 2021  
Leadership, Philanthropy, and Diversity

Plans are underway for a panel discussion featuring another group of extraordinary women. Planned participants include:

**Gloria Blackwell**, AAUW Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer

**Juliana Menasce Horowitz**, Pew Foundation Research Center, 2018. Research on *Women and Leadership*

**Melissa Johnsen** – President, Planned Parenthood, Colorado; Colorado Philanthropist; Past AAUW Board Member

We are particularly interested in the intersections of these topics. All branches are invited to participate. More information in the next issue of the Evergreen Leader.

*In Memoriam*

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

All too often it seems we receive a request from a branch that has lost a valued member and would like that individual to be recognized and longtime AAUW friends and colleagues to be notified of their passing. We have decided that the best way to spread the sad news is to include a brief mention in a timely edition of Evergreen Leader and include a link to sources for more information should someone be interested. If your branch would like to provide us with information for the In Memoriam section, please send it to [communications@aauw-wa.org](mailto:communications@aauw-wa.org) or [evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org](mailto:evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org).

**DR. PATRICIA DAWSON** --The Seattle Branch was sorry to learn about the passing of Dr. Patricia Dawson on December 13, 2020. They included a testimonial to her on Page 8 of the February issue of The Catalyst, their branch newsletter. Read it here <https://seattle-wa.aauw.net/files/2021/01/AAUW-Catalyst-February2021.pdf> Additional information about Dr. Dawson's work and her memorial service can be found at <https://online.gifts.washington.edu/peer2peer/Campaign/dawson>

## The Branch Corner

### AAUW Puyallup Valley

Jeanne Fitzgerald  
Co-President  
AAUW Puyallup Valley  
[puyallupvalley@aauw-wa.org](mailto:puyallupvalley@aauw-wa.org)

There are more things happening in Puyallup than the Washington State Fair. Beginning in 1979 with more than a hundred members, the Puyallup Valley AAUW Branch centered their activities around support for women's education and employment. Organizing a local chapter of Washington Women's Employment & Education and creating career days for sixth graders paved the way for women of all ages to gain independence through education. The Innovative Teaching Grant program provided funds for teachers to create or supplement educational programs that supported AAUW goals. This effort enhanced the educational experience of a wide range of students in the Fife, Orting, Puyallup, and Sumner school districts. Original interest groups included an investment club as well as bridge, book club, and Mothers with Preschoolers.

Currently the branch has 59 active members who reside in Puyallup and the surrounding communities of Fife, Orting, Sumner, Bonney Lake, Edgewood, Milton, and Tacoma. Innovative Teaching Grants continue and are available to Fife, Orting, Puyallup, Sumner-Bonney Lake, and Chief Leschi educators who provide instruction in STEM. Students from these districts are chosen for Tech Trek scholarships and the High School Scholars recognition program. In 2018 the Gwen Fletcher scholarship was established as a memorial to an esteemed Puyallup educator who was a valued long-term member. Applicants for the scholarship come from the High School Scholars from the previous academic year. Innovative Teacher recipients, high school scholar juniors, and one senior scholarship recipient gather with their families, colleagues, branch members, and Gwen Fletcher's family at a spring reception celebrating educational excellence and future opportunities for Puyallup Valley young women. (Photo of Gwen Fletcher from 2015).



In the recent past, the Puyallup Valley Branch raised funds for their programs with an array of events such as fashion shows, garden center gift card sales, virtual fundraisers, and car wash coupons. In 2018, The Puyallup Garden Tour became the main fundraiser. Implementing the tour is a year-long project that involves finding willing garden owners, recruiting volunteers, selling tickets, and locating sponsors. On the day of the tour, members and volunteers assemble to welcome visitors from the Puget Sound area. Although the tour was cancelled in 2020, it is evolving into an annual event. The money raised is welcome because it funds important projects.

But there are other benefits: wider AAUW recognition in the Puyallup Valley, an opportunity to participate in City of Puyallup events such as Meeker Days, enhancement of branch collegiality, and, importantly, the arrival of new members.



Branch members outing to the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Lobby Day, as well as social activities such as book group, bridge club, writers' group, Lunch Bunch, and Rain or Shine Walking Group provide members with intellectual growth, awareness of social needs and enjoyment. Since the inception of the Garden Tour a new Gardening interest group has been added. Recently, attending Zoom events presented by other Washington AAUW branches has been a popular way to mitigate the isolation caused by the 2020 pandemic. The branch also uses Zoom to hold meetings for book club, writers' group, and garden tour planning as well as branch meetings and executive board meetings. As the branch moves forward, increasing membership will remain a priority. Future years of the branch may include involvement in the AAUW Five-Star Recognition Program and Start\$mart and other future possibilities. Currently, members balance branch and family responsibilities with outreach to needs in the wider community such as food insecurity and the needs of immigrants, voters, and those struggling with literacy.

## State Officers

The list of state officers can be found on the AAUW-WA website at:

<https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/about-aauw-wa/about-us/officers/>