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President’s Message



Mary Williams
President

AAUW Washington

president@aauw-wa.org

Do you do your best thinking in the shower? A week or so ago, this message wrote itself in my head – but I was in the shower – and by the time I was at a keyboard no trace of what I had been thinking remained. I kept hoping whatever momentary flash of brilliance I had experienced would return, but, alas, that has not happened. I know that what I was thinking had to do with leadership, teamwork, and purpose, so I guess all I can do is engage in a little bit of freewheeling stream of consciousness and see if any of it comes back to me.

As my first year as your president comes to an end, I think it’s only natural that I find myself reflecting on what we’ve accomplished this year, and where we need to take AAUW-WA in the future. I thought about doing a survey to see what you think but recognize that for every 20 members there are 20 opinions about



what AAUW should be, what is the most important work we can do, and whether we should stick with who we've always been or change with the times. There are days when I know that the 29-year-old me that originally joined AAUW wouldn't even recognize the bleary-eyed me that I see when I look in the mirror each morning. I'm not sure that the AAUW of 1976 would recognize the AAUW of 2021 either.

I know that most of us really care about AAUW. Each of us had our own reasons for joining. Every May most of us (thank you, life members for your long-term commitment) have to decide whether to re-up and stay another year. I hope that as you look back over the past year, you'll decide that virtual AAUW-WA is still worth your investment of time and money. How many of you renew your membership will serve as a referendum on how well we've been able to pivot and adapt.

Much of what we've done this past year can only be described as distance learning. We've worked hard to keep our traditional programs going while adding some new things that can best be done on the Zoom platform. To the surprise of some, most of us have mastered the internet, learned how to use Zoom, and found added value in our ability to meet and share experiences with lot of folks we might never have met had we needed to be in the same room. One of our greatest successes has been the ability to welcome others to shared programs giving members across the state access to experiences they couldn't have had otherwise. I know we're looking forward to growing our sister branch program, and emphasizing our regional approach.

I'm grateful for the more than 20 branch presidents who've met with me every month since December to share experiences and expertise. I know it's improved our communication immensely, and I hope we can continue to share our plans and concerns. I'm extraordinarily grateful for the work of the incredible board that has put in so many hours this past year, pulling together our Summer Leadership Meeting, Lobby Day, Annual Meeting and convention. We will miss Jeanie Glaspell and Karen Manelis when they leave the board at the end of June. We welcome Emily Hitchens as she joins our team and brings with her many years of AAUW experience.

While a survey doesn't appear to be in your future, we would like to hear from you individually. If you have thoughts about where we should go from here, please share. Track down any member of the board (a link to their contact information is provided elsewhere in this EL) and let us know what you think. In the meantime, we eagerly await election results that will have a lot of influence over what AAUW looks like going forward. There is a great deal of work to be done. Hopefully, our membership will open up to thousands of like-minded individuals who share our vision and will be able to join us to help get the work done.



Health Matters: Advocating for Washington Women

Registration is now open! AAUW – WA’s first ever event of this kind is less than a month away. Here’s your link to register:

Registration Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-wa-womens-health-kickoff-tickets-154453016129>

Our team has put together a great event. Please join us for an amazing morning.

Event: AAUW’s Health Care Kickoff

Date: June 12, 2021

Time: 9:00 – 12:30

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Alyson McGregor; Dr. Dorothy Roberts

Dr. Alyson McGregor, Brown University

Read Her Book: Sex Matters: How Male-Centric Medicine Endangers Women’s Health and What We Can Do About It (2020)

Dr. Dorothy Roberts, University of Pennsylvania

Topic: The problem with race-based medicine

Read Her Books: Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, And Big Business Re-Crete Race in The Twenty-First Century (The New Press, 2011); Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction and The Meaning of Liberty (Vintage 20th Anniversary Ed., 2017); Shattered Bonds: The Color of Child Welfare (Basic Books/Civitas, 2001; Paperback, 2002).

10 Minute Topics – An introduction to other aspects of Health Care Access for the Women of Washington, and a preview of our fall webinar series.

- Nancy Sapiro, AAUW Lobbyist
- Becky Reitzes, Health Educator
- Leslie Waters, MD
- Mary Selecky, former Washington State Secretary of Health
- Leah Griffin, Activist

National Election Ends May 17th

Mary Williams
President
AAUW Washington
president@aauw-wa.org

If you have already voted, no matter how you voted, thank you!

If you haven't voted, please do it NOW! Here's how:

You should have received an e-mail on or around April 7th. If you did not, or cannot locate it, please follow the following steps:

If you already know your Member ID and PIN just go to the AAUW website, <https://ww2.aauw.org/omov2021/> and log in. Then follow the directions and cast your vote.

If you do not know your ID and/or PIN number,

Check your SPAM file to see if your ballot ended up there. If you find it, open it and proceed according to the instructions.

If you do not locate this email, contact connect@aauw.org

Connect@aauw.org will send you your Member ID number and PIN. They have dedicated staff answering these requests as quickly as possible. Be looking for a response, because once again it may go to your SPAM folder.



State News



Annual Meeting and Convention Recap

Mary Williams
President
AAUW Washington
president@aauw-wa.org

Thanks to the more than 130 of you who attended our first virtual Annual Meeting and Convention in April. We got a great deal done in a very short period of time and are grateful to all of you who attended. Here, in a nutshell, is what we accomplished at our morning Annual Business Meeting:

1. Approved the Revised Bylaws as published in the March Evergreen Leader. They are on the website at https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/files/2021/05/2021-AAUW-WA-Bylaws_restated.pdf
2. Approved our new Public Policy Principles. These, too, were published in the March EL and will be available on the website soon.
3. Elected a new board member: Emily Hitchens will be returning to the Board after an absence of several years.
4. Re-elected Susie Johnson to a second term as Secretary, and Karen Anderson to another term as a director. Karen has agreed to serve as our Director for Programs in 2021-22.

The afternoon was devoted to presentations by AAUW CEO Kim Churches, Dr. Michaela Miller from the OSPI, Former AAUW Lobbyist Lisa Maatz, and authors Barbara Pope and Virginia Scharf on writing historical fiction. We have videos that will be available soon on our AAUW-WA YouTube Video Channel.

Word on the street is that everyone enjoyed the day a great deal. Thank you so much to the team of Jeanie Glaspell and Karen Anderson who developed this program and Anne Larsen and her team at Event Support.

Public Policy

Karen Anderson
Public Policy Director
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It is time to take a victory lap. Most of our legislative priorities passed this year, including some difficult ones! Our advocacy helped to pass tax reform (a capital gains tax and rebates for the state's lowest earners), an expansion of Medicaid benefits to new mothers, child care assistance, a bill protecting pregnant patients from inadequate care, and measures to strengthen laws against rape and to provide services to women who were victims of non-fatal strangulation. These bills provided greater economic security to women workers, enabled many to remain in the labor force or re-enter it after COVID. They also protected the health of women and children. For more detailed information, see <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/2021/05/04/04-28-21-legislative-update/>.

We have some unfinished work on our agenda. The family and medical leave bill that was passed extended eligibility for some whose hours were reduced by COVID restrictions and broadened the definition of family for those seeking leave to care for others. It also cut a permanent expansion of eligibility and, most importantly, left out the job protection that is crucial to the efficacy of the law. If an employer can fire even one worker after they have taken a leave, then they will have sent a powerful message to all others. Advocates for the bill should not have to "prove" that some employer might do this. For more information on paid family leave see the AAUW report on it at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/paid-leave/> and the report on the California paid leave policy, *Leaves that Pay*, (somewhat different from the one proposed for Washington) at <https://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/paid-family-leave-1-2011.pdf>.

Finally, a bill regulating hospital mergers, SB 5335, was introduced this session but not advanced. It appears strong with provisions requiring that the state government examine the effects of proposed mergers on medical costs, adequacy of services, personnel, and on availability of services, including those related to reproductive health. No merger would be approved if it resulted in a reduction of services in an affected community. This bill will be a hard sell and we will need to be supported fully and strategically. You will receive information later on this.

Thanks for making this a great year for AAUW-WA and its legislative agenda!



Last Call for Tech Trek!

Karen Manelis
Tech Trek Director
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There are 91 girls from all over Washington waiting with baited breath for July 11 and the start of our 2021 Virtual Tech Trek.

We've got their core classes ready to go – Chemistry, Climate Change, Cyber Security, Human Body Systems and Thinkabit Wearable Art. Eleven lab/workshops -- including some new workshop/labs in hydroponics and epidemiology—are being planned. Financial literacy and virtual field trips will round sign up on out the week.

BUT we're still a little short of teaching assistants – we could really use another dozen or so. These teaching assistants can be AAUW members with or without a STEM or teaching background. You will be provided supplies and training to assist the girls in their core classes and labs. And, since we're virtual, you can be anywhere with an Internet connection! We have teachers, workshop leaders not only from Washington, but in Arizona, California and Texas! What about your college age granddaughter, niece or friends in Phoenix or Florida?

Branches, please make this opportunity known to the girls you recognize as your STEM Scholars.

If you're interested, visit our website (techtrek-wa.aauw.net) and read the Teaching Assistant job description on the Volunteer page. Then send an email to Patricia Gwin, our Volunteer Coordinator extraordinaire, at tt-volunteer@aauw-wa.org. (Please do not sign up through the website; it's taking AAUW weeks to get the referrals back to us.)

There are 91 girls across Washington who need you!

Karen Manelis
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Gretchen Q Ilgenfritz Memorial Fund

Susie Johnson
 Secretary
 AAUW Washington
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A Memorial Fund has been established to honor Gretchen Ilgenfritz, one of our true AAUW grandmothers. We are hoping you will be willing to direct some of your Branch fundraising support and/or individual donations to this fund. Washington State is proud to have had Gretchen as a member and important leader on behalf of equity for women and girls. Gretchen served AAUW as Association Secretary, Legal Advocacy Fund President, Washington State President, Regional Director, Lake Washington Branch President twice, as well as a leader in establishing our Expanding Your Horizons conferences. She also coordinated the first Education Equity Roundtable which initiated the landmark Education Equity series of studies for AAUW nationally, beginning with Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America.

Gretchen served on the Mercer Island School Board and a number of state government committees and was honored by the governor for her activities.

Gretchen believed in donating unrestricted funds so they would go where they were needed most. Her memorial fund, seeded by her own Legacy Circle bequest, will go to the Greatest Need Fund. We are hoping that over the next 2-3 years we can raise \$25,000. The fund number is 4466. Please join us in honoring Gretchen’s legacy and memory.

Calendar and Upcoming Events

AAUW-WA State Calendar

MAY		
24	Branch Presidents Meeting	10:30 AM
27	State Board (Exec. Committee) Meeting	Noon
JUNE		
12	WOMEN’S HEALTH CARE KICKOFF	9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
24	State Board (Exec. Committee) Meeting	Noon
28	Branch Presidents Meeting	10:30 AM
TBD	State Board Transition Meeting	
AUGUST		
7	AAUW-WA Summer Leadership Meeting	All Day

Edmonds SnoKing Branch

Diversity Workshop

Mary Ross
Webmaster
AAUW Edmonds SnoKing Branch

AAUW members are invited to participate in an online diversity workshop sponsored by Edmonds SnoKing Branch.

Microaggressions: What They Are and How to Respond
Saturday, June 5, 10 a.m. to noon
Facilitated by Aisha Hauser.

Our interpersonal exchanges are filled with micro- and macro-aggressions within the strong overlay of institutional racism. This workshop will examine what microaggressions are and, when committed, how to respond in a way that reduces harm and affirms people in the fullness of their humanity.

Aisha Hauser, MSW, is an educator, facilitator, author, and advocate. She has offered workshops on racism, navigating difficult conversations, sexuality education, and other topics. Learn more at her website, ConnectLearnGrow.org.

Please register in advance [using this link](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

General Information

Publishing Schedule

The next issue will be published on Thursday, July 15, 2021. Articles submitted for publications are due by Thursday, July 8, 2021. Please send the articles to Mary Williams at president@aauw-wa.org, Judy Peasley at communications@aauw-wa.org, and/or Melinda Hearsey at evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org.

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/>