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## President’s Message



Mary Williams

President

AAUW Washington

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

Sometimes, I think I have a bad attitude. Other times, I don’t just think it, I know it. Life has really come after us in the past couple of years. 2020 and 2021 haven’t produced a few detours on the path of life, they’ve offered up full-on roadblocks. It seems like every time we think this may be just about over, we get slapped up the other side of the head with another wave of trouble. I keep trying to remember that we really are better off now than we were a year ago. Depending on your comfort level, we can go to the store, have coffee with a friend, and even hug our grands. Things are better, right?

Is your glass half full or half empty? There have been many times that it has been hard not to wonder if we weren’t down to our last few sips. Coming from a family where the go-to attitude is to look at the world through a prism of negativity, I tend to confront daily challenges



from the perspective of “Oh no! Not another problem.” Over the past few years, I’ve listened to a lot of gurus who preach the power of positive thinking. I’m really focused on trying to see challenges where my natural tendency is to see disasters. If I ever master that, I’d like to pivot one more time and think about daily struggles as opportunities instead of challenges. I’m not sure if I can pull it off, but I can at least try. I’m sure I speak for all of us when I say that I’m ready for 2021 to stop throwing challenges our way and sprinkle in a few more opportunities.

I think AAUW-WA has done a pretty good job of dealing with our many challenges this past years. Despite ourselves, we’ve learned that zooming may not be so bad after all. At our recent Summer Leadership Meeting, we had representatives from 28 of our 30 active branches. I want to thank all of our presenters, in particular state board members Sandra Distelhorst, Kathy Halsan, Cathy Cavness, Yvonne Berliner, and Judy Peasley for their interesting and informative presentations. Our Director of Programs, Karen Anderson, went above and beyond to make the event rewarding, educational, and informative.

As we kick off another year, I’m looking forward to the webinar series that is coming up this fall. Being able to provide quality programming for all of our branches, and also potentially attract a broad spectrum of new members, is really exciting. I hope you will plan to join us. You can find information about the series, like dates, times, and pricing elsewhere in this EL. We do have to charge a small fee to cover our administrative and operational costs, but we’ve tried to keep it as low as possible so that everyone can afford to attend.

One reason we’ve been as successful as we have been this year is because our board has worked together collegially, efficiently, and effectively, and I want all of you and them to know how much I appreciate that. Like every group that works together, we’ve had a few minor dust-ups and misunderstandings, but we’ve been able to work them out and move on, for which I’m very grateful. I look forward to another year of working with all 11 of these wonderful women. Together I know we can resolve all of our challenges, no-wait, we can make the most of all of our opportunities to make this a fabulous year.



### Women’s Health Webinars

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

AAUW-WA is sponsoring a series of webinars on women’s health called Health Matters. These webinars are follow-up to the June kick-off meeting. The webinars will be held monthly on the second Tuesday of the month in the evening. Here is a list of the upcoming events.

HEALTH MATTERS – ALL ABOUT ADVOCACY

Nancy Sapiro, LLC, AAUW Lobbyist

September 14<sup>tu</sup>

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HEALTH MATTERS – ALL ABOUT EDUCATION

Becky Reitzes, Sexual Health Educator

October 12<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*

HEALTH MATTERS – ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS

Mary Selecky, Former Washington State Secretary of Health, and Leslie Waters, MD

November 9<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*

HEALTH MATTERS – ALL ABOUT VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Leah Griffin, Activist

December 14<sup>th</sup>

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There is a cost for attending the webinars, to defray the expenses of holding the events.

Members -- \$15 each or \$50 for the series  
Non-members -- \$20 each or \$60 for the series

More information and directions on how to register to be announced soon. Watch your email!

## AAUW-WA Summer Leadership Meeting

Karen Anderson  
Programs Director  
AAUW-Washington  
programs@aauw-wa.org

Thanks to the efforts of our speakers, state and branch leaders, and others in AAUW we had a successful Leadership Conference on August 7. The speakers and breakout sessions generated good ideas for branches to implement on membership, programs, public policies, and other topics. We thank all who participated for their willingness to work on our behalf and to take part in a long Zoom meeting.

We started the day with an informative talk about the state of Title IX today by Amy Klosterman of the Seattle AAUW branch. A lawyer who specializes in gender equity law, Amy focused particularly on changing processes for handling sexual assault and harassment complaints on college campuses and on the new definition of sexual harassment. She talked about the controversies surrounding the changes, especially those requiring live testimony and cross examination in cases involving charges of sexual assault and those narrowing the definition of sexual harassment.

Other presenters culminated months of work with information about their experiences useful to branch and state leaders. Sandra Distelhorst, state public policy director, discussed the uses of Bill Track 50 in defining policy priorities, tracking legislator votes for candidate comparisons, and tracking redistricting. Kathy Halsan and Cathy Cavness of the Lewis County Branch described their various activities in the branch and in the community to generate membership. These included a book sale, a film festival, events at a community college, and various efforts to keep in touch with members.

Judy Peasley, communications director for AAUW-WA, described her efforts to improve and regularize communications among branches and between AAUW-WA and the branches. These include the creation of a form to publicize branch programs and other activities. She will be updating branches and members about pending changes.

Yvonne Berliner, who serves as the AAUW-WA representative on the AAUW DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) committee, provided background on DEI issues and terminology and discussed the controversy over critical race theory roiling some school districts. Karen Anderson, program chair for AAUW-WA, discussed ways to do oral histories of branch members and histories of the branches. She also talked about how to build programs around these projects. If you are able to use any of the ideas presented at the meeting in your branch, please let AAUW-WA know!

## Public Policy

Sandra Ripley Distelhorst  
Public Policy Director  
AAUW-Washington  
advocacy@aauw-wa.org

### **Redistricting will have a major impact on American politics for the next ten years**

Your legislative district may very likely change starting with the March 2022 primary election. We talked about this at the *Summer Leadership Meeting* and some great questions emerged.

#### **Q: How will redistricting impact Lobby Day?**

**A:** The Public Policy Team will provide Branch leaders with legislator profiles and voting record for legislators *from* your OLD and NEW districts, thanks to our new **BillTrack50** program. You can choose to visit your current legislator(s), or you can choose to introduce yourself to your new district legislators.

#### **Q: How can I learn more about redistricting and get involved in the process?**

**A:** The state redistricting website is user friendly. It explains the process and what factors are *considered when* drawing new district lines. It is easy to submit comments. See <https://www.redistricting.wa.gov/>

If you want to follow the **National Redistricting** changes, the **538 website** provides up-to-date information. See <https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-2022-maps/>

According to 538, “It’s hard to overstate the impact that redistricting will have over American politics for the next 10 years.” While Washington state has a bipartisan commission, many states do not.

🙏 Fingers crossed that redistricting will result in competitive districts to serve us well over the next decade instead of partisan gerrymandering.

**BillTrack50:** If you would like a BillTrack50 account please contact [publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org) and sign up for a training workshop. Check out the BillTrack50 website <https://www.billtrack50.com/> for more information or the Leadership conference presentation recording and slide deck.

## Communications Update

Judy Peasley  
Communications Director  
AAUW-Washington  
communications@aauw-wa.org

The 2021-2022 AAUW-WA Communications team consists of Judy Peasley (director), Mary Letterman (Facebook) Leslie Roubal (website), Melinda Hearsey (Evergreen Leader) and Catherine Cleland (Other Social Media)

### AAUW-WA State Calendar Update

A live calendar is now available on our state website. We will be posting ALL state meetings and events on this calendar. You should check this routinely to stay abreast of meetings and events across our membership.

### Communications - Branch Event Sharing

If a branch chooses to share an **upcoming virtual event** with other branches, please do the following:

- No later than 1 week prior to branch event, submit the following to [communications@aauw-wa.org](mailto:communications@aauw-wa.org)
  - The **title, date, time, contact info** and/or **link** to additional information (if available)
  - Include a **very brief description** of the event, with a **graphic/picture**, if available.  
\*Please do not send full page flyers\*
- **Communications director will forward to Facebook, Other Social Media, Webmaster, Evergreen Leader and President** (presidents meeting) and post on **AAUW-WA website Google calendar**

This information will then be shared by our president in her monthly president's meeting and posted on Facebook, AAUW-WA website and Evergreen Leader (included in a Branch Events section).

We have provided a form to help with this process.

**AAUW-WA Local Branch VIRTUAL Event Sharing Request**

Send completed form (or information in email form) to [communications@aauw-wa.org](mailto:communications@aauw-wa.org)  
Some lines may not be applicable to your event - please fill out as completely as you can

Title of Event:

Event Date and Time:

Check where you wish your event to be shared/published:  ALL (no need to check below)

AAUW-WA website calendar  Facebook  Other Social Media (Twitter, Instagram)  
 Website  Evergreen Leader  President's meeting

General Contact Info:

RSVP Contact Info or Link to Event Registration

Link to Event Information

Brief Description:

Graphic / Picture

Additional Info (if needed):

## AAUW- WA Special Projects Fund (SPF)

Judy Rogers  
President  
AAUW-WA Special Projects Fund  
specproj@aauw-wa.org

Just like many other non-profit organizations AAUW-WA's Special Projects Fund (SPF) has been impacted by the pandemic. SPF relies on the 5% administration fee approved when it was chartered and donations to defray operating costs. Most of SPF's usual expenses such as our insurance, administrative costs, bookkeeper, bank fees, and tax filing requirements are fixed costs and continue even during a pandemic and when Tech Trek itself is in a holding pattern.

This year has been hard on SPF. Our income and donations are way down, but our costs have continued, significantly reducing our Treasury. We are looking at ways to make up this shortfall and will be talking with both the State Board and Tech Trek team. We will be asking them for help and some suggestions about making up this deficit. If you have fundraising experience and/or would like to offer an idea, please let us know.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you very much.  
Judy Rogers, email specproj@aauw-wa.org

## Five Star Recognition

India Nishi  
Five Star Director  
AAUW-Washington  
fivestar@aauw-wa.org

The August edition of AAUW's *Membership Matters* recognizes the AAUW-WA efforts on Five Star at the state level. The article can be found here:  
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/>

### Correction to the July Tech Trek Article

Patricia Gwinn  
AAUW-Gig Harbor

Thank you for publishing Nancy Williams' great article about the Tech Trek work day in June. I'm wondering if a bit of it could be corrected in the next Evergreen Leader.

I'm afraid I must have confused Nancy about the tasks Karen Manelis and Kat Hughes did (both their given names are close, after all). Although Karen managed an enormous number of tasks, it was Kat who "deserves monumental thanks" for calling other branches the week after our work day to organize collection depots, then driving all over the state to deliver so many boxes.

A lot of people did a lot of work to make Tech Trek 2021 a success, but Kat, the camp director, deserves the credit for what she accomplished.

Thank you very much for considering a brief correction.

### Calendar and Upcoming Events

#### *AAUW-WA State Calendar*

SEPTEMBER

14	AAUW-WA Women's Health Webinar	Evening
18	Pierce County Tri-Branch Meeting	10:00 am

OCTOBER

12	AAUW-WA Women's Health Webinar	Evening
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NOVEMBER

9	AAUW-WA Women's Health Webinar	Evening
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DECEMBER

14	AAUW-WA Women's Health Webinar	Evening
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*Branch Events*

**Pierce County Tri-branch Meeting**

Jeanne Fitzgerald  
President  
AAUW Puyallup Valley

On September 18. AAUW Puyallup Branch will host a Tri Branch meeting at the Fife Community Center, 2111 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue E in Fife. The meeting will begin at 10 am. Please join us at 9:45 for coffee before the meeting begins.

Speakers at the meeting will include Dianne Niemann, a retired educator and Puyallup Branch member and Shauna Hanson, who is an engineer for the City of Tacoma. Both women are volunteers for AIDNW (Advocates for Immigrants in Detention NW), a group that supports detained immigrants and provides emotional and transitional support to those in detention.

Approximately thirty hungry and tired detained guests are released each day from the Northwest Ice Processing Center and greeted at the AIDNW Welcome RV parked outside the detention center where volunteers work in shifts from 1:30 to 7 pm Monday through Friday.

Speakers will address the work of the organization and volunteer opportunities at the Center, whose Mission Statement is to “Work hard to create an inclusive and welcoming community and to affirm the humanity and dignity of immigrants, and provide them with access to vital resources.”

Please join AAUW Puyallup Valley Branch to learn more about the important and dedicated work of the volunteers at AIDNW Welcome Center. A question-and-answer time will take place after the presentation.

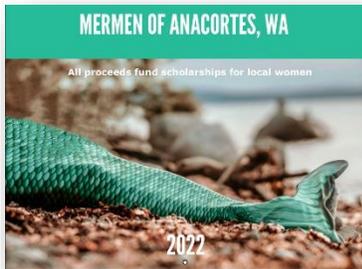
## Anacortes Fundraising Success

Bonnie Underwood  
President  
AAUW Anacortes

For years the Anacortes branch held a Spring Tea which featured a guest speaker and sweet and savory bites for our guests. Although this tradition supported our fundraising efforts for years and was enjoyed by many, we were encouraged by member Terri Bawden to think outside the box this year. She introduced the idea of a mermen contest and despite the pandemic, it proved to be our most successful



fundraiser ever. Participating mermen raised support for their submitted photos in order to be included in a calendar and ride in a float during the fourth of July parade. To date we have raised over \$10,000 and calendar sales continue to bring in profits. The change in our image has attracted several younger members to join our group and there is already excitement building for our next mermen event.



## General Information

### *Publishing Schedule*

The next issue will be published on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. Articles submitted for publications are due by Wednesday, September 8, 2021. Please send the articles to Mary Williams at [president@aauw-wa.org](mailto:president@aauw-wa.org), Judy Peasley at [communications@aauw-wa.org](mailto:communications@aauw-wa.org), and/or Melinda Hearsey at [evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org](mailto: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/>