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President’s Message



Mary Williams
President
AAUW Washington
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The writing is on the wall, the die is cast, my fate has been determined. I am going to go down in history as your first ever virtual president. At our most recent state board meeting we were forced to face the reality that we just can’t plan an in-person Lobby Day or 2022 Annual Meeting with the pandemic stronger and more lethal than ever. As Spring 2022 arrives, we will be marking the second anniversary of going virtual, and unless a miracle occurs, my term of office will end the same way. I’m proud of the fact that we’ve been able to cope, and still offer meaningful and relevant mission-based programming.

I know in my branch we are struggling to resume even small in- person events. There are just too many younger grands and great-grands whose health we have to protect. And most of us seem to have someone in our lives who’s either older or has a compromising



health condition that makes it just too scary to get together inside. We've had a few indoor book group meetings, bridge games or meals, and a few more out on our beautiful Pacific Northwest decks or patios, but as the temperatures drop (would plummet be a better word?) and the rains return, the opportunities for those are going to be fewer and further between. I'm grateful that Zoom is an option and we are still able to see each other now and then even if it isn't quite the same.

Based on how smoothly last year's Lobby Day went, holding that Monday morning series of meetings virtually again this year has not really been in question. With a meeting date in late January or early February, it's a no-brainer that we should make it possible for as many of our members as possibly can to attend. The Public Policy team always lines up great speakers who present essential information that everyone in every corner of the state needs to hear. Having to cross the mountains has always made it nearly impossible for our Eastern Washington (read Eastern as anywhere on the far side of Snoqualmie Summit) members to attend. Zoom has made it possible for nearly all of us to participate. Branches and/or groups of members who are able to make it to Olympia are still welcome to set up in person appointments with legislators, if their legislators are actually in Olympia. What the legislature will be doing about in person meetings remains to be seen. I think many of us found that we had much more productive conversations with our representatives when we could schedule them at mutually agreeable times during what may end up becoming Lobby Week. Be sure to save the date – Monday, January 24, 2022.

We have scheduled the 2022 Annual Meeting and State Conference for Saturday, April 9th. If we were to meet in person, we would need to be signing contracts in the next few weeks, projecting the number of people who might feel comfortable enough to meet in a group setting, and making all those arrangements that go with staging a large meeting. By making the decision to operate virtually now, we avoid risking that we will do all that work and then have to cancel. Evaluations from last year's meeting showed that most all of you enjoyed it, and that many of you were able to attend because it was virtual which kept costs a lot lower. So put a great big gold star on 4/9/2022 on your calendar and plan to join us. If you have any ideas for presentations or speakers you'd like to hear, please email our Director for Programs, Karen Anderson at Programs@AAUW-WA.org.

Speaking of programs, when this edition of the EL publishes, the first night of our webinar series on health access for Washington women will be on the books. We are really excited about this first ever attempt to provide branches with mission-based programming. I'll report on our session with three of the most preeminent legislators in Washington, Senators Emily Randall and Karen Keiser, and Representative Nicole Macri in the October EL. I'm really looking forward to the three upcoming presentations on the 2nd Tuesday evening in October, November, and December. I hope you'll join us.

As the days shorten, the temperatures drop, and the ten trillion leaves on Washington's trees turn red, orange and gold, I hope you'll take a few moments to appreciate this beautiful place that we call home.

Mary

Women's Health Webinars

AAUW
of Washington State
Fall Webinar Series

**Health Matters:
Advocating for
Washington Women**

**Sexual Health Education,
Reproductive Justice, and
the Empowerment of
Girls and Women**

Becky Reitzes

**October 12, 2021
7:00pm | Zoom**

The second in a series of virtual conversations about critical health issues in Washington State.

Each Health Matters webinar will take place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, starting at 7pm.

Register: www.AAUW-WA-Health-Matters.eventbrite.com

The November and December webinars are shown below.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO CARE IN WASHINGTON STATE

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

November 9th at 7:00 pm

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND SERVING THE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS

Leah Griffin, Activist

December 14th at 7:00 pm

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

Members -- \$15 each

Non-members -- \$20 each

Click for [Tickets - Health Matters Webinar Series](#)

State News

The Board Report

Mary Williams

President

AAUW Washington

president@aauw-wa.org

The September 2021 meeting of the State Board was held on Thursday, September 9th. The Board agreed to hold the meeting a week early because Mary has pressing family business the week the meeting would normally be held. Here's what we decided:

- ✚ We approved the Minutes of the meeting held on August 19, 2021, as submitted.
- ✚ Kyle will be providing the Financial Report via e-mail because there had not been enough time to prepare them after receipt of the bank statement due to the revised meeting date.
- ✚ Mary said she thinks the branch presidents find the monthly zoom meetings to be helpful so they will continue. Presidents have the option of attending a 10:30 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. meeting on the last Monday of the month.

- ✚ Mary will be serving on the National Advancement Committee.
- ✚ Sandra reported that nine individuals have signed up for Bill Track 50 and three branches have begun using it.
- ✚ Yvonne Berliner is the Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). In this role she is a member of the National DEI Committee. She is looking for speakers who are knowledgeable about the disappearance and murders of indigenous women. If you know of people who are experts in this area, please let her know. She is hoping to find speakers who would work with branches on mission-based programming.
- ✚ Branches are encouraged to use the YouTube recordings from the webinars, but we need to make sure we have revenue and participation from members who actually attend the event. Several branches have asked us to provide them the recordings with a copyright waiver. The board agreed that a reasonable fee is the cost of attendance of 10% of actual branch membership as of the date of the webinar with credit for those members actually registered.

Our next Washington State board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 21, at noon. If you would like to attend, please e-mail Mary (president@aauw-wa.org) who will send you a link a day or two before.

Public Policy

Sandra Ripley Distelhorst
Public Policy Director
AAUW-Washington
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Public Policy Leader Resource Manual and the Importance of Gender Equity Positions of Local Candidates

I just received the 2021-2022 Policy Leader Resource Manual! It is 44 pages long and full of great information, it includes a section Candidate Endorsements [\[click to view/download from website...\]](#) The key takeaway is if your Branch wants to endorse a nonpartisan local candidate you must 1) focus on AAUW issues positions 2) interview or research equally all candidates and 3) make your process objective and transparent. Let me know if your Branch wants a copy of the full report. Email publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org.

AAUW encourages States and Branches to get involved in local policymaking to ensure gender equity is included in policies not only by governors and legislators but also by mayors and city council members and school board directors. See Kate Nielson’s statement: <https://www.aauw.org/act/state/>

Why is gender equity advocacy so important at a local level?

The Texas Abortion Ban Law is a good example. The law was first adopted as an ordinance in a small Texan town (population 1600) that had no abortion clinics or providers. Dozens of other Texan mayors and their city council members adopted the same ordinance, including Lubbock that had a Planned Parenthood Clinic (which closed). To read more about the small-town origin of the Texas Abortion Ban law see https://www.huffpost.com/entry/origin-texas-abortion-law-sb-8_n_61338904e4b0f1b97061db2b

What do you know about your mayor and city council members positions on reproductive health care rights? Would they support an abortion ban ordinance? Do they support and practice equal pay? Sexual harassment and domestic violence protections?

School Board Directors also have a powerful influence on gender and racial equity in education. We have seen this in school board responses to comprehensive sexual health education and the equity training. Some school boards have stepped up for gender equity. The Chehalis School District passed a gender equity policy that “aims to better socially integrate transgender and “gender-expansive” students.” See <https://www.chronline.com/stories/chehalis-school-board-passes-new-gender-policy-amid-passionate-opposition,269485>

Communications

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

AAUW-WA State Calendar Update - A live calendar is now available on our state website. [AAUW-WA Calendar](#) 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. If you have an event that you believe should be posted on our state calendar, please contact Judy Peasley at communications@aauw-wa.org

Small Branch ZOOM use - AAUW-WA has made the Zoom Pro account available to small branches in need of hosting virtual meetings and events that allow a longer meeting time. If your branch is interested in using this Zoom account, please contact Judy Peasley at communications@aauw-wa.org. We are being very careful to avoid any scheduling conflicts, so all branch Zoom use will be managed by one person.

Branch Event Sharing - If your branch chooses to share an upcoming virtual event with other branches, please submit the following no later than 1 week prior to branch event:

- 1) **Complete information using the Google form link below**
[Branch Sharing Google Form](#) (information will be automatically submitted)

OR

- 2) **Send the following information via email to communications@aauw-wa.org** (replacing a printable form shared in last month's issue that did not prove to be practical and/or user-friendly)

- 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.
- Specify WHERE you hope to see this shared/posted. Options are:
 - Calendar, Website, Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) and in the monthly Branch President's meeting
- Please do not send full page flyers - we appreciate being able to copy and paste information.

2021-2022 AAUW-WA Communications team

<i>Judy Peasley</i>	communications@aauw-wa.org
<i>Mary Letterman</i>	fb@aauw-wa.org
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Tech Trek WA News



Karen Manelis
Program Director
AAUW-WA Tech Trek
techtrek@aauw-wa.org

Editor's Note: The following section contains a series of articles on Tech Trek. The first is a report on this year's virtual camp. The remainder describes various aspects of the program and what needs to be done to make the camps happen.

A Successful 2021 Camp Year

What a wild and crazy year for Year 9 of Tech Trek WA (not counting 2020 – another wild and crazy year). All things considered our 2021 virtual Tech Trek WA camp was a resounding success! We had one week of virtual STEM learning for girls from throughout Washington that combined the PLU and EWU 2020 and 2021 selectees. We had originally anticipated having about 130 campers but ended up with 88 signing on to attend the virtual event; 2020 campers were given the option of attending the virtual camp or not. About half of those selected in 2020 opted out of attending virtually.

Campers selected from five different core classes, held for three hours each morning – Bodies by Design (human body systems), Chemistry, Climate Change, Cybersecurity and Thinkabit Wearable Tech.

After hearing from a diverse group of professional women in STEM in “Inspiring Moments” after lunch, students attended two lab/workshop sessions in three afternoons. Everyone got to build a pinhole camera in the Eye See You workshop and each camper selected three additional lab/workshops to attend. With the pandemic so much in focus, former EWU Camp Director Kate Aultman provided a “Disease Detectives” workshop on epidemiology from her new home in Texas. Another new curriculum for Tech Trek was hydroponics, with Prof. Sandya Kesoju, from

Columbia Basin College, who did part of her presentation from the field when she was observing other experiments.

Campers spent Tuesday afternoon learning how to budget and live within their means in a Reality Fair, provided by Washington Financial Beginnings with volunteers from Bank of America, where each camper was assigned a career which came with a monthly salary. They were required to “purchase” such things as housing, transportation, food, leisure activities. Some had student or credit card debt. All were advised to budget for saving for unexpected expenses. It was a lively and fun afternoon.

Tech Trek WA engaged the services of Event Support to manage the many Zoom platforms needed. The Event Support team was critical to a most successful virtual year and campers were exposed to just one more example of women leaders in technology management.

How Tech Trek WA Operates

All branches in Washington are invited to participate in Tech Trek. Sixteen branches participated in the 2021 camp, including WA Online and Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. WA Online selected 2020 campers from areas of the state where there is no AAUW presence. Three of the five 2020 campers selected by WA Online, funded by state-raised funds, attended the 2021 camp.

The northern Idaho area does not have any college campuses with residential facilities, so it would be extremely difficult for branches like Coeur d’Alene to ever have a Tech Trek program. So, again this year, Idaho was invited to participate in the virtual 2021 camp. Three of the four campers selected in 2020 by Coeur d’Alene branch attended. The funds were generated by Coeur d’Alene branch, individual donations and AAUW Idaho.

Transitioning to Autonomy

After five years of piloting the Tech Trek program nationwide, AAUW turned the individual programs over to the AAUW entities (states or branches) in 2018 who have been implementing the program in their local areas. Tech Trek WA has always been and continues to be a project of AAUW-WA. AAUW WA Special Projects Fund is now the sole fiscal agent for Tech Trek WA. All donations should be made through AAUW-WA SPF. AAUW-WA SPF is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization so any contributions made to AAUW-WA SPF on behalf of Tech Trek are fully deductible to the donor. Contact your branch Tech Trek coordinator for details on how to give or email techtrek@aauw-wa.org with questions. Funds designated to your local branch and given to AAUW-WA SPF go directly to support girls from **YOUR** branch. Truly, a win/win situation!

Branches Drive the Bus for Success

Branch support and participation have always been the backbone of the AAUW WA Tech Trek program and continues to be the principal driver to Tech Trek WA's success. Local AAUW branches identify, select and fund campers from their local area. All camper candidates are recommended by their STEM teachers; criteria include being a student highly interested in STEM subjects who otherwise would not likely attend a program like this.

Our team of successful fundraisers (Dorothy McBride, Rosette Dawson, Kelvie Comer and others) are available to answer any of your fundraising questions or help you with grant applications. A PowerPoint presentation is available that branches can use locally with potential funders, as well as an hour-long video summary of the closing session for the 2021 camp. Contact techtrek@aauw-wa.org to request the information.

The Future of Tech Trek-WA

These past nine years have been GREAT FUN and provided many, many moments of sheer delight to campers, their parents and all staff involved. We have heard from past campers how Tech Trek opened doors for some STEM idea or field of study to the absolute joy of launching a balloon and of course, there are the small and dramatic explosions! The staff and leadership have stayed alert to changing curricula to meet new interests and ever-evolving scientific knowledge and application.

This is YOUR direct invitation, to ALL AAUW MEMBERS and POTENTIAL MEMBERS, to become a part of the leadership team that steers the bus. There is always the need to plan for the future, add fresh ideas and, of course, there is a void to be filled with leaders willing to take smaller and larger jobs. Each of the stipend positions has a job description on the website under VOLUNTEERS. The vitality of camp is based on a steady diet of interested persons, the "get it done" attitude, and the willingness to try something new. The first planning meeting will occur during the first two weeks of November so please let someone know of your interest level. The fun is really contagious!

Between now and January 1st, the AAUW-WA Tech Trek website will be continually changing, as we add information on the 2022 camps and develop an INSPIRING WOMEN tab. We are currently planning for in-person camps for July 2022, two weeks at PLU (July 10-16 and July 17-23) and one week at EWU (July 24-30). Check out the AAUW-WA Tech Trek website frequently, <https://techtrek-wa.aauw.net>, for updates and further details. Donations can also be made through the links on the website.

Calendar and Upcoming Events

AAUW-WA State Calendar

The official calendar for AAUW-WA can be found on our website at:

<https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/activities-information/calendar>

If you wish to have a branch event added to the calendar, please use the process describe in the [Communications article above](#).

Branch Events

AAUW Issaquah Branch Meeting

Melinda Hearsey
Communications Chairman
AAUW Issaquah
communications@aauw-issaquah.org

On Saturday, October 9th starting at 10:00 am, AAUW Issaquah Branch will a Zoom Meeting on Climate Change. Our featured speaker will be Laura Tucker.

Laura has been working on climate education since 1992 and was trained as a leader with Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project in 2012. She serves on Jefferson County’s Climate Action Committee and Local 20/20’s Climate Outreach Group. She mentors a wonderful student-led group, Students for Sustainability, in Port Townsend, WA. She also spoke about climate change at the 2021 Teck Trek WA camp.

If you wish to join the Zoom meeting, please contact the Vice-Presidents of programs at programs@aauw-issaquah.org for the meeting information.

General Information

Publishing Schedule

The next issue will be published on Friday, October 15, 2021. Articles submitted for publications are due by Friday, October 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.