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President’s Message



Mary Williams

President

AAUW Washington

president@aauw-wa.org



Sometimes everything just falls into place. It’s been over a year since I’ve journeyed to the Spokane area to visit my son’s family. I picked this past week for Grammy’s first post-pandemic (I sincerely hope!) visit for the most random of reasons that I won’t bore you with. So, it was only happenstance that I was on the right side of the mountains when the team that put together the first sister branch effort got together for lunch in Garfield at the home of state board member Yvonne Berliner. When they learned I was in the neighborhood (so to speak), they were gracious enough to include me. We enjoyed a wonderful afternoon that reminded me that AAUW is about so much more than educational programs and advocacy.

Kathy Jones and Judy Peasley are the two immediate past presidents of the Walla Walla AAUW branch, which is the largest in the state,

just a teensy bit bigger than Port Townsend. When asked to work with two of our smaller branches, Tri-Cities and Palouse-Garfield, they graciously agreed to do so. Those branches were represented by Judy Blair and Yvonne Berliner respectively. Sadly, the Palouse-Garfield branch did not survive, and has just recently disbanded. But it's clear to me that the friendships developed while these amazing ladies worked together to offer programming to branch members and support for each other are stronger than ever.

My kids accuse me of being all or nothing. I don't like it much, but I think I have to admit there's some truth to what they say. During my tenure on the state board, I have been really focused on bringing access to quality mission-based programming to every AAUW member, even those in the most remote areas of the state. And the introverted hermit that lives within me has rather enjoyed being limited to Zoom interactions. We've all been forced to learn how to collaborate virtually, and we've been dragged kicking and screaming (some way more than others) into a technologically focused world. Truth be told, I love being able to get up ten minutes before a meeting starts, pull on any old shirt, dab on some makeup and look somewhat put together and professional (and I know I'm not alone!) But this week I was reminded that we can't ignore the importance of the social aspects of what we do. Getting out of the house and being together with friends, even if just for a couple of hours, is really important, too. We need connection!

philanthropy and intellectual growth. But one of its strengths is that it gives us an opportunity to enjoy the company of others. As we emerge from the pandemic, I hope you will carefully and thoughtfully begin to get together again. Maybe for a little while longer it still won't be safe to have a book group meeting of 30, but perhaps a half-dozen groups of 5 could get together and even zoom a bit as a larger group. Just think of it as a book group with in-person breakout rooms.

Mary



Photo from the lunch. From left, Judy Peasley, Mary Williams, Kathy Jones, Yvonne Berliner and Judy Blair.

Women’s Health Webinars

There are two webinars remaining in our Health Matters series.

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

Public Policy

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

Save the Date: Lobby Day Monday, January 24, 2022.

Five Policy Stars for Washington in 2021! Washington state is a five-star state in many ways when it comes to women’s health protections. We are one of only 5 states that passed a law **protecting abortion rights** ([HB1009](#)) student health plan protections) in 2021. We also passed laws protecting maternal health ([SB5068](#)), pregnancy and miscarriage care ([SB5140](#)), removed the final loop hole in spousal exemptions from rape ([SB5177](#)), and provided support for sexual assault victims ([SB5183](#)). AAUW-WA supported all 5 of these bills.

Let’s go for 5 stars again in 2022! The Public Policy Team is busy planning for 2022. We are using our new BillTrack50 program to make it easier to identify bills that “crossed over” and are likely

to be back in 2022. We are also talking to legislators about their plans for bills in 2022. Let me know if you want to be part of the 2022 bill review team. Email me at publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org.

Redistricting

Most AAUW branches will see a change in their state legislative district (LD). Even if you keep the same LD and representatives, you will likely have a different district demographic. And some legislators will be “drawn out” of their current districts. Even the alternative maps from the League of Women Voters oust several legislators ([League of Women Voters Maps](#)).

You can review maps and make comments on the state user friendly [Redistricting website](#). Consider adding redistricting to your branch conversations and/or reaching out to a local League of Women Voters (LWV) group that is active in redistricting. Most Branches have a LWV in their area (see [League of Women Voters local chapters](#)).

What’s up with Title IX?

Not enough! AAUW joined with the National Women’s Law Center (NWLC) and 114 other advocacy groups asking Secretary of Education Cardona to order a halt to DeVos/Trump restrictions on sexual assault survivors. The letter is posted on the NWLC website (see [NWLC letter](#)). Title IX support is also included in the Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) bill. Be sure to use the 2-minute activist to support GEEA (see [GEEA](#)).

Our state has strong Title IX laws that local schools must follow. The OSPI has a very good Power Point presentation on how State Law and Federal Law differ (see [Power Point Presentation](#)). Title IX is a good example of how federal, state and local implementation need to be in sync for maximum protections.

One of the best resources for ideas on local implementation is Know Your IX. Their advocacy toolkit includes effective ways to work with local policymakers. I especially like their “How to create a Power Map” tool (see [Know Your IX](#)). Creating a Power Map is a great way to figure out who actually holds the power to make a policy change. It is a strategy that can be used across advocacy work. It might surprise you who is on the list for Title IX.

Ballots will be mailed October 14th. I am grateful our state has mail-in voting!

I’m looking forward to seeing you all virtually on Lobby Day January 24th, if not before! Several Branches have asked for Lobby Day support, including presentations on best practices for meeting with your legislator and for testifying. Vickie Merkel (Olympia Branch co-Public Policy Chair) and I are collaborating on a presentation for the Olympia Branch. Let me know if your Branch is planning a Lobby Day training and we can coordinate efforts!

Hoping for a good election outcome November 2nd.
Sandra D.

Communications

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

The communications team is trying to verify that we have the correct e-mail address for major communications with each branch. The table below lists the e-mail address we have for each branch. If the e-mail listed is not correct, please send the updated information to Judy Peasley at communications@aauw-wa.org.

Also, if your branch uses an e-mail address managed by the state (of the form branchname@aauw-wa.org), please confirm with Judy that correct personal e-mail is associated with that name to ensure that e-mails are being forwarded to the correct person.

Once we have verified this information, we plan to share it, so that the branches can use it to contact each other.

Anacortes	aauanacortes@gmail.com
Clallam County	clallam@aauw-wa.org
Colville	colville@aauw-wa.org
Cowlitz County	cowlitzcounty@aauw-wa.org
Dayton	dayton@aauw-wa.org
Edmonds SnoKing	aauw.esk@gmail.com
Federal Way	federalway@aauw-wa.org
Gig Harbor	gigharbor@aauw-wa.org
Highline	highline@aauw-wa.org
Hudson Bay	hudsonsbay@aauw-wa.org
Issaquah	admin@aauw-issaquah.org
Kirkland-Redmond	kr-wa-aauw@hotmail.com
Lake Washington Branch	lwb.aauw@yahoo.com
Lewis County	aauwlcpresident@gmail.com
Olympia	olympia@aauw-wa.org
Online	waonlinebranch@gmail.com
Port Townsend	president@aauwpt.org
Puyallup Valley	puyallupaauw@yahoo.com.
Ritzville	ritzville@aauw-wa.org
Seattle	president@aauw-seattle.org
Southeast King County	sekingcounty@aauw-wa.org

Spokane	spokane@aauw-wa.org
Stanwood-Camano	stanwoodcamano@aauw-wa.org
Tacoma	tacoma@aauw-wa.org
Tri-Cities	tricitiesaauw@gmail.com
Twin Harbors	twinharbors@aauw-wa.org
Vancouver	aauw.vancouver.info@gmail.com
Walla Walla	walla2aauw@gmail.com
Wenatchee	wenatchee@aauw-wa.org
Whatcom	aauw.bellinghambranch@gmail.com
Willa Pacific	willapacific@aauw-wa.org

Tech Trek WA Update



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

WANTED: CURRICULUM COORDINATOR: Tech Trek WA is looking for a Curriculum Coordinator. Full job description can be found [here](#). Looking for a current or retired educator who is familiar with and/or taught STEM subjects.

PRELIMINARY 2022 CAMP PLANS: We're in contact with both Pacific Lutheran University and Eastern Washington University and have dates reserved at both campuses: July 10-16 and July 17-23 at PLU and July 24-30 at EWU.

Of course, an in-person camp program is dependent on the COVID-19 pandemic situation and any state or federal mandates regarding summer programs. We will be working with the American Camp Association, the CDC, State of Washington and the campuses to ensure that we can run a safe, secure, healthy in-person camp. More information to come in the next few months. Keep your fingers crossed!

2021 VIRTUAL CAMP. Leslie Roubal (Port Townsend) served as a teaching assistant for the 2021 camp and has put together a 15-minute camp summary video for the 2021 camp. [It can be accessed here.](#)

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. Thank you to donors and branches who have continued to support Tech Trek and SPF this past year!

In 2020 there weren't any Tech Trek camps and in 2021 Tech Trek had virtual camps. The result was very few donations over the past 20 months. SPF has used up all of its reserves. Even with reducing costs wherever possible, for FY2022, there would be a shortfall of approximately \$3,500. SPF is putting a plan in place to increase funds available. Some of the options considered are:

- Increase the administration fee; this is not a preferred option
- Fundraising: SPF is a 501 (c)(3) so any donation to an approved project or SPF directly is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
 - o Donations for SPF Administration, 100% of this donation goes to SPF
 - o Donations for Tech Trek, 5% of the donation goes to SPF as administration fee.
- Request funding from AAUW-WA

Please consider making a donation to either SPF Admin or Tech Trek. Any amount would be greatly appreciated. Checks should be made out to AAUW-WA SPF, mailed to the PO Box and on the memo line note that it is either for SPF Admin or for Tech Trek

AAUW-WA SPF
PO Box 1665
Bellevue, WA 98009-1665

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

Branch Events

**American Democracy's Indigenous Roots and Future
Humanities WA Speakers Bureau**

Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom



Marilyn North
Co-Vice President of Programs
AAUW Seattle Branch

Join storyteller Fern Renville as she shares stories both mythic and personal that reframe and highlight the history, present, and future of Indigenous female power and leadership in America. Fern Naomi Renville is a Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota, Omaha, and Seneca-Cayuga storyteller, theatre director, and playwright.

For more information and to register for the event, use this link <https://aauw-seattle.org/calendar/filter-by/event/73/2021/11/13>

Co-sponsored by the AAUW Seattle and Edmonds SnoKing Branches.

General Information

Publishing Schedule

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