

IN THIS ISSUE

President’s Message..... 1
 State News 3
 Public Policy..... 3
 Mark Your Calendars! 4
 Tech Trek Needs a Few Good Women! ..5
 AAUW-WA Special Projects Fund (SPF) ..6
 General Information 7
 Publishing Schedule 7

President’s Message



Mary Williams
President

AAUW Washington

president@aauw-wa.org



This is my favorite time of the year. Days are getting longer, and soon we will be returning to daylight savings time. I know that for some people losing an hour of daylight in the morning is a challenge. For me, the annual end of standard time is better than my birthday. It’s the first sign that the weather is about to warm up, the threat of snow has most likely ended for another year, and little green buds are about to come popping up, announcing that there soon will be beautiful flowers everywhere. There is a much better chance of catching a sunrise when it happens an hour later, and I long for the extra hours of daylight and safer mobility in the evening.

This year there’s a different kind of light that may be just over the horizon. Is it really happening? Or, is the apparent light at the end of the tunnel just another oncoming train?

through to the other side. It's hard to be optimistic, but I think we need to work at staying that way. I'd like to think that at the very least we are in the eye of the tiger – the eye of the storm – and things can only improve from here on out.

Do you think it could be true that we're coming out of the darkness and the end of this pandemic is just around the corner? It seems possible to me, but I'm almost afraid to believe it. Just as there are clues that spring approaches, there are also hints that we may be on the verge of returning to normal – or learning how to deal with a new normal.

Once more we are beginning to gather in larger and larger groups. For the remainder of this year, AAUW-WA activities will continue to be virtual. It takes months of planning to put together an on-site meeting, so we are certainly too late to hold this year's annual meeting in person. The board will soon be making decisions about how we want to offer the summer leadership meeting. Personally, I love knowing we are presenting an excellent virtual learning experience, and that by conducting it virtually, everyone from all four corners and the middle of the of the state have an equal opportunity to attend. I know, however, that not everyone agrees with me, and that many of you crave an opportunity to get together and interact with colleagues many of whom you haven't seen for many months.

I know that one of the main reasons that many of you choose to belong to AAUW is for the opportunity to meet socially with other like-minded women. I hope that branches will begin looking at how they can meet safely in person. Branches are so much better able to get smaller groups together for a myriad of reasons. We need our bridge groups, book groups, and gourmet groups. We crave the free-flow of conversation that happens when we're gathered around a table and can make eye contact without two screens between us.

We know we're better together, but it may be that we're going to have to rethink how we work together. The state board needs to discuss whether it is better for the organization and our members if we stick to the virtual while encouraging branches to return to in-person activities. Do you have an opinion? If so, please let us here from you. You can contact me at president@aauw-wa.org, or drop a note to any other board member. E-mail addresses are at the end of this newsletter. Let us know what you think!

State News

Public Policy

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

Lobby Day was a success with over a hundred participants from 23 branches and several “guests”. The panel was a nice addition and made the Zoom meeting feel like an in-the-room AAUW conversation.

[Did you miss this event? No problem – click for videos –>](#)

In a short legislative session (60 days) things move quickly – and in response AAUW-WA now has a daily update option for bill tracking. [Daily Updates](#) are “live” on our public policy webpage using our BillTrack50 widget. The scrollable table provides a short summary of our Lobby Day bills and several other vetted bills. Just click on the bill link to get information about committee votes, the bill text, amendments and more! [Click for BillTrack50 widget...](#)

Of course, this doesn’t replace the more in-depth [Weekly Legislative Update](#) by our lobbyist Nancy posted on our public policy webpage (you can also subscribe for the email version). See [Update Reports from our AAUW lobbyist...](#) Check out how the [Edmonds-SnoKing Branch](#) is linking to the AAUW-WA state website for public policy updates! See <https://esk-wa.aauw.net/>

Coalitions and advocacy allies are an important tool for AAUW-WA. Because we cover such a wide range of issues, collaboration with other advocacy groups expands our knowledge, reach and voice. Check out our [AAUW-WA 2022 WA State Advocacy Allies](#) list on our public policy webpage. Don’t see a group your Branch works with? Send us the information so we can consider adding it to our list! Email publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org.

Local connections are important. Many statewide organizations have active local groups and/or provide local data. The [Association of Washington Cities](#) provides city specific legislative priority data. Check it out! Find out what priorities your legislator is hearing about from the cities in their LD. For example, [Auburn](#) lists funding for Public Safety and Social Services as a priority. [Sumner](#) is focusing on Climate Change/Salmon Recovery and Police Reform. [Renton](#) wants money for Racial Justice and Equity projects.

Another statewide group with a local reach is the [WA State PTA](#). Besides having a strong legislative agenda, they also provide local data. Check out their [spreadsheet](#) that shows how school districts and LDs overlap. For some Branches this is a one-to-one match. For other Branches their school district might span 3 or more LDs (for Seattle it is 7 LDs). This can influence lobbying efforts for school district policies and funding.

At the end of the session, your legislators will move on to focus on elections. What are our next steps related to elections? The Public Policy Group has discussed:

- Creating a 2022 Legislator Scorecard. [Click for 2021 Washington Legislators' Scorecard...](#)
- Addressing how redistricting impacts Branch LD future partnerships.

We are also considering plans for the next session based on member questions and input we receive.

- *What role does Budget play in policy* and how can AAUW-WA expand our knowledge and advocacy related to budgets?
- *Better understanding of how bills move through the committee process*, and what are the roadblocks and what advocacy strategies works best for our group (biggest bang for our volunteer buck).

Please continue to send your questions and ideas to publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org. We encourage Branch Public Policy Chairs and interested members to pop-in on a Public Policy Committee meeting. Most Tuesdays at noon.

Thanks for all your advocacy work on behalf of AAUW!

Mark Your Calendars!

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

On Saturday, April 9, 2022, AAUW-WA will hold its annual conference from 8:30-2:00. Our keynote speaker will be Jennifer Berkshire, co-author of *A Wolf at the Schoolhouse Door: The Dismantling of Public Education*, a very important book on current school politics. She is also the co-host and co-producer of *Have You Heard*, a monthly podcast on education issues. Obviously, Berkshire is a major author/expert on a significant topic central to the AAUW mission. Her message is new to many and highlights problems that will require innovative policy approaches. She will be followed by a panel of Washington educators, including Michaela Miller, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction. They will discuss the state of education in our state.

To help our members familiarize themselves with the issues Berkshire will address, we will be organizing a statewide book group meeting at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to discuss Berkshire's book, *A Wolf at the Schoolhouse Door*. Alternatively, you can center a branch book group meeting on her work. The time to order the book is now!

We will hold our annual business meeting in the afternoon to elect officers and conduct any necessary business.

Tech Trek Needs a Few Good Women!



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

Going back to the residential camp format for 2022, we need dorm monitors, teachers, health aide/nurse. Check out the job description on our website [here](#). Camp dates for PLU are July 10-16 (Dunbar) and July 17-23 (McClintock) and July 24-30 for EWU.

Branches should also invite the teachers who nominate campers to participate to get a real feel for what the girls they nominate experience. Branches with STEM Recognition Scholar programs need to encourage their scholars to serve as student counselors at Tech Trek.

If you or others in your branch are interested, please complete the inquiry form on the Tech Trek WA website, <https://techtrek-wa.aauw.net>. A link to the volunteer form can be found on the bottom of the volunteer role description page (see the link above). **Deadline to apply is March 31.** There will be ample training once you apply. We really need **YOU!**

With COVID-19 still rearing its ugly head, there will be additional requirements for all campus staff. All staff must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 (2 Pfizer or Moderna shots or 1 Johnson & Johnson plus booster). We will be following PLU campus guidelines for masking (currently indoors only) and social distancing.

We are still working on determining core classes for both PLU and EWU and looking for additional teachers. Rachel Karlsen, a teacher since the 2013 camp, has taken over as curriculum coordinator, and would welcome recommendations for additional teachers among the teachers branches work with for nominations. We know PLU core classes will include body systems, cybersecurity, forensics and robotics! Campers will select one core class from those offered (attended four mornings during week). The core classes will be taught by highly qualified middle school teachers, almost all veterans of previous Tech Trek camps. Afternoon offerings will include hands-on labs in areas not specifically covered in the core classes.

As mentioned above, here's your chance to be daring and experience the Tech Trek experience like no other!

*AAUW-WA Special Projects Fund (SPF)
Open Elected Board Positions*

Judy Rogers
President
AAUW-WA SPF
specproj@aauw-wa.org

AAUW-WA Special Projects Fund (SPF) is the fiscal sponsor for approved projects as part of AAUW-WA. Most, if not all, AAUW-WA branches are 501c(4) organizations that are able to accept donations but not issue tax-deductible receipts. SPF was created as a 501c(3) that allows approved projects to fund-raise with tax deductions. Currently, the only project served by SPF is Tech Trek. (Other projects have been approved but are not active.)

The primary function of the SPF Board is to oversee the operations of SPF to meet all legal and fiduciary obligations. The SPF Board has **two open elected board positions Treasurer and President** for the AAUW year starting July 1, 2022.

Each SPF Board position has a two-year term, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. All candidates must be AAUW members. Candidates who are not members can easily join prior to election.

The SPF Board typically meets two to three times a year unless matters occur requiring a special meeting. These meetings are usually virtual because Board members reside all over the state.

For more detailed information about each position or if you are interested or know someone who would be a great candidate, please email Judy Rogers, AAUW-WA SPF President at specproj@aauw-wa.org along with a brief bio. Thanks.

General Information

Publishing Schedule

The next issue will be published on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Articles submitted for publications are due by Tuesday, March 8, 2022. 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.