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## President's Message



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

Are you feeling overwhelmed? I know I am. War. Pandemic. Inflation. Leaked decisions. Gas that costs more than fine wine (well, maybe not, but it seems we may be headed that way.) Having to refight the battles our mothers and grandmothers already won, even when everything we know about our legal system made us think the war was over and our rights were preserved by precedent. Sometimes I want to just turn off the news and ignore it all. A good book or mindless tv seem like a much safer option.

It really helps to try to focus on the small changes we can and have actually made that have lasting impact. Later in this Evergreen Leader there is a story by our AAUW-WA Public Policy chair, Sandra Ripley Distelhorst. It's clear that the work of this committee is never done, and this dedicated group, first led by Karen Anderson, and now by Sandra, has done a yeoman's job of making sure that our advocacy efforts are top notch and on point.

To be clear, AAUW's focus is NOT on maintaining abortion rights, but on preserving a woman's right to choose. Your body, your choice. And, its equally important that decisions are left to a woman and her doctor, not to a bunch of (mostly male) politicians. The recently leaked draft decision also makes it clear that once Roe v. Wade is overturned, they're nowhere near done. Who knows what will be next?

The Public Policy Committee is working diligently to keep us abreast of the latest developments and the most effective ways for us to work together and with our collaborators to fight this attack on our rights. We owe them a vote of thanks. And our help. If your branch doesn't have a public policy chair, please consider volunteering. You don't have to join the committee if you'd prefer not to but having a link to each branch is really important.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome a new member of our communications team. Kay McMurry. Kay has agreed to take over as Editor of The Evergreen Leader when Melinda's term concludes at the end of June. Welcome, Kay!

I would also like to welcome SPRING! She certainly has taken her own sweet time arriving this year, but it appears that she's finally here. The tulips and daffodils are up, the rhodies are starting to bloom, and we know by our watering eyes and runny noses that we're on the verge of having a cascade of colors wherever we look. I can't wait!  
Have a great month.

Mary

## State News

### *Every Little Thing You Need to Know*

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

- The 2022 Annual Meeting was a great success. Approximately 80 people attended the morning session with Jennifer Berkshire and participated in a panel discussion featuring Michaela Miller, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Washington; Marcia Harris, former school superintendent and school board member; and Mavis Nickels, retired math teacher and former school board member in Battle Ground, WA. AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell opened the afternoon business meeting by talking with us about the work that AAUW National is doing and the importance of the AAUW Greatest Needs funds.
- Watch your email for information coming soon about the June kickoff to the next webinar series. More information will be released later this week. In the meantime, save Saturday morning, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Registration details will be coming soon.
- Our May President's meetings will be on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, since the 30<sup>th</sup> (the last Monday of the month) is Memorial Day. The Zoom link will be coming out later this week.

*Public Policy*

Sandra Ripley Distelhorst  
Public Policy Director  
AAUW-Washington  
[publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org)

**SCOTUS leak – AAUW official response**

The May 6<sup>th</sup> AAUW Action Fund Washington Update included an official response to the SCOTUS leak and a link to [Rallying for Abortion Rights toolkit](#). A major rally is planned for May 14<sup>th</sup>, the day the Senate is scheduled to vote on the Women’s Health Protection Act ([H.R. 3755/S. 1975](#)). You can stay up-to-date on AAUW Action alerts by following AAUW on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Bookmark the AAUW [Take Action](#) webpage and visit it for updates. Sign-up for the newsletter by going to the national [Advocacy Tool Kit](#) webpage and scroll to bottom of page for the sign up box. Look for this logo in your email.

**What’s going on in Washington State?**

Abortions remain legal in WA state. The Seattle Times published [The history of abortion laws in Washington State](#). Here is a summary:

- In 1909 WA had a [near-total ban on abortions](#). It wasn’t until 1970 with [Referendum 20](#) that the law changed and abortion was legal before four months of pregnancy. In 1991 we passed the [Reproductive Privacy Act](#).
- In 2018 the [Reproductive Parity Act](#) made changes to health care coverage regulations ([RCW 48.43](#)) that were further amended in 2019 to expands coverage to trans and nonbinary people and amended in 2021 to include student health plans.
- In 2022 we passed HB1851 “[Preserving a pregnant individual's ability to access abortion care](#)” amended sections of the [Abortion chapter RCW 9.02](#).

**Over 40 bills were introduced to abolish or restrict abortions in WA in over the past few years.**

Nineteen legislators (including 8 women legislators) introduced bills to abolish or restrict abortions in our state. The top four sponsors of the most restrictive bills (“abolish abortions” and “prohibit abortion by medication”) were Rep. Jesse Young LD26, Rob Chase LD4, Brad Klippert LD8, and Vicki Kraft LD17. Young is running for the state Senate in LD26, and Klippert and Kraft are running for Congress.

Sixty-two legislators voted in 2022 against [HB1851 Improving Access to Abortions](#).

The AAUW-WA policy team will continue to monitor and oppose bills that attempt to restrict abortion in WA state.

**Elections are coming.** We are not just rallying for abortion rights; we are committing to taking our voices to candidate forums and community conversations to make sure we elect officials who support women’s rights and a women’s right to choose.

**What you can do.** Ask all candidates what their position is on abortion. Ask them about their position on other AAUW issues: equal pay, student debt, paid family medical leave, affordable childcare, Title IX, and sexual harassment and assault legislation.

See our new webpage [AAUW-WA Voter Tools](#) that includes the Candidate Comparison template that will be updated for the General elections for federal and state races. See [AAUW-WA Publications list](#) for background information on AAUW policy issues.

*The public policy team welcomes members to join our meetings or take on a candidate comparison project! Email [publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org) for updated meeting and project information.*

**Other May Policy Events**

**Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Equal Pay Day (May 3<sup>rd</sup>)** – We have people from 42 different nations across Asia and the Pacific Islands that now call our state home. The Commission Asian Pacific Americans Affairs (CAPAA) is hosting a series of virtual conversations with community and state leaders throughout the month of May. See the schedule of [events here](#) .

**Student Debt (May 3<sup>rd</sup>)** – AAUW webinar on Student Debt Crisis was on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. You can watch the [webinar recording here](#) . . .

**Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Day (May 5<sup>th</sup>)** – See how the Edmonds community acknowledged the work still needed to be done on this important issue with a [Red Dress Project](#).

**Child Care Can’t Wait Coalition (May 7<sup>th</sup>)** – AAUW joined with MomsRising for a [MOMibuster event](#) to raise awareness of the need for legislation to support paid family and medical leave, affordable child care and protections for pregnant workers.

**Events coming in June**

Title IX 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (June 23<sup>rd</sup>) – AAUW is asking for Governors to declare Jun 23<sup>rd</sup> “The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of title ix of the education amendments of 1972”.

Title IX webinars – AAUW TBA

Economic Security Webinar Series – AAUW-WA June Kickoff TBA

*Volunteers Needed*

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

Would you be willing to take on a committee assignment to help out AAUW-WA? Our Bylaws require that we conduct a financial review whenever our VP of Finance leaves office. Kyle McEligot will be retiring from her position and the AAUW-WA Board on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, we will need to conduct a financial review of the years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. The work will begin when Kyle has closed out the 2022 books, probably about July 15<sup>th</sup>, and should require just a few hours of work. I'm hoping that your work will be completed by either the Summer Leadership Meeting in early August or the August board meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Kyle has done an incredible job of maintaining accurate records and complete books, so I'm confident it will be an easy task. If you are willing to help out, please send me a quick e-mail at [president@aauw-wa.org](mailto:president@aauw-wa.org)

*2022-23 Officers Elected*

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

One component of our Annual Business Meeting held in April was the election of our 2022-2023 state officers. Previously during the meeting, an amendment to the Bylaws had been approved determining that the state president would, in the future, be elected in odd numbered years. To accommodate the change, the state president elected in 2022 will serve a one-year term. New or reelected officers are:

Mary Williams	President (2022-2023)
Sandy Heidegroot	Secretary (2022-2023)
Susie Johnson	Treasurer
Barbara Sando	Director, Position 3
Yvonne Berliner	Director, Position 4
Sandra Ripley Distelhorst	Director, Position 8
Judy Peasley	Director, Position 9

Sandy Heidegroot vacated the position of Director, Position 7, to run for secretary. She was elected to fill the vacancy created when Susie ran for Treasurer. Therefore, we are looking for someone to fill that position.

If you ever thought you'd like to try serving on the board, but were reluctant to commit for two years, this is your chance. Please email Mary at [president@aauw-wa.org](mailto:president@aauw-wa.org) if you're interested.

Board members Cathy Cavness, Kathy Halsan, Emily Hitchens, and Karen Anderson are the four continuing members who round out the full board.

Current state finance officer Kyle McEligot will be leaving the board after a long period of service. Katherine Cleland, who agreed to fill a vacancy when there was a board resignation is also terming out. We thank them for their hard work on our behalf.

## Branch Events

### *Edmonds-SnoKing Virtual Meeting*

Marianne North  
AAUW Edmonds-SnoKing  
[aauw.esk@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.esk@gmail.com)



Dr. Michelle Reid, Superintendent of Schools, Northshore School District

**Dr. Michelle Reid, named Washington State Superintendent of the Year for 2021, will speak via Zoom at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 18. We have asked her to speak about STEM and equity issues in public schools. All are welcome to attend. Advance registration is required at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAodOioqjsuHtGnqjRNHaOpQTKdHSVBI9NX>**

Dr. Reid has been the Northshore School District Superintendent since 2016, overseeing 23,000 students in the Bothell-Woodinville area north of Seattle. She has just been selected to lead the Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia. She has been a leadership facilitator at both the University of Washington Center for Educational Leadership and the Harvard Institute for School Leadership. Prior to coming to Northshore, Dr. Reid served as superintendent of schools, athletic director and high school principal in districts on the Olympic Peninsula.

Dr. Reid received a bachelor's degree in Natural Science and Chemistry, University of Puget Sound and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Washington.

Dr. Reid writes a weekly blog which can be read at <https://www.nsd.org/blog/~board/superintendent-blog/post/thursday-thoughts-east-ridge-elementary-visit-volunteer-appreciation-week-racial-and-educational-justice-and-more>

*AAUW Seattle Hosts Summer Reading Fest with Nancy Pearl*



Marianne North  
AAUW Seattle  
[programs@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:programs@aauw-seattle.org)

**Saturday, May 21, 2022  
10:00AM - 12:00PM**

Watertown Hotel  
4242 Roosevelt Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98105

Reserve your seat early by emailing [RSVP@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:RSVP@aauw-seattle.org) - no cost. Bring friends! Bring a book to exchange! Award-winning librarian and best-selling author Nancy Pearl will bring a list of her favorite books to discuss and share at our annual meeting. The National Book Foundation, which presents the National Book Awards, gave Nancy Pearl the 2021 Literarian Award for Outstanding Service to the American Literary Community. She also was named the 2021 Librarian of the Year by the Library Journal.

*Purses with Purpose 2022*

Georgi Proulx  
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Going once, going twice....SOLD!

Did you feel the energy from Stanwood Camano on Saturday, April 30?

Our AAUW branch held its 5<sup>th</sup> biennial *Purses with Purpose 2022*, benefit luncheon and silent and live auctions of fabulous designer purses that had been donated by members and the community. Purses hold more than our personal essentials for the day. They can help secure the dreams of completing a college education or inspire wonder in a young girl discovering science for the first time.

128 excited and generous guests with paddles ready celebrated the power of the purse in more ways than one by supporting these dreams and discoveries. Through their purchases and exceptional Fund-A-Scholar paddle raise, our guests surpassed their charitable giving from prior years contributing to our AAUW Stanwood Camano scholarship fund for college students and Tech Trek camperships.

A marvelous afternoon of fun and excitement for the cause. Nearly every guest went home with a wonderful purse knowing it had fulfilled TWO purposes, a new purse for them and funds for dreams and discoveries for the young women and girls.

Pictures from *Purses with Purpose 2022*.







## General Information

### *Publishing Schedule*

The next issue will be published on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. Articles submitted for publications are due by Wednesday, June 8, 2022. 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).