



The Evergreen Leader

AAUW Washington Newsletter
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IN THIS ISSUE

A Special Welcome
Leadership Meeting
President's Message
State News
 Public Policy
 2022 Webinar Series
 Tech Trek
Branch Events
 Edmonds-SnoKing Scholars
 Puyallup Garden Tour
 Seattle Event to Focus on Homelessness
General Information
 Submitting an Article
 Publishing Schedule

Welcome!

On behalf of our members across the state, we want to extend a warm welcome to Kay McMurry, our new Evergreen Leader editor.

Enjoy this first edition!



Summer Leadership Meeting

Saturday, August 13th

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

On Zoom

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

AAUW branches are the backbone of our organization and their leaders work hard to enable their success. In order to assist in that work, AAUW-WA will hold its annual Summer Leadership Meeting on August 13, 9:00-3:00 on Zoom. We will include breakout sessions where those in different leadership roles can confer with one another about issues in their branches, a public policy workshop, a session on recruiting and training treasurers, and cover other topics of interest to you. Whether you are a current branch leader or think you might be interested in becoming one in the future, we'd love to have you join us.

We are asking branch leaders to share their greatest challenges with us to help us make this meeting an important means to confronting those challenges. Please let me know what you think at programs@aauw-wa.org.

President's Message



Mary Williams
President
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president@aauw-wa.org

Welcome to 2022-23! As AAUW-WA begins a new year, I'd like to share with you some of the changes you can expect to see this year. But, before I do that, I want to welcome a new state board member (who really isn't new in any sense of the word) and let you know about a couple of changes to our executive team. First, I would like to welcome back past state president Barbara Sando. I think about the only thing that has really changed for Barb since February is that she now has a vote, not just significant impact. I can't even begin to tell you how grateful I am for the work she's done to resolve our IRS issues and now to help us clarify the relationship between the board, Tech Trek, and SPF. Once that situation is under control, she's planning to take on the monumental task of reconciling our Policies and Procedures to make sure they are aligned with our Bylaws and what we actually do. One of my goals two years ago, before all the craziness, was to develop procedures manuals for each of our various functions so that our transitions are smoother, and we don't lose so much institutional memory every time board leadership changes. That may end up becoming part of the work Barb does, or it may end up as part of a separate effort.

I would also like to thank Susie Johnson for stepping in to fill our Financial Officer role. I know she thinks we have done her a favor since she has been celebrating the completion of her last set of Minutes (who ever named them Minutes was foolish – they should be called Hours because that's how long it take to prepare them), but I am so happy to have someone step in to the essential role of

Treasurer with the breadth of experience on the State Board that Susie has. And I'd like to welcome Sandy Heidergott to the Secretary position. I'm relieved that she was eager to pass the Bylaws torch to Barbara so she could take on this new challenge, and I know she'll do a great job in her new position.

The rest of the board remains unchanged except we're one woman down. Somewhere out there, I'm hoping there is a woman who would like to dip her toes in the water of state leadership and give working with our team a try. We promise not to drown you in work. Our bottom line ask is that you bring your individual perspective to our work. Each of us has different ideas about the direction our organization should go and what is most important for us to do. How do we add value to the work of our branches and act as an effective liaison between national and our state organizations?

As I move into my last year as State President my primary goal is to leave our organization better off than it was when I started. To me, that means working with Karen Anderson to develop our mission-based programming, delivered through webinars and available to every single member in the state (and, we hope, to many potential members). It means developing collateral marketing materials that each branch can personalize to spread the word about the work we do and recruit new members without having to recreate the wheel each time. It means continuing the amazing advocacy work that Sandra and her team have developed over the past few years. And, it means finding ways to help our branches develop the leadership programs that will give us sustainability and fresh faces for years to come.

I'm looking forward to a productive year. First, though, I'm hoping we can enjoy a few weeks of summer sunshine and warm temperatures. Before we know it, Costco will be putting out holiday decorations and all the new growth on our beautiful trees will be turning shades of red and gold.

Mary



State News

Public Policy

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Primary Elections – Ballots in Mail July 15th for August 2nd Primary Election

While many of us are taking a summer policy break, there is one important advocacy action for the summer. VOTE in the PRIMARY election. Voter turnout in the last midterm election (2018) was 49.79% for the primary and 71.83% for the general elections.^[1] The national average was 26.78% and 60.44%, respectively.

There are several critical races at the federal, state and local level where we have a serious risk that NO candidate who actively supports AAUW issues will make it to the General Election. Yikes! We need to at least make sure AAUW issues are on the table for discussion during this 2022 election.

Reproductive rights: AAUW is updating our [Quick Facts on Reproductive Rights](#); it should be posted this week on the national website. Look for the 2022 pdf version. One key message is correcting misinformation about legal access to abortion and medical misinformation that is circulating in the media – abortion is still legal in many states including Washington. Governor Inslee issued a number of directives to further protect abortion rights in our state, including prohibiting state law enforcement cooperation with abortion-related investigations. See the [Governor's 22-12 Directive](#).

It is not only national and state legislation and court decisions that can protect or prohibit reproductive rights, but local policymakers also play an important role.

The Edmonds City Council recently adopted a resolution to protect [Reproductive Freedom](#). Here is the link:

<https://dpa730eaqha29.cloudfront.net/myedmondsnews/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Resolution-1498.pdf>

See [local news story](#). Here is the link:

<https://www.heraldnet.com/news/edmonds-affirms-support-for-reproductive-rights-in-wake-of-roe-ruling/>

Please consider sharing the Edmonds Resolution with your local city or county policymakers and ask them to introduce a Reproductive Freedom Resolution.

Here is a question we asked about abortion at a recent LWV - Snohomish /AAUW-ESK congressional district candidate forum: *“What legislation would you support, or oppose, regarding access to abortion? Please explain.”* Ask this question of your local candidates by adding *“in our county or community”*.

We need to know what position local elected leaders take on critical AAUW issues like reproductive rights, including local sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys, and judges.

Voting rights and election security: We need to elect officials who support AAUW issues at a national, state and local level. See [2021-2022 Voters' Rights/Election-related bills](#) to see how your state legislators voted for voting rights bills. See [116th Congressional Voting Record](#) to see how your congressional district legislators scored on federal voting rights bills.

At a local level, the [county](#) plays a critical and logistic role in elections, from voter pamphlets, election office procedures, ballot box placement, and verifying ballots. The County Canvassing Board is the final decision-maker and is made up of the county auditor, county prosecuting attorney and the head of the county commission.

In the 2022 Primary elections, many of these local positions are unopposed. County Auditor: only 13 out of 39 county races even have challengers. Pierce County has 3 candidates, the other 12 only two. In the general election 6 out of 13 races have candidates who pose a voting rights concern: Clark, Kitsap, Mason, Pend Oreille, Skagit and Spokane. Prosecuting Attorney: only 7 out of 39 races have challengers, only 2 primary races have more than 2 candidates, Spokane and Stevens County. Commission Chair: the Chair of the County Commission plays a role in canvassing and certifying elections. Please pay attention to county commissioner races.

Here is a question we asked at a recent LWV-Snohomish/AAUW-ESK congressional district candidate forum: *“What will you do to protect voting rights and secure election systems in Washington State and nationwide?”* Ask this question of your local candidates by adding *“in our county or community”*.

Candidate comparisons: AAUW national will be publishing a template for candidate comparison we can use for the general election. We will talk more about this at the Summer Leadership Meeting on August 13th. Please be sure your branch has a public policy advocate at the meeting. You don't need to be an official branch public policy chair to participate in our state public policy actions. We have a great group and some pretty lively conversations with many different viewpoints. Email publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org for a link to the next Tuesday noon meeting.

Get-out-the-Vote: Primary elections matter! Consider a branch Get-Out-The Vote action. For example, one branch uses a “call three phone tree” approach to remind members to vote. This is also a good time to check in on how your members, friends and neighbors are doing as we adjust to the changing COVID mandates, struggle with supply chain issues that impact cost and availability of products and services, and deal with a volatile political climate and a barrage of news related to women's rights. While we are strong advocates for women's rights, we can also feel especially vulnerable in this volatile political climate. It's a good time to reach out.

In Solidarity. Sandra D.

[ii https://statesuniteddemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/primaries.html](https://statesuniteddemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/primaries.html)

2022 Webinar Series

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On Saturday, June 11, AAUW-WA began an important and informative Zoom webinar series on women and the economy. Our kickoff speaker was Ariane Hegewisch of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, a national authority on economic status of women and the policies that could move women forward economically.

This session will be followed by a series of webinars on related topics which will be held on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the fall.

On September 13, Paula England of NYU will answer the question "Is the Gender Revolution Stalled?" by examining trends in women's status in recent decades. She is an eminent sociologist who has spent a lifetime examining women's issues, especially the wage gap.

On October 11, Karen Dove, Executive Director of ANEW in Seattle, will speak on women's access to well-paying jobs in the building trades. ANEW provides quality training, including apprenticeships, and employment services to women and people from underserved communities in Washington.

On November 15, Kelly Jones of American University, will speak on her research on the economic consequences for women of restricted access to reproductive services. Professor Jones is an applied microeconomist whose research examines the effects of various economic policies on gender equality and women's economic wellbeing.

On December 13, State Senator Claire Wilson will speak on child care policies in Washington state. Her expertise on the topic comes from 25 years working as an early childhood education administrator and as a legislator working to develop new policies to improve childcare access. She will be joined by Sarah Brady, the policy and advocacy manager for Child Care Resources of King County.

So, please save the following dates: Sept. 13 (Paula England); Oct. 11 (Karen Dove) Nov. 15 (Kelly Jones); Dec. 13 (Sen. Claire Wilson and Sarah Brady).



Tech Trek

Karen Manelis

Director

Tech Trek Washington

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Spectacular, Thought-provoking, Energizing, Marvelous Week Held!

On July 10, the first group of 50 campers converged on the Pacific Lutheran University campus in Tacoma for a week jam-packed with activities centered on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). July 17 will see another group of campers descend on the PLU campus for their week of camp. These campers are headed into the 8th grade this fall from 18 branches throughout the state of Washington.

Six highly qualified teachers taught core classes on environmental forensics, cybersecurity, robotics, wearable tech, and human biology. The campers enjoyed field trips to either Northwest Trek (in Eatonville) or Harbor Wild Watch (Gig Harbor), a financial literacy program from Financial Beginnings, multiple hands-on mini labs, and an evening hearing/interviewing local professional women working in STEM fields. During the week they were shepherded by a cadre of AAUW

volunteers, acting as camp counselors, health aide, directors and assistants. For the first time, about half of the “dorm moms” were former Tech Trek campers!

Seventeen branches throughout the state took on the challenge of contacting their local schools, screening applications, interviewing and selecting students who were invited to attend. These branches also raised funds to support the campers – from contributions by members and local businesses to redirecting branch funds. Since 2013, when Tech Trek first started in Washington, over \$1,000,000 has been raised within the state for the program.

Tech Trek continued to experience the effects of the COVID pandemic in 2022. Numbers were down for all branches seeking qualified candidates. The “fully vaccinated” COVID vaccination requirement prevented some students from participating in the program. Because of these constraints, Tech Trek was held at only one site (Pacific Lutheran University); some campers from Eastern Washington were flown into Seattle to attend, other eastern families drove their students the long distances between eastern and western Washington to allow participation.

It’s never too early to look toward next year: Now is the time to start laying the foundation with your local schools and start a fundraising campaign. Information on contacting schools is on the AAUW WA Tech Trek website, www.techtrek-wa.aauw.net, under the “Forms” tab. Help is also available on how to raise funds (1. Attend state all member meeting this summer. 2. Set branch fundraising goal. 3.). Direct your questions now to techtrek@aauw-wa.org and get started on choosing local girls for the 2023 camps!

Branch News

Edmonds-SnoKing Branch

Pamela Cannell

Branch Newsletter Editor

Scholarship Awards Event

On Thursday, June 2, the Edmonds-SnoKing branch and Edmonds College hosted a joint STEM scholarship event. Six students from local high schools and the college were awarded scholarships for their outstanding academic records and their contributions to the community. Emily Levesque, astronomer and assistant professor at University of Washington, was the keynote speaker.

Carly Cooper from Scriber Lake High School plans to study health care, medicine, and veterinary medicine.

Kiana Pham from Lynnwood High School plans to study industrial engineering.

Kylie Prescott from Mountlake Terrace High School plans to study mechanical and civil engineering.

Alex Weber from Edmonds-Woodway High School plans to study environmental and/or marine science.

Danielle More-Porter will continue her computer science studies at Edmonds College.

Bianca Sanchez-Colin will continue her science and engineering studies at Edmonds College.

One awardee sent this thank you note to the Branch:

"Thank you AAUW! Your scholarship is not taken for granted. I feel honored that you took my faceless application and decided that it was worth your generous support. It is difficult to put into words exactly how that feels, especially when going through a time of uncertain transitions.

The financial assistance you have given me does more than help me graduate without debt. It also gives me the peace of mind and clarity of thought that I need in order to properly focus on my academics. As I am responsible for paying my tuition, this money will also give me time to balance work, self-care, and future investments and connections with my schoolwork in a mentally healthy way. I am truly grateful for your time, consideration, and acceptance."

Puyallup Branch

Joan Cronk

Branch Publicity Chair

Successful Garden Tour Yields Bumper Crop of STEM Funds

The weather cooperated, people showed up and AAUW Puyallup's fourth annual Garden Tour came off without a hitch and was a huge success.

At the wrap up meeting the garden tour committee members chimed in with their support and suggestions for next year's event.

This year approximately \$14,000 was raised by selling tickets and getting sponsors to support STEM projects for young girls in our local school districts. Five gardens and one rain garden that provided educational information were on the tour and 400 plus tickets were sold.

The garden tour website, puyallupgardentouraauw.org, will remain up throughout the year .



PHOTO: Left to right; Sue Pasquale, Deborah Anderson, Bev Strodz, Sandie Olsen, Sylvia Hagman, MJ Garlic, Virginia King, Mary Smith, Florence Vining, Sherry Asher and Eileen Meyer.

Seattle Branch

Pamela Bradburn

Branch Secretary

Save the Date

Meet! Learn! Feast!

Meet! Seattle branch invites all AAUW members and the public to its September 17, 2022 program about women and homelessness.

Learn!

- From women who've lived unsheltered about how they ended up homeless, their experiences selling the "Real Change" street newspaper, and what it took to climb into housing security.
- What the new King County Regional Homelessness Authority is accomplishing.
- About the November ballot Initiative I-135, which would establish a Public Director to create publicly-owned social housing for people earning from 0% to 120% of Area median income.

Feast! Enjoy a Cuban latte while meeting and learning, then feast on Cuban sandwiches while catching up with friends.

Meeting 10 a.m. to Noon at Café con Leche, 2901 1st Ave S (and S Forest St.), in Seattle's SODO neighborhood, served by the 21 bus, and with ample parking

General Information

Publishing Schedule

We have a new text editor for our state newsletter, Kay McMurry of Hudson's Bay Branch. She has a "cranky" computer which seems to be inhabited by gremlins at times. It would help immensely if you would send articles for the state newsletter to Kay in Word format.

The next issue will be published on Monday, August 15, 2022. Articles submitted for publication are due by Monday, August 8, 2022. Please send the articles to Mary Williams at president@aauw-wa.org, Kay McMurry at evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org and/or Judy Peasley at communications@aauw-wa.org.

AAUW Washington State

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