



The Evergreen Leader

AAUW Washington Newsletter
January 2024 Volume 35, No. 7



In This Issue

President's Message

- Branch Presidents' Meeting

State News

- Legislative Updates
- Communications
 - Women's March
- Membership Corner
 - AHA Member Moments
 - Open Up AAUW - Vote on Proposed Bylaws Change
- Public Policy
 - 2024 Lobby Day
- Tech Trek
- Evergreen Leader Editor - 2024-25 position open

Branch News

- Online
- Puyallup
- Seattle

General Information

- AAUW-WA Member Area & YouTube Channel Access
- Submitting an Article & Publishing Schedule

President's Message

Emily Hitchens
AAUW-WA President
president@aauw-wa.org

Finding our Roots and Reflecting on the New Year.

I have an online subscription to Toolshero, a site that shares leadership and communication ideas. For January, the tab was “Tips to Start the New Year Right.” I looked to see what they had to say, and Covey’s 7 Habits of Highly Effective People popped up.

Scrolling down a little further a name I did not know, one Napoleon Hill wrote Law of Success (1927) and Think and Grow Rich (1937)! Then a list of his best quotes, for example, “A goal is a dream with a deadline.” and “Whatever your mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve.” I also checked the California Connection, on the AAUW-CA website: <https://www.aauw-ca.org>. All clever ideas about resolutions and what ‘not’ to do but instead support AAUW.

However, I was looking for something more whimsical! As I was grinding my husband’s present from Santa, the Sunday coffee project whole bean Holiday Blend, I noticed the words Unity, Hope, and Joy in the logo. A list of activities on the side of the box included sleep in, bake, celebrate, watch basketball, indulge, feel overstimulated! Lastly, with a check in the box, learn something new. I looked the company up on the web and it was started in 2021. Their values are Excellence (a good coffee product), Transparency (using importers who support fair market prices), Approachability (welcoming), and FUN defined as being creative, forward-thinking, and having fun in the process.

I think we could very well subscribe to these values and learn something new; they are the ROOTS of a vital association. So have fun, find ways to enjoy nature, and discover what the messages there might be for you and your associations.

P. S. I attended my first regional meeting with AAUW National. During that meeting the president of the

California State organization offered us an invitation to a webinar on **Sunday, February 4th at 3 pm**. The webinar is for those interested in learning about Black activist Mary Church Terrell, her work for women’s suffrage and racial equality, and her role in the integration of AAUW. A co-founder of the NAACP, Terrell became the first Black member of AAUW after winning an anti-discrimination lawsuit. Attendees will hear from Dr. Alison Parker, author of *Unceasing Militant: The Life of Mary Church Terrell*, as she recounts stories and major successes in the life of this extraordinary woman.

- [CLICK HERE](https://www.aauw-ca.org/mary-church-terrell-and-the-fight-to-integrate-aauw/) for more information and to register

(Photo upper right: The snapshot of me and my dog Gavin on a walk around Deep Lake East King County, Nolte State Park.)





State Presidents' Meetings

If you are currently serving as president of your branch, we invite you to join AAUW-WA president Emily Hitchens for some lively discussions with other AAUW branch presidents in WA State. These meetings have typically been on the fourth Monday of each month, with a choice of either 10:30 a.m. or 7 p.m.

The fourth Monday meetings, which would have taken place on January 22, have been moved to a new date, due to Lobby Day. **The next meetings will be on Monday, January 29.** Zoom links will be posted on the [AAUW-WA calendar](#).

State News

Stay Informed with Legislative Updates!

Our AAUW-WA legislative consultant, **Nancy Sapiro**, provides regular news and updates for our state membership during the legislative session. If you are interested in receiving these updates for 2024, please click on the link below.

[Click HERE](#) to sign up for AAUW-WA 2024 Legislative Updates, *This Week in Olympia*

Did you receive the legislative updates in 2023? **Sign up again in 2024** to continue receiving these informative weekly emails.



THIS WEEK IN OLYMPIA



Updates for the 2024 Legislative Session

Communications

Mary Ross
AAUW-WA Communications Director
communications@aauw-wa.org

Are you registered to receive “This Week in Olympia?” [Use this link](#) to receive legislative news, updates, action alerts, and more.

I’m looking forward to these legislative updates. Having moved from the urban 32nd legislative district (Salomon, Davis, Ryu) to the more rural 20th (Braun, Abbarno, Orcutt), I’m eager to use the action alerts to inform my new representatives about my priorities.

[See you on Lobby Day!](#)



Women's March

Around the state and our country, people are mobilizing to send an unequivocal message: "Our resolve is unyielding. Our movement is not just about Roe; it is about safeguarding the rights and freedoms for all, now and for future generations. We are the majority and our voices will be heard! "

If your branch wants to join this important movement, [CLICK HERE](#)
https://action.womensmarch.com/calendars/bigger-than-roe-january-2024/events/organiser_instructions

If you want to see an example of an event in our state, click below:
Seattle

<https://facebook.com/groups/358308507872360/>

International Women's Day - Friday Mar. 8 <https://www.facebook.com/IWDWOMR>

Membership Corner

Jeanne Nygard
AAUW-WA Membership Director
membership@aauw-wa.org



Probably because I've always been a "bookish" person (and a retired librarian) I think of each year as a book with chapters. Chapter 1 – January has started The Book of 2024. Making resolutions hasn't worked for me in the past. Instead, January reminds me be curious and aware of new opportunities and ideas that will pop up in my life. That also extends to my AAUW involvement and my other interests and causes.

What will happen in Chapter 1 of your AAUW Branch? What new membership opportunities and ideas will pop up for your Branch? Simple ideas are just as important as big fancy membership shindigs! Save those ideas and share them with our Membership Group.

Please join us on Monday, January 15, 2024, at 12:30 pm for our first Membership Meeting of 2024. We will be discussing how to access the Membership Toolkit and the various ways to use what is in the Toolkit. Toolkit vs Toolbox vs Toolset? I've heard from several members asking if we will have a Toolkit, Toolbox, or a Toolset. Wow – I've never heard of a Toolset option! We can take a vote!

The recurring Membership Meeting link is below and is always in our AAUW-WA website calendar. See our calendar at - <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/activities-information/calendar/>

Membership Meeting, January 15, 2024, 12:30 pm

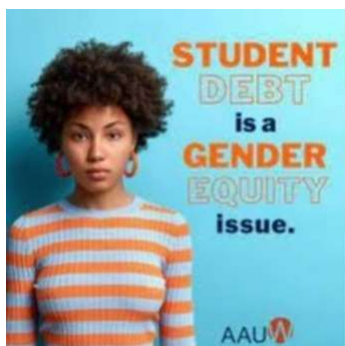
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81312331083?pwd=ZE9qTXdXbUyQUl4S0F0K3hmaEZTQT09>

Meeting ID: 813 1233 1083

Passcode: 649306

AHA Member Moments



Judith Prince - AAUW Online

(and former AAUW-WA president)

As part of the 2017 AAUW National Convention, we participated in Lobby Day with our Senators and Representatives. As part of the activities, we provided copies of *Deeper in Debt*, AAUW's research report on student debt. After receiving her copy, Senator Murray started looking through her copy and said: "This is great, I need this information."

My AHA Moment

We want to hear your story of an "aha" AAUW moment, a time when you had a sudden heartwarming flash of happiness, gratitude, pride, excitement, or hilarity because you're part of this organization.

Keep it under 75 words and send it with your name and branch to evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org



Open Up AAUW

Barbara Sando
AAUW-WA Bylaws Chair
bylaws@aauw-wa.org

Proposed Amendment to "Open Up AAUW"
Ready for Review and Comment
Deadline January 26th

Members should have received an e-mail from AAUW Chief of Staff Shannon Wolfe on Monday, January 8th kicking off the comment period for the proposed amendment to "Open Up AAUW" by eliminating the degree requirement for AAUW membership. The e-mail included this link to the national website where

you can [review and comment on the proposal to open membership](#). There you will find the “Overview and Reasons for the Proposed Amendment,” as well as a link to where your comments can be made. **The comment period closes at 2 pm PST on Friday, January 26th.** We encourage every member to review the proposed change and provide any feedback they have during the comment period.

After thoughtful discussion and a vote, **the AAUW Washington State Board, as an entity, has taken a position in favor of supporting “Open Up AAUW”.** To support AAUW’s value of being inclusive, and in recognizing that it doesn’t take a college degree to believe in and fight for gender equity, the Board believes that opening up membership is a critical step in ensuring a strong future for AAUW as an organization. Let’s break down our own barrier!

This initiative was last voted on in spring 2021, when it came very close to passing. In fact, there was a quorum and the majority of members who voted were in favor of eliminating the degree requirement. Unfortunately, that number fell just short of the 2/3 vote required to pass such an amendment. Statistics from the 2021 vote varied significantly around the country, but here in Washington State, we should be proud that just over 1/3 of our members voted, and 76% of them voted to eliminate the degree requirement. Both statistics were higher than the national average. To learn more about the evolution of AAUW membership requirements and about prior campaigns to open membership, go to <https://openupaauw.org/>.

Lobby Day 2024

We’re Stronger Together!

Washington State is hosting our annual Lobby Day on January 22 from 9-12:30. The session will open early at 8:30 for a “meet and greet” that will be an opportunity for you to interact with others, but this



half hour will not be led by any one individual. Please join us at 8:30 if you enjoy this more casual interaction with members across the state.

2024 Lobby Day will be held virtually on Zoom to encourage all members to join us. We hope you will make time for this important session!

Lobby Day speakers will discuss

- Voting
- Media Literacy
- Girls at Risk
- Various topics from our lobbyist Nancy Sapiro

Cost is \$10.00

[Click HERE](#) to register or click the link below

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-wa-lobby-day-tickets-774031417807?aff=oddtcreator>

Public Policy

Sandra Distelhorst

AAUW-WA Public Policy Director
publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org

The 2024 legislative session started January 8, 2024, and Olympia is in full swing! **AAUW-WA Lobby Day is January 22nd**, a virtual event again this year. We are inviting guests to join us, so be sure to save your spot now by registering [HERE](https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/2023/11/08/lobby-day-2024/) [https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/2023/11/08/lobby-day-2024/]

Featured speakers will provide us with background related to some of our Lobby Day bills:

- “Girls at Risk” – Meet the Girls for Justice League.
- Media Literacy and Artificial Intelligence - Meet Tammie Schrader and hear about what is happening in our public schools
- Elections and the “six” Ballot Initiatives – what you need to know for 2024.

Our Lobbyist Nancy Sapiro will update us on what is happening in Olympia.

Sign up for her [weekly updates!](https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1964781/31230/) [https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1964781/31230/]

Our Public Policy team will provide key talking points for our Lobby Day bills. Be sure to sign up with your branch policy chair to meet with your legislators during Lobby Week January 22- 26. Your legislators **want** and **need** to hear from AAUW members! With so many loud voices speaking out against women’s rights (often women’s voices), we need to make sure **AAUW’s voice is heard**, loud and clear!

Featuring education, education, education in 2024!

Absenteeism in public schools.

- Supporting students at risk for not graduating due to absenteeism. ([SB 5850](#) / HB 2146 is a bipartisan bill sponsored by Senator Braun LD20 – Lewis County and Senator Wellman LD41 Lake Washington). [https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5850&Initiative=false&Year=2023] See [New Yorker article](#) on this issue. [https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5850&Initiative=false&Year=2023]

Supporting teacher-librarians and information technology ([SB 5102](#) Sen. Wellman LD41).

- AAUW-WA is joining with the WA Library Association to make sure this bill passes. Our AAUW members who are librarians and teachers are super excited about this bill passing in 2024 (with funding).

Getting a Grip on Artificial Intelligence

- WA is considered a leader in this arena. We need a robust task force and state regulations. ([SB 5838](#) (Nguyen) / HB 1934 (Couture) is a good start. [https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5838&Chamber=Senate&Year=2023] Thanks to Judi Edwards (Whatcom County) for helping the policy team select this issue for Lobby Day. Check out the upcoming presentations on artificial intelligence hosted by the [WA-Online Branch](#) [https://wa-online.aauw.net/] and the [Seattle Branch](#). [https://aauw-seattle.org/]

Honoring Indigenous People

- Honoring indigenous people should include more than a land acknowledgment. This bill would require instruction in tribal sovereignty and federally recognized Indian tribes to be part of the public education curriculum (HB 1332 (Rep. Lekanoff LD40 Whatcom County). [https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1332&Year=2023] The curriculum [Since Time Immemorial](#) is a valuable public service you can share, it is available on the OSPI website. [https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/time-immemorial-tribal-sovereignty-washington-state]

Economic Security and Reproductive Rights.

- Flexible work for WA peace officers is a **gender equity bill** that helps address the goal of [30 x 30 Initiative](#): 30% of peace officers are women by 2030. [<https://bja.ojp.gov/news/blog/30x30-initiative-positive-impacts-women-law-enforcement>] [SB 5424](#) (Lovick) / HB 1413 (Shavers) [<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=5424&Year=2023&Initiative=false>]
- Honoring inclusive families by changing the definition of family for paid sick leave benefits to match the definition used for paid family medical leave: [SB 5793](#) (Saldaña) / HB 1991 (Fosse). [<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=5793&Initiative=false&Year=2023>]
- Fighting for reproductive rights: Amend the WA state Constitution to protect reproductive freedom. [SJR 8202](#) (Keiser) / HJR 4201 (Gregerson); [<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=8202&Initiative=false&Year=2023>] pass the Keep Our Care Act. [SB 5241](#) (Randall) / HB 1263 (Simmons) [<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=5241&Initiative=false&Year=2023>]

You can follow these bills and see the role your legislators are playing in helping to pass or block these bills using our BillTrack50 Scorecard:

<https://www.billtrack50.com/public/scorecard/summary/XfD5OjebyUWveJdZrIjMpA>

Hope to see you on January 22nd!

As always, email your thoughts and concerns about AAUW-WA public policy to publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org. Join in our weekly meetings during the session. Check our [state calendar](#) for the Zoom link.



Tech Trek

Krislyn Davis
 Tech Trek Program Director
techtrek@aauw-wa.org

Hello Everyone,

I want to apologize for the lack of information about Tech Trek in the last couple of Evergreen Leader newsletters. There was some difficulty with an email address we had to troubleshoot, but we plan to keep you as informed as

possible from now on.

The Tech Trek team and I would like to touch base with you about program updates and information that you may need as the fundraising season approaches. The main things to be aware of are:

- **Camp Dates:** Our Tech Trek team has been in contact with PLU, and after receiving the cost estimates, we have opted to host one week of camp: we will be able to take up to 100 campers. Camp will be from July 14th until July 20th (staff training will be on July 13th).
- **Covid Vaccines:** As Washington state is no longer requiring Covid vaccinations in most settings, we are recommending vaccination, but it is not required.
- **Costs:** We know that there was quite a lot of confusion and concern during our last pricing update, with the figure being at \$1700 per camper. I want you to know that our team has heard your worries about being able to raise money and send girls with a figure this high. Our leadership team is reviewing our costs from previous years and looking for ways we can reduce costs. We are committing to not exceed a figure of \$1650 per camper (this includes the \$50 family contributions). We know it isn't a huge difference, but this is where we are starting. We hope that this will make things even a little easier for you.

Staffing Updates: We have had some recent changes to our staffing. We have a wonderful leadership team, three of whom are former campers, and I am looking forward to working with everyone this year.

- Program Director: Krislyn Davis
- Assistant Director: Not Filled
- Curriculum Coordinator: Jen Dalziel
- Student and Families Coordinator: Trish Wilson
- Volunteer Coordinator: Allyanna Hackenberg and Liv Witherspoon
- Treasurer: Open
- Laura Tucker is serving as a member of our leadership team, given her extensive experience in Directing Camps.

We are looking to fill our treasurer position as soon as possible. Someone with strong experience in managing budgets, and with experience as a treasurer is preferred. The main responsibility is to approve and manage invoices before, during, and after camp. The person fulfilling the role of treasurer should have experience reading budget information and will approve Tech Trek expenses. Please reach out at the Tech Trek email (listed below) if you're interested. We'd like this role to be filled before February.

Communications: If you have questions or would like to reach out to members of our leadership team, the best way is with this email: techtrek@aauw-wa.org (The name connected to the address is Karen Manelis, but emails sent to that address will go to myself and other members of our team so we can get back to you as soon as possible.)

We plan to have a Zoom meeting soon to touch base, give updates, and answer questions.

Thank you for your continued support of Tech Trek. It is a powerful program that significantly changes the lives of the campers who attend. We know that continuing to keep this camp running hasn't been easy for Washington branches, but we are so grateful for all you do to make camp possible. So many of us working together to better the lives of young people is so difficult to do, but so worth it in the end. Thank you again for everything.

We Need You!

EVERGREEN LEADER EDITOR OPEN POSITION 2024-2025

What is Involved?

- 2-4 hours per month
- Solicit material from the state board, committees, and branches
- Publish the monthly newsletter
- Use webmail platform - experience is helpful
- Share draft with EL review team for edit/feedback
- Distribute statewide

A team is in place to help you come on board!

If this interests you, contact us!

communications@aauw-wa.org



Branch Events

Online AAUW

Melissa Johnsen
AAUW-WA Online
Johnsen.Melissa54@gmail.com

Artificial Intelligence: A Brave New World of Concerns and Possibilities

With the increasing integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in our daily lives with many unknowns, concerns, and possibilities being posed by AI, come, and participate in a thought-provoking discussion sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) WA Online Branch about Artificial Intelligence. The AAUW WA Online panel discussion is on FEB 22, 2024, at 12 pm PST. [RSVP for the event at this LINK](#). The event will feature a panel of AI experts, and we aim to explore the following topics while seeking insights from our distinguished panelists:

1. The Impact of AI on the American Workforce
2. The Future of AI: Concerns and Benefits
3. AI in Our Daily Lives
4. Ensuring AI Safety and Opportunity
5. Global AI Concerns

We will provide an overview of the history of Artificial Intelligence to provide a contextual framework for this crucial conversation. The program will conclude with a call to action, emphasizing the importance of learning, advocacy, and proactive engagement. Our distinguished panelists for this event include:

- Faith 'Aya' Umoh: A digital artist, data scientist, and CEO of Creative Ayai, a global co-creative art and media software company producing AI-driven immersive experiences.
- Eva Sachar: Eva focuses on implementing advanced analytics solutions and data ethics practices in the Healthcare and Public Service industries.
- Corrie Wilder: Executive Director of Marketing and Communications at Washington State University Everett, recognized for her pivotal role in educational partnerships.

We look forward to this insightful discussion and invite all interested parties to join us in exploring the critical facets of AI in our society. [RSVP for the event at this LINK](#)



Puyallup

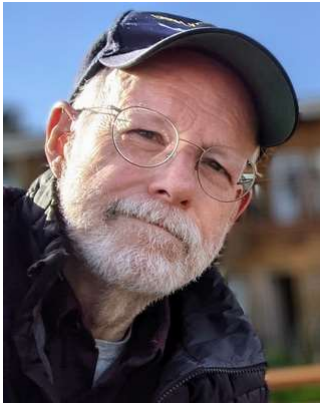
Joan Cronk
AAUW-Puyallup Publicity Chair
Joan791942@comcast.net

Volunteer Award

You don't have to look any further than Puyallup AAUW members Barbara Walker and Jo Ingram to find anyone who has worked harder to keep Puyallup AAUW's programs interesting and engaging. That is why the co-chairs were recognized as Puyallup AAUW's volunteers of the year. The award was announced at the annual Holiday get-together in December at Highlands Community Center in Puyallup. Both ladies agreed the key to their success was that they truly enjoyed the challenge of finding programs to enlighten members and also encourage conversations. "We tapped into people we know in our group for program ideas," said Walker, adding they wanted programs that would stimulate discussion. Being co-chairs was challenging only to the organization of the event said Walker, adding, "The programs fell into line on their own."

The summer picnic held at DeCoursey Park in Puyallup was a real highlight when members brought food to share, picnic tables were provided and the weather cooperated. The event held at Karshner Museum in Puyallup gave members the challenge of identifying artifacts and Haley Sebens, sexual assault prosecuting attorney and daughter of AAUW Puyallup member Janet Wolcott, gave members an insight into the challenges of prosecuting offenders. February's program welcomed Jeanne Fitzgerald's daughter, Kelly Fitzgerald PhD, who spoke about medical research and the ethics of human participation in new drug and device approvals.

Being co-chairs required several steps for Walker and Ingram. In addition to finding a program to present, a room must be reserved and coffee, tea, and a snack are usually provided. Internet connections had to be established if the speaker needed them to enhance their presentation. Ingram and Walker both agreed that the process was enjoyable and they were thrilled getting to know the members and speakers. "We still are full of new ideas and will pass those on to the new Co-Vice Presidents of Programs," said Walker.



Seattle

Tonna Kutner
AAUW-Seattle
marketing@aauw-seattle.org

Generative AI: The Good, the Bad and the Unknown with Dr. Terry Gray
We are delighted to be partnering with Seattle AWIS (Association for Women in Science) featuring Dr. Terry Gray, retired Affiliate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering and chief technology architect at UW, as our very accomplished speaker.

The meeting will be accessible both in person and online and all are welcome including guests.

Wednesday, Jan 17, 2024

6-8 pm in person, 6:30-7:30 pm online

Reservations for this free event are required. [CLICK HERE](#) to reserve your spot!

For additional directions and more information.

<https://aauw-seattle.org/calendar/filter-by/event/173/2024/01/17/>

Check out our website at www.aauw-seattle.org



Seattle

Tonna Kutner
AAUW-Seattle
marketing@aauw-seattle.org

Creating a More Equitable Healthcare System
with Kumhee Ro, DNP, APRN, FAANP

Kumhee Ro, DNP, APRN, FAANP, is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Seattle University College of Nursing. Ro is very accomplished and wears many hats in both nursing and advocacy. She will share the lived experiences of some of our marginalized communities and provide an In-depth look at how we can be a part of the legislative and policy conversations to advance health equity through advocacy.

Ro is both an immigrant and a first-generation college graduate. Over her career as a healthcare practitioner, she has been motivated by the underserved communities she has served to build coalitions, implement innovative models and partnerships, and design pathways to positively impact vulnerable populations' health outcomes. She is dedicated to improving and diversifying the nursing profession. Through her scholarship, she has championed a culture of inclusivity and belonging in academia, supporting state and national initiatives aimed at advancing underrepresented students and faculty to ensure a diversified health workforce. As an educator and thought leader with federal and state policy experience, she will share with us her experiences in education, leadership and practice and how advocacy can impact health policies.

Zoom Registration Required

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYode2urz4pGtBIEF0E6jZJtks-WmotK48b>

Saturday, February 17, 2024

10 am online via Zoom

Reservations for this free event are required. [CLICK HERE](#) to reserve your spot!

For additional directions and more information.

<https://aauw-seattle.org/calendar/filter-by/event/177/2024/02/17>

Check out our website at www.aauw-seattle.org

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 send event details to communications@aauw-wa.org

You can also use the template provided in this [Branch Sharing Form](#).

General Information

AAUW-WA YouTube Channel

Did you know that all videos, webinars and state meetings are available for you and your branch to view? All you need is this link that will take you to our private YouTube channel. [AAUW-WA YouTube](#)

Video Playlist

If you have any problems accessing the videos, or questions about the content or how to use them with your branch, please contact Mary Ross at communications@aauw-wa.org

AAUW-WA Member Web Sections

Password: Evergreen

Publishing Schedule

Please send articles and images for the state newsletter to Judy Peasley at evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org

- **Please send photos separately - do not embed them in your document**
- Please use MS Word format; Font: Calibri size 12
- Articles with images, limit to 450 words; without images, limit to 550 words

We are hoping that most articles can meet these guidelines. If you have a special article that exceeds this limit, we understand, but ask that you do your best to limit the article length.

****Remember that written permission for publishing is required from any person shown in a photo that is published. The branch or officer submitting the photo is responsible for getting and keeping the signatures of the people granting permission to publish.**

Evergreen Leader issues are published on the 15th of each month. Articles submitted for publication are due by the 8th of each month Please send the articles to Judy Peasley at evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org The newsletter will be reviewed by our new AAUW-WA President, Emily Hitchens, before publishing - and as always, available on our website [AAUW-WA State](#)