



The Evergreen Leader

AAUW Washington Newsletter

May 2024 Volume 35, No. 11

“
You begin to bloom
when you help those
around you grow.



*For a printable PDF version of the
newsletter, click [here](#)*

In This Issue

President's Message

State News

- Branch Presidents' Meeting
- Bylaws
- Communications
- Financial Update
- Legacy Circle
- Membership Corner
 - Open Up AAUW - Vote on Proposed Bylaws Change
- Public Policy
- Tech Trek
- Special Projects Fund 2024-25 board position open
- Evergreen Leader Editor 2024-25 position open

Branch News

- WA Online
- Port Townsend
- Puyallup
- Stanwood Camano

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

State of the State Report:

At our last Board meeting I asked the members what they thought was the state of our state! And what was their answer? Better than 3-4 years ago. Of course we suffered through COVID, but Mary Williams, my predecessor, instituted some practices that saved us and added value. She developed a strong board, supported a strategic plan, established monthly Branch President's meetings, encouraged the Membership Team, was active in the Fall webinar series adding value for our state-wide membership, participated in the Advancement Committee at our national organization, and strengthened the Board relationship with our Special Projects Board.

One of the challenges we have faced this year is the transition in leadership of the Tech Trek Camp Program. Our first goal was to clarify the Camp Operators Insurance. Susie Johnson and I worked on this together. We can report that we have a different broker with the same company with whom we communicate with regularly. You may not know, but we handle the insurance for 5 states: Alabama, New Jersey, New Mexico and Florida as well as Washington. At my request, national hosted a virtual meeting so that we could share our camp experiences, ask questions of each other and staff, Shannon Wolfe and Yana. We plan to have another meeting in August or September to prepare for 2025, for example, getting the necessary forms revised and updated. At the last Board meeting we approved the Tech Trek budget. A thank you to Susie for reviewing it, in consultation with Dorothy Mc Bride and Krislyn Davis, our current Program and Camp Director. We plan to have a follow-up meeting in August

to assess the outcome. Thank you to Krislyn Davis and her leadership team for all their work in organizing the camp. Thank you to all the Branches who support the effort.

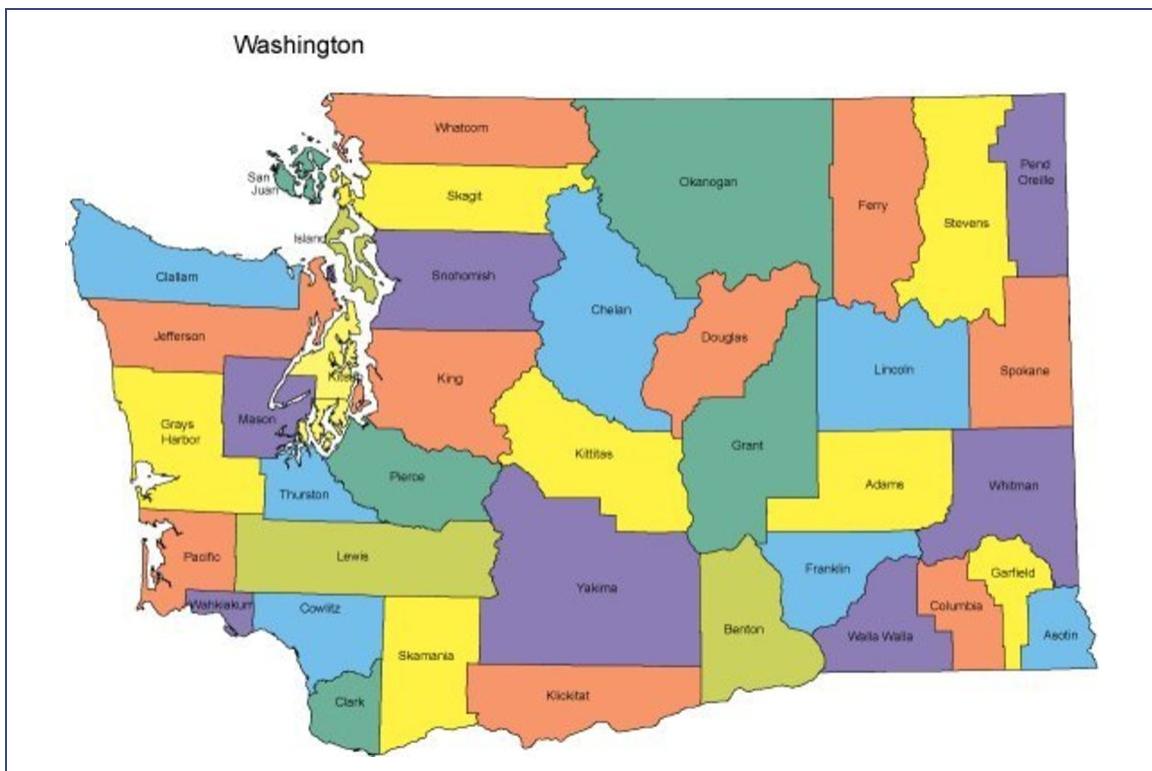
If you have not looked at our web page recently, <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/> you will notice that it is being updated: the information about College/University, Legacy Circle, and most recently the Public Policy Page.

Currently, we are involved in planning the “In-person” meeting for Saturday, October 19th. Originally, we did think that we would have three regional meetings, but that became too large a project. So, this is a “test” for a face to face gathering. However, we do encourage branches to share and/or meet. For example, Gig Harbor, Tacoma, and Puyallup Valley already have a gathering planned. The content, as well as travel time is being planned based upon a survey that was sent out to Branch Presidents. We anticipate that facetime will be stimulating, a chance for us to share ideas and experiences and have some fun!

Our Board has active working teams: Membership with Jeanne Nygard, the Public Policy with Sandra Distelhorst, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) with Yvonne Berliner, College and University with Nadine Stecklein, and the Communications with Mary Ross.

There are two members that we honor: Yvonne Berliner who has been the first person to represent us on the Board and at National for DEI and Judy Peasley who has been our Communications Director and the Evergreen Leader State Newsletter editor. We thank them for their service. Thank you all for your participation and support of AAUW-WA.

President AAUW-WA, Emily Hitchens



State News

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 next meeting will be on Monday, May 27th. Zoom links will be posted on the [AAUW-WA calendar](#).

Bylaws

Barbara Sando

AAUW-WA Bylaws Chair

bylaws@aauw-wa.org

Proposed changes to the AAUW-WA Bylaws were approved at the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, April 21st. These changes included incorporating the latest version of the AAUW-mandated articles, and changes to Washington-unique articles to reflect our current business practices. The updated Bylaws document has been posted on our website at [AAUW-WA Bylaws](#). You will also find the most current version of the AAUW-WA Policies & Procedures document (February 2024) on the same page. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to e-mail me at the address above.

Communications

Mary Ross

AAUW-WA Communications Director

communications@aauw-wa.org

In the last Evergreen Leader I announced a new statewide team to creatively brainstorm how we can help branches with their communications, including Wordpress websites, newsletters, social media, use of Zoom, and photos and other images.

Members of our team are: Leslie Roubal (Port Townsend), Elena Cervantes (Edmonds SnoKing), Patricia Griffith (Anacortes), Judi Edwards (Bellingham), Rochelle Short (Walla Walla), Tonna Kutner (Seattle), and Kenzie Mapstead (Seattle).

We are exploring the use of a shared Canva Pro account to create images that can be “cloned and customized” for use by multiple branches. And we’re planning to use the Membership Toolkit on Google Drive (Jeanne Nygard’s idea for sharing resources).

Our next meeting will be:

Wednesday, May 22, 7 p.m., via Zoom (you can find the link in the AAUW WA calendar, <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/activities-information/calendar/>)

Want to join us? Have skills you can share? Email me, at communications@aauw-wa.org.

Financial Update

AAUW of Washington State 2023-2024 Annual Financial Report

Year End Assets for 2022-2023 \$51,009.31

Year to Date Assets for 2023-2024 \$56,391.77

- We maintain Liability, Directors and Officers, and Crime Insurance.
- We have closed our savings account as interest rates are low.
- We have invested \$50,000 in no-risk Treasuries at over 5% with no brokerage or bank costs.
- For the last fiscal year and the current year-to-date details including an income and expense sheet by budget category, more detailed investment information, and a balance sheet; click on the link below.

<https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/about-aauw-wa/state-funds-and-finances/>

2023 AAUW National Donation Report

January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

Top Five Branches Total Donations

Seattle - \$11,176.50

Walla Walla - \$10,105.50

Lake Washington - \$9,613.32

Edmonds Snoking - \$3,893.00

Tacoma - \$3,558.00

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Top Five Branches Per Capita

Hudson's Bay - \$ 201.82 - 14 Members

Lake Washington - \$137.33 - 70 Members

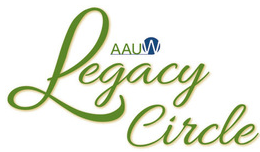
Seattle - \$118.90 - 94 Members

Olympia - \$103.26 - 23 Members

Tacoma - \$ 96.16 - 37 Members

February 1, 2024 - National Count Of Membership

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023



Legacy Circle

Kay McMurry
AAUW-WA Legacy Circle Liaison
legacycastle@aauw-wa.org

LIVE – LOVE – LEAVE A LEGACY!

When you are ready to join our **AAUW-WA Legacy Circle**, leaving part of your estate to AAUW, please include the following wording in your will:

After fulfilling all other provisions, I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to AAUW (Federal Tax ID #52-6037388), a charitable organization duly existing under the laws of the District of Columbia and located at 1310 L St.NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005, _____ percent of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate [or \$_____ if specific amount] to be used in the areas of greatest need as the board of directors may determine.

Fill in one of the blanks to show your intent. When you join, you will not be asked how much you are donating. The amount is up to you!

For more information, email planned-giving@aauw.org to discuss your options.

Membership Corner

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

Recently I connected with a former college classmate. We weren't especially close but we were sort of friends. She told me the following story –

“At the start of our senior year, I was lonely, discouraged, and disappointed in my college performance. And, I didn't know what I was going to do after graduation. I had just called my parents and told them I was packing and going home instead of finishing. You and your roommate walked by my open dorm room and invited me to go with you to some campus event. I said no. But you kept at me until I agreed. I had such fun at that event. I was included in a circle of cheerfulness. I changed my mind and decided to stay. Just your simple invitation changed my life.”

Wow...that blew me away. I have no memory of the conversation or invitation. She became a successful teacher who taught for decades and influenced many children to go with their education.

Such a simple act – an invitation. We never know how many times our words and actions have made a difference in someone's life. Someone invited me to join AAUW 13 years ago and that simple invitation changed in my life.

Remember when you invite someone to your AAUW Branch you might be influencing her down a new and different path and through her many others will be impacted.

Our next Membership Zoom Meeting will be June 10, 2024, at 1:30 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81312331083?pwd=ZE9qTXdXblJyQUI4S0FOK3hmaEZTQT09>

Meeting ID: 813 1233 1083

Passcode: 649306

Hope to see you there. The link is always in our [AAUW-WA Calendar](#).

Membership Toolkit

Our Membership Toolkit has been updated recently. If you are looking for resources, you will find brochures, graphics, tips for recruitment and retention and much more in this folder.

[CLICK HERE - MEMBERSHIP TOOLKIT](#)



Open Up AAUW

Barbara Sando

AAUW-WA Bylaws Chair

bylaws@aauw-wa.org

Voting on the “**Open Up AAUW**” initiative to eliminate the college degree requirement for AAUW membership is underway. If you’ve already voted, thank you! If you haven’t yet voted, there is still time to do so. You should have received an initial ballot and, if you haven’t already voted, at least one reminder e-mail that contains your Elector ID (AAUW member number) and your unique voting password.

The proposed National bylaws changes are detailed on the AAUW website at [AAUW National Election 2024](#), where you can also find an Open Membership Toolkit and FAQ. In addition, the [Open Up AAUW](#) website contains much information on this change.

I have been serving as the AAUW-WA point person for “Open Up AAUW”, the initiative behind the proposed revision to the AAUW Bylaws to eliminate the college degree requirement for membership. Casting your vote does *not* require you to log into the Community Hub. Rather, you just need to find the electronic ballot e-mailed to you by vote@simplyvoting.com. That e-mail contains your unique voting credentials and a link to cast your vote. Rest assured that if you can’t find that e-mail, you will receive a reminder e-mail soon -- you may have even received one recently! You can also e-mail connect@aauw.org to request an e-mail ballot and should do so if your e-mail address on file in the AAUW Community Hub is not current.

In addition to urging you to vote, I strongly encourage you to vote 'yes'. The AAUW Washington State Board has endorsed this proposed Bylaws change because we believe it's vital to AAUW's continued viability as an organization.

You may be a new member, an inactive member, or a very busy member, and think that this issue is one that "other people should decide." But it's critical to AAUW's future that we become the inclusive organization that we say we are. The world has changed. Without opening our doors to all who share our mission, there's no guarantee that AAUW will maintain its strength as a key organization in support of gender equity. So please do vote -- and vote "yes" on the Bylaws change. Since all AAUW Bylaws changes require a 2/3 majority to pass, we need 2 "yes" votes for every 1 "no" vote to change the bylaws -- and at the moment the vote is very close.

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me.

Public Policy

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

The Public Policy team met with Senator Karen Keiser last month to discuss the state long-term care program [WA Cares Fund](#). Senator Keiser, a long-time AAUW friend, is a member of the WA Cares Commission and sponsored legislation to create and improve the WA Cares program.

WA Cares is a social insurance program, like Social Security and Medicare that is funded through a payroll tax. Many people think they are already paying for long-term care insurance through Medicare payroll tax. However, Medicare does not cover long-term or supportive care.

One of the initiatives on the ballot in Washington in November is I-2124 "concerning long-term care". We are the first state to create a state social insurance program. Many other states, like California, are working to enact similar programs. You will hear a lot about I-2124 as a tax issue. What we hope AAUW-WA can bring to the discussion is the critical need for long-term care insurance and quality affordable and accessible long-term care.

Women pay more for long-term care insurance (gender rating). While gender rating is prohibited for healthcare insurance, not so for long-term care which is not considered "healthcare" but "supportive care". More women use long-term care (we live longer) and provide long-term care (we are the majority of unpaid and paid long-term caregivers). Identifying this as a women's issue was the consensus of our public policy team.

We will present a proposal to the state board asking for AAUW-WA to join over [40 other advocacy groups](#) including the League of Women Voters, AARP, Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action, Economic Opportunity Institute, Children's Alliance to recommend a No on I-2124. We will also ask the Board to support a recommendation to AAUW national to add long-term care to our public policy priorities under healthcare - wording below:

Universal access to quality, affordable health care, and long-term care, including insurance, and comprehensive family planning services, including expansion of patients' rights.

We are super grateful to Senator Keiser for all her work on this issue and so much more. And we are sorry to hear she is retiring but looking forward to her next book!

The new **Title IX rules** have been published! They are a major win for students. The changes are designed to empower students and educators to better understand and prevent sex-based discrimination and harassment, provide confidential reporting and support options, and improve

reporting and resources. AAUW partners with the National Women's Law Center on Title IX. Here is a copy of [my notes](#) on a webinar last week that includes screenshots of the slide deck.

AAUW has new candidate forum questions on the [Voter Education](#) webpage. The policy team will be reviewing the questions and customizing them for WA state races.

The public policy team meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at noon. Check the calendar for a Zoom link. Be sure your branch has a representative join in our discussions!

To join the discussion on long-term healthcare and other public policy issues contact Sandra D at publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org.



Tech Trek

Krislyn Davis
AAUW-WA Tech Trek
techtrek@aauw-wa.org

Details for camp are starting to really take shape and come together. Thank you to all branch members for providing feedback, assistance, and support to make this possible. If you have any questions, please contact Krislyn Davis (director) or Alexa Mahoney (assistant director) at the email listed above.



Special Projects Fund

This board is responsible for the funds management of the Washington State Tech Trek project. We have an opening for the co-treasurer/treasurer's assistant. This person ideally should live in or very near the post office in Bellevue, where the mail is sent for SPF, 12224 NE Bel Red Road.

Duties for this position include picking up and opening mail, preparing checks for deposit (scan/copy), and depositing them in the BECU savings account using their ATM. Mail preparation includes scanning/copying all mail and sending by email to the treasurer, bookkeeper, and Tech Trek Fundraising Coordinator.

These activities are year-round with weekly post office visits needed during the mid-late spring and early summer when Tech Trek activity is in full swing. Any costs associated with this activity will be reimbursed.

If you would like to apply for this vital board position or want more information, please send an email to specproj@aauw-wa.org.



Evergreen Leader Newsletter Editor

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! Our current editor will happily help you as you get familiar with the newsletter and all of its features - and will be available any time you need help.

If you would like to apply for this vital board position or want more information, please send an email to communications@aauw-wa.org.

Branch Events

WA Online

*Climate Change - Washington State and Beyond:
A Panel Discussion*

In 2023, we witnessed the hottest year on record, underscoring the urgency of the climate crisis. Drastic weather events, droughts, floods, wildfires, compromised air quality, and diminishing biodiversity are all tangible manifestations of this global challenge.

The solution lies in preventing catastrophic overheating of the Earth by significantly reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, as outlined in **The UN Paris Agreement**, aiming for a 100% reduction by 2050. Can we achieve this goal, and what are the associated costs? Moreover, can we pursue this goal in a manner that is just and equitable? There is a growing movement for environmental justice, recognizing the disproportionate impact of GHG emissions and climate change on impoverished and marginalized communities. It is imperative that we address both the climate crisis and environmental justice concurrently, both now and in the future.

What are the most effective climate solutions that can address the GHG challenge while promoting environmental justice? What are some examples of equitable climate actions? Washington State has been at the forefront of developing policies to combat the climate crisis. How are we progressing in meeting GHG reduction targets? And how effective are these policies in advancing equity and justice?

Join the **AAUW Washington Online** branch on **August 29, 2024, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm** for a **virtual program** that will delve into the climate crisis, potential solutions, and the imperative of achieving outcomes that are just and equitable. Take part in our call to action to contribute to addressing climate change both within Washington State and nationally. [RSVP FOR THE EVENT HERE](#)

The event will feature a dynamic panel of experts who will discuss various aspects of the topic and address your questions. Our esteemed panelists include:

- **Meagan Carmack:** Meagan specializes in environmental politics, with a particular focus on environmental justice issues. [Link to bio and photo](#)
- **Francisca Santana:** Francisca is an environmental social scientist dedicated to advancing equitable conservation and adaptation in a changing climate. [Link to bio and photo](#)
- **Martin Gibbins:** Martin serves as the chief policy advocate on Climate and Environment for the WA State League of Women Voters (LWV). With a commitment to promoting legislation that ensures a healthy environment for both people and wildlife, Martin has been a vital part of the LWV of Washington's Advocacy Team since early 2017. [Link to bio and photo](#)

Don't miss out on this insightful discussion on **Climate Change – Washington State and Beyond**. We look forward to welcoming you to our **AAUW WA Online** virtual program on **August 29, 2024, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm**.

Melissa C. Johnsen

AAUW-WA Online Branch

johnsen.melissa54@gmail.com



Port Townsend



PT 26th Annual Kitchen Tour Exceeds Expectations!

When the Port Townsend Home Kitchen Tour team first met in December they hoped they might raise \$10,000 through ticket sales and donations. They quickly got to work, creating an ambitious lineup of 16 home tours, some live and some virtual. (Photos above)

Ticket sales opened in late February using a new online platform called Givebutter. A two-page spread in The Leader and a booth at the Home and Garden Show sparked public interest, and impassioned phone calls to businesses and supporters netted generous donations. By mid-March, the HKT team realized this could indeed be a big year. They moved the goalposts to \$15,000.

Ticket sales skyrocketed again in early April, surpassing \$25,000, and the stunned HKT team wondered how to balance the desire for more funds for scholarships with the need to keep the live tour challenges in check to ensure everyone would enjoy a quality experience. In an unprecedented move, the team decided to cap ticket sales, declaring the live tour a “sellout” several days before the event. This occurred after 750 tickets were issued and we spent some time calculating how quickly people would need to be ushered through the homes to see what each home had to offer. We wanted each ticket holder to enjoy their experience rather than being rushed through. We were half-hoping that damp weather might cause some ticket holders to stay cozy at home and only participate in the virtual tour, which seemed to be the case, with approximately 145 ticket holders who did not check-in for the live tour. By April 27th the Home & Kitchen Tour had raised \$28,000 in ticket sales and another \$6,700 in donations/sponsorships, for a whopping combined total of \$34,700.

Feedback from the (slightly soggy) live tour participants was glowing. They called the tour “a magnificent success,” praised the team for being “well organized” and said it ran “pretty darn smooth.. and [was] fun, too!” They raved about the beautiful homes, with each visitor having a personal favorite. They reported that the parking and traffic were well-managed, and the lines at even the Windship were sometimes only 5 minutes long and never more than 45.

Many things contributed to the tour’s success; the variety and quality of the homes on the tour, the fact that the homes were within walking distance, making for a pleasant day exploring Uptown on foot, the ease of the Givebutter ticket system, the convenience of curbside check-in with volunteers coming to the drivers’ doors. Participants liked the attractive maps, packed with home profiles, essential information, and a QR code to access an interactive map. Also new and popular this year were early check-in at the branch meeting and early access for AAUW members to some of the live tour homes. Also contributing to the tour’s success was a comprehensive publicity campaign that utilized some creative new tactics as well as traditional channels of communication. At every step of the way the AAUWPT webpage was the nexus for activity and public information. The event boosted AAUW’s reputation as a positive and impactful force in the community. We are proud to be part of such a passionate and engaged organization.

Leslie Roubal

AAUW Port Townsend

webmaster@aauw-wa.org

Puyallup

Puyallup Valley AAUW Member Peggy Vandenberg returns to Michigan



On Tuesday, April 9, Puyallup AAUW members gathered at Stortini's Restaurant for a going away luncheon honoring Puyallup AAUW member Peggy Vandenberg who is moving back to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

We were extremely lucky to have Peggy join Puyallup AAUW as she didn't hesitate to jump right in making friends and joining the book group and walking group. Recently she gave an extremely informative and powerful presentation to members and guests on morality and ethics which led to an enthusiastic question and answer time.

Peggy moved to Puyallup to help her daughter and son in law, both in the military, with their three small children. Her son and family live in Indonesia.

Peggy's sister will be arriving to make the drive back to Michigan with her and their journey will begin on April 25th, stopping in Spokane for the night and then driving through Montana and visiting Yellowstone. Their trip will continue as they drive across South Dakota on their route to Michigan. In October she will reconnect with AAUW Puyallup members Lori Larson and Sheri Asher when they meet up in New York.

Peggy has been an active and valued member of AAUW Puyallup and we all wish her a safe trip back to Michigan. We are grateful for our time with her and appreciate her contributions and involvement in Puyallup AAUW. We all know that we were the lucky ones!

Joan Cronk

AAUW Puyallup

joan791942@comcast.net



Stanwood Camano

Purses with Purpose

Going once, going twice....SOLD!

Did you feel the energy from Stanwood Camano on Saturday, April 27? Our AAUW branch held its 6th biennial **Purses with Purpose** 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.

140 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 phenomenal 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, Tech Trek camperships, and our yearly donation to National AAUW. Student volunteers from the local high schools and middle schools had fun as well helping by modeling purses or serving the luncheon and asking "When can we do this again!" You'll not want to miss our next event in April 2026.

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 young women and girls.

To view more photos from the event please visit our branch website at www.aauwsc.org/purses-with-purpose-photo-gallery

Georgi Proulx

AAUW SC Board

aauwscboard@gmail.com

Share Your Branch News!

If your branch has an event to share with our state membership, we would love to share it in our next Evergreen Leader! We ask that you send your submission to Judy Peasley at evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org by the 8th of the month you would like it to be included.

Photos are always wonderful to include, and we ask that you send any photos separately in jpeg or png format.

Any questions, email Judy at the address above.

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](#)

