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Hello Mary!

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Emily Hitchens
Washington State President
president@aauw-wa.org

Last week, on a lovely fall day, we wanted to get up to the high country on Mt Rainier. On the way we stopped at Federation Forest and walked the nature trail. I was curious about the history of this park especially since women of the Washington State Federation of Women's Clubs founded it. I wondered if AAUW had any association with this group.



The Federation Women's Clubs was founded in 1890, by Jane Cunningham Croly, a journalist. The founding of the federation was really a reaction to her exclusion from an all-male press club honoring Charles Dickens. So, she founded Sorosis for professional women and suggested that this club be a model for women's' clubs across the country. (I know about Sorosis because my mother was invited to become a member of the Spokane Sorosis!) Now known as the General Federation of Women's Club (GFWC), it also has a national office in Washington D.C. and appears to be like AAUW. The mission statement says that it is a service organization that promotes education, supports the arts, preserves natural resources, encourages healthy lifestyles, stresses civic involvement, and works toward world peace and understanding."

Now, the connection to Federation Forest State Park. Our state clubs were established in 1896, and among other things were concerned about deforestation and the loss of old growth forests. The minutes from a meeting in 1898 reflect that importance; one of the founders pleaded "for the preservation of forests because they purify the air and water, modify climate, prevent freshets and keep up supplies for springs". These ideas certainly are being said today as we consider the initiative on climate change.

The first park, established in 1928, was on Snoqualmie Pass and called Big Tree. Over the years there were "fire, floods and the ax," so they began looking for a new space. They raised money to buy the White River Logging Company section of old growth timber along the White River. In 1949 with the cooperation of the state legislature, it was dedicated as a state park with over six hundred acres. In 1958 Catherine Montgomery left money in her will to build the interpretive center. An early president, Elizabeth Maltby designed the nature trails. Talk about legacy! Area clubs still have service days at the park, and I suspect that they may be the ones who make all the new little signs for the natural vegetation.

On further reconnoitering on the web, Washington State has sixteen clubs in such places as Waterville, Moses Lake, Commencement Bay, Kitsap, and Kirkland within five districts: Columbia, Peninsula, King County, Northeastern, and North Central. Currently, there are 60,000 members in fifty states including over a dozen countries. In their hay day 1955, there were as many as 850,000 members in 16,000 clubs in the US! The decline in memberships occurred as "middle class women moved into the public mainstream" which I take to mean that women entered the workforce. GWFC continues to have national conventions, 2024 was in Chicago and 2025 it will be in Atlanta. Like us, members are now older. However, unlike us, they do have junior clubs for young women and girls. Something to think about! So, I found no explicit relationship with AAUW, however this fall experience was very inspiring, and no one suspects what a walk in the woods will turn up!



AAUW Discounts and Perks

As an AAUW member, you are eligible for various perks and discounts. These include discounts on Long-Term Care insurance through [LTC Global](#), as well as on travel services, office supplies, and other services. For more details, check out [Discounts and Perks](#) on the AAUW website.



We have 66 people joining us for our first in-person meeting in five years!

We are excited about what we have planned for you. Those registered will be receiving an email with map and agenda, on Wednesday, October 16.

Our next **Fireside Chat will be on November 13 via Zoom at 7pm**. The topic will be sharing ideas with each other about activities your branch participated in this fall for election season. Did you host a voter registration table or hold a candidates forum? Let's share what we did and learn how you may plan something for next year. [More information on the website](#) or [register here](#).

Jodi Forsell
programs@aauw-wa.org



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Voter pamphlets have been mailed; ballots will be mailed on October 18!

I like the Halloween themed [Spooky Election Facts](#) from the Washington Conservation Action Group for National Voter Education Week.

Here are also some good reminders:
Check your voter registration at voter.voteWA.gov.

- Deadline to register or update your registration ONLINE is October 29, 2024.
- Place your ballot in a drop box by November 5, 2024, no later than 8 p.m.



Women are the majority of voters in the US and WA state.

Since the 1980s, women have consistently “out voted” men and more women are registered to vote. For deep dive in Women Voters see [The Center for American Women and Politics](#) (Rutgers)

Congratulations to five Branches for hosting or co-sponsoring candidate forums in 2024: [Colville](#), [Edmonds SnoKing \(LWVSC\)](#), [Issaquah](#), [Stanwood-Camano](#) and [Walla Walla!](#) Other branches that have hosted candidate forums in the past: [Port Townsend](#), [Dayton](#).

Interested in candidate forums? Most forums are recorded. Click here for an [overview of candidate forums by Branch](#). It can help to see and hear a candidate before voting!

AAUW-WA is planning a **“Fireside Chat” on November 13** that focuses on lessons learned from our candidate forums and branch Get Out the Vote activities, to help us plan for 2025-2026 and beyond. [Register here](#).

We are a non partisan, issues-based organization.

And it's time to update our public policy priorities at a [national level](#) and [state level](#)! Our public policy team will be reviewing priorities and developing recommendations for changes over the next few months. I hope your branch will join us. Let your voice be heard!

Starting November 12, the public policy team will **resume weekly meetings**. All members are welcome to join in our Tuesday noon meetings. Can't make it but still want to get the detailed agenda and notes? Email me at publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org to get on the email notification list or access to our shared folder. Zoom meeting link is in our [state calendar](#).

National policy news: I meet monthly with other state public policy chairs. Here are my notes from the [October 2 meeting](#).

Wishing you all the best during our “spooky” election season! Join us November 12 if you need a friendly policy space to both celebrate and commiserate after the election. We know there is more that joins us than divides us within our communities. Let's talk more about that. Hope to see you at a public policy meeting soon.

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

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Unscrambling the Alphabet Soup

IRS, SOS, BOIR – What Is My Branch Required to File?
by Barbara Sando, Bylaws Chair – bylaws@aauw-wa.org

Each AAUW affiliate is a separate legal and financial entity – and therefore responsible to file various forms and reports on an annual or as-required basis.

IRS – Internal Revenue Service. AAUW affiliates are tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(4) – a social welfare organization – or under Section 501(c)(3) – a charitable organization. [Your IRS Determination Letter documents your status. If you don't have a copy of your letter, you should request a copy from the IRS.] While it may sound counterintuitive, tax-exempt organizations are still required to file an annual income tax return with the IRS. **Since AAUW's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30, Form 990 income tax returns are required to be filed by November 15.**

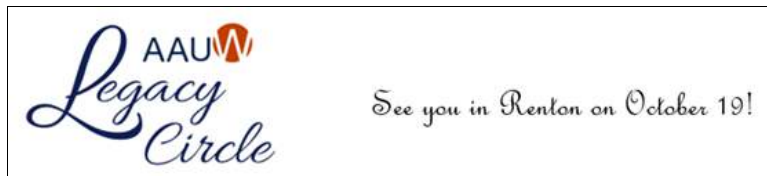
AAUW National does a great job of reminding affiliates of their IRS income tax return filing requirements, and offers those who have less than \$50K in revenue the option to be included in National's filing. (For revenue greater than \$50K, branches must file themselves and determine which Form 990 is applicable based on revenue and gross assets).

What AAUW National doesn't do is train affiliates on other IRS rules and regulations that may apply to them. **One key IRS rule to be aware of is that businesses are required to file a Form 1099-NEC to any individual or LLC – i.e., any non-corporation – that they**

pay \$600 or more to in a calendar year, regardless of whether the money may be taxable or non-taxable to the recipient. Such payments could be for almost anything – an honorarium, monies to cover various expenses for an individual, payment for services, etc. [Businesses are also required to file a Form 1099-NEC for any legal services they pay, unless the law firm is a corporation.] It is then the recipient's responsibility to declare all income they've received, taxable or non-taxable, even if it's less than \$600 from an entity, on their individual or LLC tax return each year. **Forms 1099-NEC must be issued by January 31st for the prior calendar year.**

SOS – Secretary of State. If your affiliate is incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the State of Washington, you are required to file an Annual Report and pay an annual registration fee. These are due on the anniversary of the date your affiliate was incorporated. Once you receive notice, you can file and pay online at [Corporations and Charities System \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wa.gov/corporations).

BOIR– Beneficial Ownership Information Report. When incorporated affiliates receive their Annual Report Due Date Notice this year, it will include a note saying, "File a Beneficial Ownership Information Report with the U.S. Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)." This is a new requirement under the Corporate Transparency Act, designed to increase transparency in business ownership and help combat financial crimes. The good news is that, since we are tax-exempt entities and have no owners, **AAUW Affiliates do NOT need to file a BOIR.** See more information at <https://boir.com/>.



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dei



The DEI Team is Meeting Monthly. Join Us!

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Myrna Muto – diversity@aauw-wa.org

When AAUW-WA president Emily Hitchens asked me to become DEI Director, I felt grateful for the opportunity to continue the work that Yvonne Berliner had begun. Currently I am DEI co-officer for the Seattle Branch, and I was a member of Yvonne's team when it formed about two years ago. I also attend the national AAUW DEI Committee meetings.

Our state DEI Team will meet monthly to share ideas, speakers, and programs that AAUW branches can use locally. Our **meetings will be on the first Monday of the month**, online, at 6:30 p.m. You're welcome to join us. Check the [AAUW-WA Calendar](#) for more information and the Zoom link.

I hope we can explore program ideas in the [AAUW DEI Toolkit](#) and find out more about what state organizations and branches throughout the U.S. are doing to address diversity in all areas of their interactions. Email me with your thoughts, questions, and concerns, diversity@aauw-wa.org.

If you attended the [AAUW-WA "Health Matters!" webinars](#) in 2021, I know you will remember Dr. Dorothy Roberts' inspiring presentation on how race-based medicine endangers women. Early in October, Dr. Roberts was awarded a Genius Grant by the Mac Arthur Foundation. [Read more about Dr. Roberts' work](#) and the significance of this award on our website.

member



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

Fall in love. Fall asleep. Fall to his knees. Fall of lovely hair. Water Falls. In the world of “falls” the best “fall” of all is – The Fall Season we call Autumn.

Autumn is upon us. Beautiful colorful leaves. Chilly crisp days filled with bright sunshine. To quote Anne Shirley of the *Anne of Green Gables* books, “I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.”

Are your October branch activities “falling” together nicely? Are you celebrating “Fall” with a Cozy Soup Buffet before your branch program? Join us on November 11 at 1:30 pm for our State Membership Zoom Meeting. Share what is happening in your branch and catch up with membership officers from other branches.

State Membership Zoom Meeting:

We are meeting the second Monday of each month at 1:30 pm. The Zoom link is always in our AAUW-WA Calendar.

State Membership Zoom Meeting 11/11/24 at 1:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

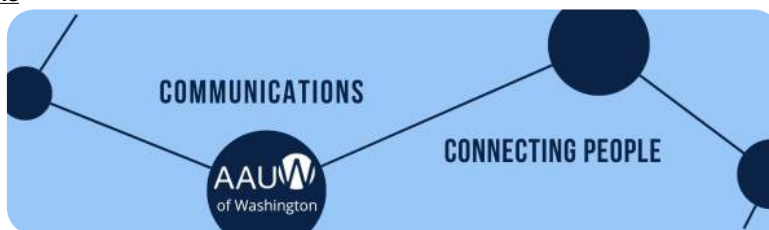
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81312331083?
pwd=ZE9qTXdXblJyQUl4S0FOK3hmaEZTQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81312331083?pwd=ZE9qTXdXblJyQUl4S0FOK3hmaEZTQT09)

Meeting ID: 813 1233 1083

Passcode: 649306

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The “Fireside Chat” on the future of AAUW was well-attended and sparked some good discussion. If you weren’t able to attend, you can still see the slides, and a handout on Title IX and scholarships, as well as notes of the discussion. [Go to this link](#)

The **Communications Team** will have a show-and-tell table at the October 19 meeting. You’ll be able to see a slideshow of useful images created in Canva, including:

- Tri-fold brochures
- Fundraising tools like silent auction bid sheets
- Get-together reminders for print or social media
- Zoom backgrounds customized for your branch

By the way, the section headers in this Evergreen Leader were created in Canva.

Watch for announcements of our online workshops on: hybrid meetings; what you can do with a free Canva account and what requires a Pro account; and transitioning your PDF newsletter to a webmail version like MailChimp.

Email me for more information!
Mary Ross
WA State Communications Director
communications@aauw-wa.org

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Branch News



Members of the **Whatcom/Bellingham** Branch spent several afternoons postcard-writing to Get Out The Vote hosted by Kathy Jenkis.

Pictured on the left is Judy Fruhbauer and Kay Davin hard at work.

Gwen Parker, Branch Newsletter Editor

Olympia Branch Celebrates Kickoff

For Centennial Celebration
1925-2025

Written by: Pat Barber
AAUW Olympia Branch
Newsletter Editor



CELEBRATING A CENTENNIAL GENERATES EXCITEMENT

There's been a lot of excitement generated in our Olympia Branch since we discovered that we will celebrate our 100th Anniversary in January, 2025. We were aware that our efforts began in January, 1925, but were unable to determine on which day until two of our members, Jane Owens and Vicki Merkel, decided to visit the archives at WWU in Bellingham to see if they could discover the exact date. Sure enough, they uncovered a document that mentioned January 18, 1925. Our first President was Elgia Wittwer Dawley, who served until 1926.

HOW BEST TO CELEBRATE THIS ACHIEVEMENT?

The big question we've been asking ourselves is how we should celebrate this awesome achievement in our branch? After much discussion we came to the conclusion that it might be more fun to celebrate some aspect of entering the "100-Year-Club" every month. Since our branch is organized around a Leadership Team model, our LT decided to hold several themed programs throughout 2025. What they will be hasn't exactly been defined yet. But we're off to an enthusiastic start.

SHOW & TELL ACQUAINTS US WITH PAST EVENTS

On September 17, our Leadership Team (Jane Owens, Jeanette Lomax, and Joan Mikow) hosted a show-and-tell of some of the "oldest" items we had in our possession. That

included a collection of all of the convention bags that Jeanette had accumulated in her long tenure as member of the Olympia Branch. Several posters that celebrated Gladys Burns' achievements, some old newsletters which dated back to the 1970s, 80s and 90s, and several hand-written communications — all written in a beautiful cursive. We enjoyed one letter from a past historian, who had failed to send her report in on time. Her excuse was that she had been to too many Husky games and hadn't had time to get her report ready. She apologized for being late and figured she'd probably get "fired" from her job!

PAST STATE PRESIDENT ADDRESSES CONVENTION IN 2002

Notes from a talk that Winnie Olsen, who was state president from 1952-54, held on January 15, for the 2002 State Convention describe holding teas for senior girls and their mothers with a college representative as guest speaker. In the 1940s, 50s and 60s there was a sponsorship of a weekly legislative forum during each legislative session, where top legislative leaders, state officials, and lobbyists headlined the morning discussions. From those programs, "the spark was lit for the formation of the Olympia League of Women Voters. AAUW members were among its first leaders and the two groups continue to cooperate with candidate forums and Women's Lobby Day."

KNOWLEDGE OF BRANCH HISTORY HELPS DEFINE FUTURE

Better knowledge of our branch history and our challenges as we continue to advocate for equity will help guide us into the future. We hope you'll consider joining us at one of our special events. We'll keep you posted about when and where they will take place.

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ELECTION 2024: IT'S BEEN A CRAZY RIDE AAUW WA Online Branch program

SWING STATES AND UNDECIDED VOTERS STATE-WIDE INITIATIVES ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS, LIES, VOTER SUPPRESSION COMPLEX BALLOTS

**WHEN IT'S OVER, WE WILL WANT TO UNDERSTAND:
WHAT HAPPENED!! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

LET'S TALK!!

November 21, 2024 5:30 pm

Register here: [PROGRAM RSVP](#)

Join the WA Online Branch for an election **debrief**. It's our effort to understand the debates, the process, and the outcomes of the 2024 election. There are many vital questions.

Let's share perspectives on the outcomes nationally and in WA State: Who will be President? What party will have a majority in Congress? Who will be Governor? (the first election in years with no incumbent) Who will be the Public Lands Commissioner, Secretary of State, Insurance Commissioner, Attorney General? Let's not forget the State Legislature — what kind of House and Senate will AAUW-WA Public Policy advocates confront in 2025?

And, crucially, will we still have a climate commitment act, capital gains tax and a long-term care program?

We'll have all the results and look forward to sharing ideas, perspectives and conclusions with you!

Register here: [PROGRAM RSVP](#)



This is a joint meeting with **Seattle** Branch and **Edmonds SnoKing** Branch, all others welcome. Free, registration required

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsdmprTsiGdeAl5BORfpIN7Crjb51OsWh>

Social citizenship requires that individuals and groups be able to fully take part in the public sphere. In the context of bathrooms and politics, ensuring equal access to restrooms – or denying it to targeted groups – becomes a powerful way for society to define who is a full citizen and to indicate who belongs and who doesn't belong in public spaces. In this talk, Dr. Chatfield discusses the history of sex-segregated bathrooms as well as her research on state-level policies from the past twenty years that impact gender, social citizenship, and bathroom access. [More Information.](#)

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Stanwood-Camano Branch

The Stanwood-Camano Branch observed two more steps toward getting back to “normal” after COVID.

On October 9 we were very excited to present the first in-person Candidate & Issues Forum since 2019. Fifteen candidates participated with a lively crowd that enjoyed the new Stanwood High School Performing Arts Center. We have been sponsoring this forum for every major election since 1998; it continues to be well-received by our community.

Over the past two years our branch has slowly recovered from our loss of membership since 2021 by welcoming twelve new members. In October we celebrated them at a New Member Gathering social with our board and leadership team sharing the highlights of our branch and how they can find more ways in which to participate.

Stanwood-Camano had a wonderful beginning to fall and look forward to the next few months of growth and community involvement.

Georgi Proulx
Branch Communications Chair

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Walla Walla Candidates Forum

September, 2024

Our candidates forum was a HUGE success! Annie worked so hard to make sure that everything ran smoothly and it sure did. The food trucks were a hit and we had a student group table there and ready to help folks register to vote. We had 50+ people watching the live stream and I estimate we had over 150 in person, which is great for us!



Nadine Stecklein



Happy Halloween - Spookily Yours Judi

Mummies Night Out
Creep It Real
Broom Hair, Don't Care
Witchful Thinking
Bats About You
It's a Ghoul Thing
Wicked Witches Welcome
Magic, Mystery and Mischief
and

Astonishing **A**dventures **U**nder the **W**illow: A storytelling event where spooky tales are shared under the cover of willow trees, enhancing the eerie atmosphere. See you in Renton on the 19th.

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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](#).

Newsletter Publishing Schedule

Please send articles and images for the state newsletter to Judi Edwards at evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org by the 8th of each month. Evergreen Leader issues are published on the 15th of each month.

The newsletter will be reviewed by our AAUW-WA President, Emily Hitchens, before publishing - and as always, available on our website [AAUW-WA State](#)

- 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.



Together we can achieve a vision
of equal opportunity for all

On the Web at aauw-wa.aauw.net | Follow us on Facebook and Instagram



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