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November 2024 News



The "Evergreen Leader" Newsletter

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This morning (November 8) when the radio announcer said, "the sunrise with Mount Rainer is beautiful" I had to drive somewhere to see it more clearly and take a picture! So, what do I see that hope is in the sunrise of a new day!

When the **dust settles** the sun rises. I have gotten several letters from various organizations that I support and recommendations from organization zoom meetings to take time to reflect on the week of November 5 and feel my feelings with myself and others. When I shovel them "under the rug" they come out in other ways which may be in mood, blood pressure, body aches and pains. When we take time, we can allow the dust to settle and gain some perspective or clarity.

Please read the AAUW national statement and register for the **November 19th** event.

Read the [official statement](#) on our initial reaction here. Please register and encourage members and those in your professional/personal networks to register for our November 19

event, [Securing the Future: A Post-Election Conversation on Women's Economic Security](#).

Thank you to all who followed through on the NO vote recommendation of our Public Policy Team on three initiatives. With NO votes on I-2109, funding for childcare; K-12 education, including technical and career training; and school construction will continue. I-2124 failed and the state long-term care program will continue. I-2117 also failed so our efforts to keep the strongest policy in the country to reduce Greenhouse gases and support overburdened communities will continue. Branches also worked at the local level providing candidate forums. It will be increasingly important to be active in local issues. And as this legislative year unfolds, with Lobby Day or Advocacy Day on January 27, it will be important for our voices to be heard because I believe that more issues will necessarily need to be managed at the state level.

Lastly, **let us continue** to find ways to build relationships with our middle schools, state technical colleges, colleges, and universities. We say that education is a priority, so let us support our young women whether it is through **Tech Trek** or the new (2025) relationship with NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) that will sponsor the former NCCWSL experience in which AAUW will take part. We commit to being in the long haul for future generations.



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National Elections – My reaction: disappointed (extremely) but hopeful. Please see AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell’s “AAUW’s [Reaction to the Election](#). The key take away for me is that AAUW’s commitment to being nonpartisan in a hyper-partisan political climate is tough but critically important. It’s hard to talk about politics without talking about political parties. Focusing on issues helps.

Voters across the country showed they care about equity issues through their votes on ballot measures: seven states (considered “red” states) passed [amendments](#) to support reproductive rights; three states passed paid sick leave or pay equity [Initiatives](#); and in WA state we [rejected three initiatives](#) to repeal recently enacted laws showing that our state voters support tax equity, long-term care programs and our state Climate Protection Act.

Our state votes

In WA state, **58% of voters supported Harris**, but Trump won the popular vote in 25 out of 39 WA state counties. Senator Maria Cantwell was reelected by 60% of state voters. We elected a strong state executive team, including Bob Ferguson for Governor. And we have a strong majority of legislators re-elected or elected who we know share many of our policy priorities. See [Vote Map by WA County](#) to explore regional differences in voting. Knowing the voting patterns in WA state by county and district can help inform AAUW state and branch policy work going forward.

At a **recent meeting** of state public policy chairs, New Mexico reported they elected a record number of women to their state legislature to make a majority! WA state makes the top ten list with over 46% of state legislators women. “While women in office don’t always agree, their increased presence can bring topics to the forefront that might be lower priority in male-dominated legislatures.” See [Center for Women and Politics](#).

Our state policy team will **be reviewing** and updating our [state public policy priorities](#). We

are looking closely at the [AAUW California state model](#), which includes a table to call out advocacy actions for each public policy priority. We will be asking branches to weigh in on our draft changes.

Last week, our state team met with the **national public policy** committee co-chair Younghee Overly to talk about changes to the [national public policy priorities](#) that our team recommended. We were the first state to submit comments! Thanks to our team for jumping in early in this very important process.

We are **meeting every week** now at noon on Tuesdays. See our state [calendar](#) for the Zoom link.

On **November 19th we will join** a national webinar instead of our usual noon meeting. All members are welcome to register for [Securing the Future: A Post-Election Conversation on Women's Economic Security](#). The legislative session starts the first week in January with new bills pre-filed in early December, and we anticipate a lively legislative session.

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Want to receive the AAUW-WA **weekly legislative reports** via email, starting in January, 2025?

Our Public Policy Team will identify legislative priorities and bills that address them. During the legislative session, the weekly emails, "This Week in Olympia," contain updates and Action Alerts from our lobbyist Nancy Sapiro.

Use this link, <https://eepurl.com/i1eSN2>, to sign up for "This Week in Olympia."

You can see the 2024 weekly legislative reports online for a preview of how quick and easy this advocacy can be: <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/legislative-tracking>.



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Kay McMurry
legacycircle@aauw-wa.org



Pictured above, photo taken at the October 19 meeting:

Front row: Judi Edwards, Tonna Kutner, Penny Tetter, Susan Moen

Middle row: George Edwards, Barbara Sando, Susie Johnson, Carolyn Hayek,
Margie Van Waardenburg

Back row: Kay McMurry, Jane Owens, Dorothy McBride

AAUW-WA members listed below have included national AAUW in their estate plan. No minimum amount is required and you need not tell any one -- even AAUW members -- how much you have left. For more information, contact planned-giving @aauw.org.

Three of our Legacy Circle members wish to remain anonymous. Their names are not in the list below.

Twelve of our Legacy Circle members do not belong to a branch.

Judith Bell
Barbara Bentley
John Bregger
Pat Chandler
Rosette Dawson
Jacqueline DeFazio
Virginia DeForest
Constance Dunkleberger
Jim Dunkleberger
George Edwards
Judith Edwards
Emily Hartley
Carolyn Hayek
Joanne Herber
Wanda Holmes
Janice Holsbo
Linda Howell
Rosemary James
Barbara Jirsa
Melissa Johnsen
Susan Johnson
Robin Lynn Kagan
Phyllis Keiley-Tyler
Sonya Kennedy
Marziah Kien-Sanford
Tonna Kutner

Kerry Lohr
Jeanette Lomax
Dorette Markham
Dorothy McBride
Candace McKenzie
Kay McMurry
Susan Moen
Rebecca Norlander
Jane Owens
Joyce Perkins
Glenn Prestwich
Judith Prince
Beth Quale
Melody Robidoux
Barbara Sando
Phyllis Scidmore
Mary Selecky
Ruta Sevo
Elsie Taniguchi
Penny Tetter
Mary Trodden
Dana Twight
Margaret Van Waardenburg
Shirin Velji
Leslie Waters
Elaine Webber

Virginia Linstrom

AAUW-WA BRANCHES WITH LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

(Some are dual members, listed once.)

Anacortes - Rosette
Colville - Mary, Leslie
Edmonds Snoking - Phyllis, Pat, Janice
Highline - Kerry, Elsie, Barbara
Hudson's Bay - Anonymous, Kay
Kirkland-Redmond - Anonymous, Margie
Lake Washington - Candace, Joanne, Carolyn, Susan, Barbara, Virginia
Lewis County - Judy
Kirkland-Redmond -- Anonymous
Olympia - Jane, Marziah, Jeanette,
Seattle - Tonna, Penny, Dana, Barbara
Southeast King County - Joyce
Stanwood-Camano Island - Jackie, Judith
Tacoma - Dorothy, Connie
Vancouver - Wanda
Walla Walla - Linda
Washington Online - Jim, Judith, Carolyn, Melissa, Rebecca
Whatcom (Bellingham) - Robin, Judi, Susan, George



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Jeanne Nygard
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November – the last month of autumn, but the beginning of a new adventure; time to take risks and do the unexpected.– Unknown

Don't wait until the **fourth Thursday** in November, to sit with family and friends to give thanks. Make every day a day of Thanksgiving!– Charmaine J. Forde

November always seems to me the Norway of the year. – Emily Dickinson

Greetings November! A time of beautiful colors. A time of family & friends gathering. A time of thankfulness. A time of appreciation and prepping for the upcoming holidays. Here's hoping your November is filled with color, family, friends, and thankfulness...and maybe some risk that is unexpected but that will brighten your day!

Join us December 9, 2024, 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 12/09/24 at 1:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81312331083?
pwd=ZE9qTXdXblJyQUI4S0FOK3hmaEZTQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81312331083?pwd=ZE9qTXdXblJyQUI4S0FOK3hmaEZTQT09)

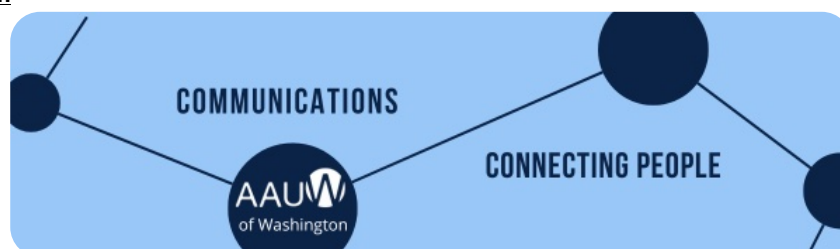
Meeting ID: 813 1233 1083

Passcode: 649306



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The AAUW-WA Communications Team had a show-and-tell table at “Telling Our Stories,” the October 19 in-person event. We demonstrated creative uses of **Canva**, a powerful tool for creating images that can be used for newsletters, websites, social media, and more.

You can **view our presentation** at:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_TxS0vtNHXhq_f7RiYiwZvtlzpp2GkBY/view?
usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_TxS0vtNHXhq_f7RiYiwZvtlzpp2GkBY/view?usp=sharing)

Our showcase of examples was created by Canva expert (and Edmonds SnoKing member) Elena Cervantes.

AAUW-WA has a **Canva Pro account** and we are able to help branches with creating images. Contact me for more information. And watch for our upcoming workshops on how to use Canva!

This month we are hosting a free online workshop:

Successful Hybrid Meetings Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m.

What basic equipment makes a hybrid meeting possible? What added equipment and planning create more effective interactions for both in-person and online participants? Our presenters are:

- Patricia Griffith talking about how her branch uses equipment provided by their local library for their hybrid meetings.
- Izzy Brookshire explaining the setup that her branch uses, supplementing the basic equipment in their meeting room with purchased soundboard, speaker, and wireless microphones. And all for a very reasonable price!

There will be time for Q&A based on YOUR needs. We'll look at managing the hybrid experience: online ways to ask questions and give feedback; easy-to-read screen-shared documents; and making everyone feel included.

This is a joint meeting with **Seattle Branch** and **Edmonds SnoKing Branch**, all others welcome. Free, **registration required**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZYsd-mprTsiGdeAI5BORfpIN7Crib51OsWh>

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](#).



On Saturday November 9, the **Whatcom/Bellingham Branch** held a fabulous program on Using Music as Therapy.

We learned how Music therapy is a well-established therapeutic practice that uses music to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs.

It can be applied in various contexts, from clinical settings like hospitals and rehabilitation centers to schools, communities, and even in private therapy practices.

Music therapy is a versatile and powerful tool in the treatment of a variety of conditions. It fosters emotional expression, stimulates cognitive functions, promotes physical healing, and strengthens social connections. Whether in a clinical setting or as part of a more informal therapeutic approach, music can be an integral part of a holistic treatment plan for mental, physical, and emotional well-being.

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[Editor's Ramblings](#)



I have no good original ramblings this month so I turned to AI and asked for a humorous twist on the election. Enjoy!

In any event - Happy Thanksgiving; for me it's all about fresh cranberry sauce cut with cherries enjoyed with friends and family. The turkey is simply the carrier for the sauce. LOL

Ah, the 2024 election—the one where the only thing more certain than a political ad wanting more money showing up in your inbox was that we'd all become professional fact-checkers and experts on the electoral process. If you tuned in to the election night coverage, you could practically hear the collective sigh of the media as they pulled out every color-coded map, trying to make "it's too close to call" sound suspenseful—when really, we all knew the next 10 hours were just going to be a lot of "still counting" in those few battleground states. We chilled out watching Disney movies.

And then there's the candidates, of course. At times, it felt like we were watching the political equivalent of a reality TV show, with plot twists, surprises, and moments of sheer disbelief. You had the "I can't believe this is still happening" moments, followed by the "wait, did that really just happen?" ones, all while trying to figure out who, exactly, was hosting the debate that night (Was it a TV anchor or a mad scientist with a plan for global

domination?).

In the end, the 2024 election will go down in history as one of the most intensely followed, least surprising, and longest-running series ever, with the winners and losers being decided not just at the ballot box, but also in the court of public opinion, social media memes, and, of course, late-night talk show monologues.

But hey, at least we're all ready for 2028... right?

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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

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