

Edmonds SnoKing Branch Newsletter



Contact us at aauw.esk@gmail.com | On the Web at esk-wa.aauw.net |



- **Wednesday, August 16, 7 p.m.** Diversity Book Group. The book to be discussed is *This Fight is Our Fight* by Elizabeth Warren. For more information call Helen Behan.
- **Friday, August 18, 10 a.m.**, Coffee and Conversation, Café Louvre in Edmonds. Catch up with other members—whatcha been doing this summer?
- **Saturday, August 19, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** AAUW-WA State summer leadership training in Ellensburg. The Evergreen Leader contains an agenda and registration link.

Looking ahead...
Saturday, September 9, 10 a.m. to noon.
Branch meeting at EdCC.



Sharing Our Ideas and Commitments

In this newsletter we share with all of you the productive discussions at our annual retreat on July 15. Where do we want to go? How will we get there? How will we evaluate our work?

Thanks to everyone who participated in the retreat and helped generate ideas and commitments to guide us in our 2017-2018 program year.

Nadine McCray

From the Administration Team

Summer is an exciting time for our Branch. We had our annual retreat in July and we look forward to the WA-State AAUW summer leadership training in Ellensburg in August. During the summer the Policy Team is examining and updating our Branch policies. At our September 9th meeting, our Branch Membership Directory will be ready for distribution. The directory will have member names, email addresses, and phone numbers. This branch meeting in September will also give you the opportunity to volunteer for a team and get involved in many activities. This year our branch meetings will have “greeters” to welcome our members and guests. Look for the sign-up sheet on September 9 to volunteer to be a greeter.

Our 2017-2018 program year will focus on AAUW 101, beginning with our state president Judy Prince as guest speaker at our first meeting. At other meetings we'll focus on AAUW—Who are we? What are our mission, vision, value, and diversity statements. And how does communication make a team stronger?

Nadine McCray, Mary Hovander, Susan Teel, Sandra Distelhorst, and Eva Mehaffey

Edmonds SnoKing Branch at the Saturday Market



Branch members had a successful day of outreach at the Edmonds Saturday Market on July 29. About 37 people stopped by for conversation about AAUW, and follow-up emails are being sent to 17 as a thank-you for stopping by. Two market-goers definitely expressed interest in joining, which got us excited. Members handed out packets of information about our branch as well as about national AAUW.

Thanks to Phyllis Keiley-Tyler, Nadine McCray, Linda Canney, Sandra Distelhorst, Helen Behen, Eva Mehaffey, Joanne Swenson, Judith Baker, and Shirley Buono, who were at the AAUW table during the day. Other members stopped by to say hello and lend their support. At the end of the day, we thought it was a successful activity, and the Market outreach gave us a chance to educate the public about AAUW and, specifically, about Edmonds SnoKing Branch.

Shirley Buono

RETREAT NOTES FROM THE PHILANTHROPY TEAM

In addition to its core team, Philanthropy will have three committees this coming year. Each committee will be responsible for one fundraising event. Jan Holsbo's committee will handle the Silver Tray event to raise funds for national AAUW. Sharon McGinnis's committee will handle the December event which raises money for our scholarship program. Anne Penney's committee will be responsible for our spring event to raise money for any scholarship shortfall that we might have and for our other branch projects and needs.

It was decided that fundraising events need not necessarily be mission-themed. We will continue to explore ways to increase revenue and new ideas for fundraising events.

As always, we are counting on the wonderful support and help that you give to each fundraising endeavor. We also welcome anyone who would like to join Philanthropy and be a part of our core team.

Sharon McGinniss

RETREAT NOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS TEAM

At the Branch Retreat, we reviewed our current activities: Expanding Your Horizons, sponsoring one or more EdCC students to attend NCCWSL, co-sponsoring activities with League of Women Voters, working with other teams, and Title IX Watch. We plan to continue these activities. Next we brainstormed ideas for future activities:

- Conduct AAUW Workshops, specifically Work Smart and Start Smart (two-hour workshops), and find a co-sponsor for funding.
- Plan short presentations focused on AAUW issues, develop PowerPoint presentations to present to business, professional, or community organizations.
- Tech Trek Summer program - next year a camp will be in Bellingham, how to fund and who will take it on?

Our goals for 2017-2018 are:

- Make two new connections with organizations holding similar values and concerns to AAUW.
- Plan and conduct activities, events, or meetings.
- Work with Shoreline Community College to name a new college representative to the Edmonds SnoKing Board.

Phyllis Keiley Tyler

\$\$\$\$-Branch Budget Preparation-\$\$\$\$

Remember that the 2017-2018 budget needs to be completed at the August 17 Board Meeting for presentation at the September 9 membership meeting.

Please submit your planned budget requests to lindacjlob@frontier.com by August 15 for them to be in the draft budget that will be discussed at the Board Meeting.

If your activity does not have an approved budget line item, you will not be reimbursed for the costs during the year.

Linda Canney, Treasurer

Why Did You Join? Why Do You Stay?

Marilyn Zimmerman facilitated the opening and closing discussions for our branch retreat. At the opening, she asked, “Why did you initially join AAUW? Why do you continue to be a member? Here are the common themes that emerged from this discussion and personal sharing.

Unanimously, members agreed that passion for the mission, vision, and values of AAUW, and its continuing commitment to equity for women and girls, attracted their interest and fuels their continued involvement.

AAUW has accomplished a lot with its research and advocacy on gender equity, expansion of opportunities for women and girls, and scholarships and grants for women in the STEM fields. There is still more to be done.

Our branch members respect the grassroots efforts that are central to AAUW at all levels—local, state, and national. They see AAUW as a forward-thinking organization with a talented team of officers and staff.

Personal contact with a member was the most frequently mentioned reason for joining. Several women mentioned Pat Chandler as the person who recruited them. Several mentioned contact with a branch member at the Edmonds Saturday Market.

In joining our branch or another branch of AAUW, new members were seeking interactions and relationships with like-minded women. Those who joined during their working careers mentioned the value of networking and opportunities to advocate on issues critical to working women. After retirement, membership meant continued interactions with committed women who share their values.

One member echoed the theme of Hillary Clinton’s campaign. “We are stronger together”!

PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

A big thank-you to all who volunteered to help



on National Voters Registration Day, September 26. I will be talking about this again at our September meeting. Washington state legislators failed to pass a capital budget. The House voted for and passed it 92-1.

However the Republican-led Senate refused to vote, tying it to an unrelated water rights dispute. Democrats offered to provide immediate relief for the next two years, giving lawmakers and stakeholders additional time to find a long-term solution but Republicans rejected all proposals. This action killed some critical infrastructure investments, which would have provided tens of thousands of jobs in construction, engineering, and natural resources. These infrastructure projects included:

- One billion dollars to build new public schools which would help satisfy the Supreme Court’s McCleary decision.
- \$800 million in projects at state colleges and universities.
- Improvements to state and community mental health facilities.
- Affordable housing funding.
- Projects to bring safe and clean water to all communities in the state.

The session is over but we should let those legislators know they should vote for a capital budget that will build a better, stronger Washington.

There were a few bright spots. A historic investment was made in K-12 education. Paid family leave was passed and a new Department of Children, Youth, and Families was created.

Helen Behan

Reports from the AAUW National Convention

Sue Renhard

Changes are happening in AAUW. We have a dynamic new CEO, Kim Churches, who came from the Brookings Institution, where she was managing director. She was also an associate vice chancellor at the University of Denver and is the single mother of a young daughter. We have a new president, Julia T. Brown of New Mexico. She has a background in law, public policy, and organizational development. Our next national convention will be in 2020, celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the U.S. (1919).

Why are our dues going up by \$10 in 2018? Here are some reasons. We have a lobby team in Washington D.C. Our lobbyist is Anne Hedgpeath, Interim Vice President of Government Relations and Public Policy. Anne and her team, which includes a lawyer, work with all three branches of government. Kate Nielson, part of the lobby team, is the AAUW policy analyst. Amy Becker is the national media person and can help with media blasts, op-ed pieces, etc.

One of the highlights of the convention was Lobby Day. 25 AAUW members from Washington State visited with Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell to talk about key issues and health care. Three of us visited with Pramila Jayapal's aide. (Pramila had been called to an early vote.)

We also heard Linda DiVall, CEO of American Viewpoint, a republican pollster, and Celinda Lake, president of Lake Research, a democratic pollster, talk about the importance of women in politics and about successful strategies.

AAUW publishes a [monthly e-bulletin on state policy that you can receive via email.](#)

Phyllis Kelley Tyler

Every day was information-packed at the convention. One of my highlights was Lobby Day at the Capitol building. We had to go through security at every building we entered. Lots of black suits. People moved quickly. And there was a sense this was an important place to be. Priority issues we brought to our senators and Representative Pramila Jayapal were:

- New AAUW research, [Deeper in Debt](#), points out that women have 60% of the debt and have more difficulty paying back student loans than men. Black and Hispanic women have the greatest difficulty paying back their loans. AAUW continues to support Pell Grants, which can make a critical difference to many students in higher education.
- Title IX protects the rights of all students to learn in a non-discriminating, healthy environment. Concern was expressed regarding the cut-back in funding for Title IX which will have a huge impact on implementation, I will stay in contact with Representative Jayapal's assistant on status of Title IX and updates.

We are fortunate to have total support for our issues from these Congressional women.

Two amazing women received AAUW awards. First, Tererai Trent, Ph.D, received the 2017 AAUW ALUMNAE RECOGNITION AWARD. Tererai is a scholar, humanitarian, and a 2001-02 AAUW International Fellow. Her story of steadfast determination, hard work, and belief in herself kept alive her dream of going to America while growing up in Zimbabwe. Now she is internationally known as the voice for quality education and women's empowerment. Sue and I each have autographed copies of her book, *The Girl Who Buried Her Dreams in a Can*.

Laura Dunn, J.D., received the 2017 ELEANOR ROOSEVELT FUND AWARD. Laura founded SurvJustice in 2014, the only national organization providing legal assistance to survivors of sexual assault on campuses across the U.S. She told her story of sexual assault and her long, sad journey attempting to get justice. SurvJustice provides advocacy and institutional training services for communities to better prevent and address campus sexual violence. These are great examples of how our contributions at the national level are put to work.

Finally, my other highlight was the Convention Banquet. The speaker was Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Kim Churches introduced her and then followed Justice Sotomayor as she wound her way through the crowd of about 800 people in the hall for the next hour. Kim asked questions and the Justice never missed a beat in answering. All the while she's shaking hands, having pictures taken, and people are jumping up to hug her. Two very focused security men followed her closely. I was in the right spot. Justice Sotomayor shook my hand—what a memory!

The National Convention in 2020 is not to be missed. I'll be there—join me!

RETREAT NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM TEAM

Here's a look-ahead at our programs for 2017-2018:

September: Judy Prince, "AAUW 101"

October: Jean Hernandez, and the EdCC students who attended NCCWSL

November: Natalie Jolly, "Call the Midwife," Humanities Washington speaker

December: Holiday fundraiser

January: Farida Hakim, "Muslim Culture for Women"

February: African American speaker TBA

March: Spring fundraising event

May: Title IX, STEM Scholars recognition, introduction of scholarship winners

Ideas for the December Auction

No silent auction, promote live events, baked items, services. Donation box at each table. Prepare a list of live auction items available.

Ideas for the Spring Fundraising Event

Limit number of baskets to five. Trinity Lutheran is a good venue. Ideas for program:

Authors, e.g. Judith Works

Mary Lou Sanelli - author and *Seattle Times* columnist

Maria Montalvo - climber and adventurer, slide show

Concert - jazz or classical, guitarist

Goal for 2017-2018 -

Assess each program held during the year.

Anne Penny

Outcomes of Summer Retreat for Membership

During our brainstorming session, members responded to two areas of concern: Member Recruitment and Member Retention.

Recruitment

Person-to-person interaction was important among our circles of friends and connections with other groups within our community—church, book clubs, neighbors, schools, CRI, etc. (It was later suggested we have business cards handy.) Reaching out to potential members through publicity is important.

Placing our brochures in community locations, such as the senior centers. Also taking them to the Log Cabin Chamber in Edmonds or to libraries in the surrounding cities.

Bring AAUW materials to League of Women Voters Candidate Forums, summer markets in surrounding communities, public meetings such as Diversity Commission of Edmonds, NAACP, Communities of Color Coalition, and other groups of diverse cultures and languages. Make buttons such as “Ask Me About AAUW.” Standing on corners at public events with handouts.

Extend membership to community college graduates through e-membership.

Branch members could become special topic speakers to other groups. Might be a short presentation, with follow-up brochures. Empty nesters would be a target group as well as diverse groups within the community.

Membership Retention

At meetings, identify new members with a sticker on their nametag. Use icebreakers so members interact. Sit with members you don't already know. Have greeters at the meetings and pair with new member. Be friendly and smile! Outside of meetings, don't overwhelm new members with responsibilities. Phone and remind members about meetings. Arrange a timely orientation so new members know what AAUW's mission is. Provide evening activities for working people. Assign buddies for new members.

Outcomes/Goals for membership

Total membership at the end of this program year will be more than 60. This will be the new members added, minus the members who have left.

Shirley Buono

Membership-sponsored Tour of Cascadia Art Museum

Five members—Linda Canney, Sue Renhard, Debby Smith, Sunny Strong, and Shirley Buono—enjoyed a tour at Cascadia Art Museum in late June, just before the *Botanical Exuberance: Trees and Flowers in Northwest Art* exhibit ended its display. We toured the Permanent Exhibit with a docent and continued on our own to experience the floral studies, watercolors, and etchings of the gardens and orchards of the northwest. We all received a complimentary guest pass since we had scheduled a full tour of the exhibit. Lucky us! We continued our day with a delightful lunch at 190 Sunset.

Shirley Buono



Phyllis Kelley Tyler present Roberts Rules of Order to the Administration Team. From left: Phyllis, Susan Teel, Mary Hovander, Nadine McCray, Sandra Distelhorst, and Eva Mehaffey.