

Edmonds SnoKing Branch Newsletter



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- **Monthly Branch Meeting on Zoom December 12 at 10 am.** Holiday Party (see p. 3)
- **Coffee and Conversation on Zoom Friday, December 4 at 1 pm** (see p. 2)
- **Diversity Book Group on Zoom December 16 at 7 pm.** *Use the Power You Have* by Pramila Jayapal. For info, contact Cathy Draper. (see p. 3)
- **Great Decisions Conversation on Foreign Policy Saturday, December 19 at 1 pm on Zoom** Topic: Artificial Intelligence and Data. For info, contact Beth Wood.

Submissions to Pam Canell, Editor



President's Message

Greetings to each of you! Our Program Team is planning a virtual holiday celebration in December for your enjoyment. Be sure to wear a festive hat, scarf, or sweater (or maybe all three) and join us via Zoom at 10 am on Saturday, December 12.

I think more than ever, in a year of disruption caused by this pandemic, we see the importance of giving to others and of activities that reflect our deepest values. Our branch continues to commit to the AAUW mission that we believe in and support. I hope you can renew and revitalize your commitment in 2021.

In addition to socializing and enjoying holiday music together, our December 12 program provides some opportunities to make small contributions that will support the activities and efforts of our branch.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon and having some fun together.

— Anne Penny
President



Board Notes

At its November meeting, the Board has decided to increase our insurance coverage

to include Directors and Officers Liability Insurance. The Board consulted with three other branches of AAUW in WA State and all three have the Directors and Officers Liability Insurance. To be consistent with other branches, the Board felt it was important to also include this insurance now as opposed to waiting until July 1, 2021. While it is offered at a discounted rate of \$337, it does increase our operating expenses. The coverage of insurance should be effective immediately.

The coverage protects the individual Director, Officer, volunteer, and the organization itself. This coverage is for wrongful acts such as libel, slander, neglect or breach of duty, errors, misstatements, and omissions to name a few things that might be in a lawsuit. It will also pay costs to defend the individual and organization for the covered wrongful acts.

Member Zoom Training

The Zoom team for our Branch ("Zoomites") held four training sessions for Branch members on basic and advanced Zoom features. The basic sessions were held in October and the more advanced in November. There is now a special section on our Members Only [webpage](#), that contains Zoom resources: handouts from the training and other useful tools. In

addition to the training sessions, Zoomites have been scheduling individualized tutoring.

If you still want to learn to use the basic features of Zoom comfortably and to be familiar with hosting and presenting skills in Zoom, contact Beth Wood, Mary Ross, Marianne North, or Linda Clay. We are PC and Mac users and can tailor the tutorials to your needs.

— *Mary Ross*
Communications

Coffee and Conversation

Our Membership Team is again scheduling its traditional Coffee and Conversation, this time via Zoom. The first one will be **Friday, December 4, 1 pm** with Vicki O’Gorman as host.



After this first gathering, the monthly online Coffee and Conversations will be held at 10 am on the third Friday of each month.

For this and upcoming Coffee and Conversation get-togethers, *you’ll need to pre-register*. It’s quick and easy!

Go [here](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

I'm looking forward to resumption of these popular get-togethers, and hope that you can join us.

— Debby Smith
Membership Chair

Hold onto Your Hats for the Holiday Party!



Wear your favorite hat, neck scarf or holiday sweater as you ZOOM to the AAUW ESK Holiday Party on Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m. to Noon.

We will have lots of fun with holiday music, conversation, games, and a free raffle, for which you DO need to be present to win!

David T Little, pianist, will play holiday music and also take requests. David is “one of the most imaginative young composers” on the scene (*The New Yorker*), with “a knack for overturning musical conventions” (*The New York Times*).

The raffle includes an autographed copy of Margaret Atwood’s latest book



The Testaments, a truffle-filled reindeer tin, and many other items. If you wish to donate a prize, contact Marianne North.

Invite a guest or two! You will receive a link to register for this event. You will need to register. Be sure to send the first link to your guests who will also need to register.

We will see you there!

Diversity Book Club

Eight members of the Diversity Book Club met on Zoom in November to discuss *The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek*. We expressed our appreciation for libraries, then and now. We also were concerned about conditions in Appalachia then and hoped things had improved. None of us had been aware of the "Blue People" of Kentucky and the prejudice they faced from all races because of their genetic anomaly. It was a hard book to read because of the realistic suffering of the people but well written and informative.

We will meet on December 16 at 7 pm on Zoom to discuss Pramila Jayapal's book, *Use The Power You Have: A Brown Woman's Guide to Politics and Political Change*. For more information, contact Cathleen Draper.

Take Note: Member Updates

Pam Canell and Phyllis Keiley-Tyler have moved. You can find their current contact information in our online [member directory](#). (Remember that this is password-protected.) Please note that Phyllis has a new phone number.

Public Policy

Our January 9 Branch meeting will include pre-Lobby Day information and activities. Last year we signed letters to our legislators. This year we can do that virtually!



Lobby Day is Monday, February 1st and I hope you will join both virtual events.

But you don't have to wait for January 9 or Lobby Day to contact legislators. Email or call your legislators anytime. Legislators are brainstorming right now on the bills they will sponsor, so let them know what is important to you.

Slow session? Fewer bills this year? There are rumors that not much can be done this session, that fewer bills will be considered due to coronavirus and virtual sessions. Legislators are critical frontline workers. They make the policies, approve the spending, and create the roadmap for our now and our future. Ask your legislators to step it up, not slow it down.

Old system? Is it acceptable that it takes years for a bill to pass? I don't think so and neither do the majority of legislators. Last session two bills were introduced to modernize the Washington State legislative process. 30 Senators (out of 49) co-sponsored a [Senate resolution](#). A dozen House Representatives cosponsored a [House bill](#). Legislators know they need to Step It Up. We need to ask them to do it this session.

What issues are the most important to AAUW?

AAUW priority issues and position statements are well published on the National website. You can refer legislators to [AAUW Policy Issues webpage](#). Let them know AAUW has research studies and other resources they can use to support bills on AAUW priority issues.

What issues will I be watching?

Women's reproductive health care. A bill to provide postpartum care to low-income

women was vetoed by the Governor at the end of last session which left many low-income moms without the healthcare they needed. A bill to provide protections for pregnancy and miscarriages was introduced last session but went nowhere. Both will be back. AAUW-WA has already received approval to support some of these important reproductive health care protection and access bills.

Education is not only important for economic success of future workers and families but is and especially critical part of shaping future civic and social justice. Please watch [Student Voice Panel: Modern Day Racism in Education](#) to hear from students what is happening in our state public schools. It is chilling. This video was part of the [November 30th House Education](#) Committee meeting. You can attend or review any committee meeting virtually in December and throughout the session.

Domestic violence. The pandemic puts extra pressure on domestic relationships. Several bills languished last session and new bills are needed.

What are the most important issues for you? AAUW-WA wants to hear from you. Email your comments to Karen Anderson, State Public Policy Chair at advocacy@aauw-wa.org. Check out the Edmonds-SnoKing [Branch Policy Page](#) for an update on possible public policy issues for this session.

And don't forget to send that email or make that phone call to your legislators to let them know you are thinking about them and wishing them well during this trying time.

—Sandra Distelhorst
Public Policy Director