

Edmonds SnoKing Branch Newsletter



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- **Monthly Branch Meeting, September 11, 10am, on Zoom.** Women as Leaders: How and Why They Take the Reins (see more on page 3)
- **Great Decisions Discussion Group, September 13, 3pm on Zoom.** Topic: The World Health Organization’s response to Covid-19. Contact Beth Wood for info.
- **Diversity Book Group, September 15, 7 pm at Ann McNulty’s home.** *Plundered Skulls and Stolen Spirits* by Chip Colwell. Contact Cathy Draper for info.
- **AAUW-Seattle event September 18, 10am, on Zoom.** Gender Equity & U.S. Politics, Lisa Maatz. Advance registration required [here](#).
- **Coffee and Conversation,** coming in October.



President’s Message

I can feel the change in temperature as we get close to summer’s end.

Here in the US, August 26 is “Women’s Equality Day” celebrating the 19th amendment. As I listen to the news from Afghanistan, I wonder what will happen now for the women in that country? Their hard-won progress is in jeopardy as the Taliban takes control.

We take a lot for granted in our country, but we must continue to be advocates and supporters for the women coming behind us.

Join us via Zoom for our fall kick-off meeting. Our topic is “Women as Leaders: How and Why They Take the Reins.”

Enjoy these last few days of summer sun. See you on Zoom!

—Jodi Forsell, President

Board Notes



Our new Edmonds College liaison, Dr. Aubrey Healey, was introduced and welcomed.

A plan for a March art show and silent auction fundraiser was presented and approved. Art show theme: Equity for Women. Many volunteers will be needed for this event.

The treasurer presented a budget for 2021-22. Following discussion and several revisions, the final approved budget will be presented to the membership at our September meeting (*see attached and page 5*).

The slate of Branch programs presented by the program team was approved. Per the Program of Work approved at the Annual Retreat, branch meetings will be held every other month this year.



The foundation is looking for board members. Here are the responsibilities for each position. All board members are voting board members. Meetings are virtual.

President

Be the face and voice of Foundation A3E. Schedule and conduct monthly board meetings. Attend Edmonds-SnoKing Branch board meetings.

Secretary

Attend board meetings and prepare minutes. Prepare any other correspondence required.

Board Member

Attend and participate in board meetings.

—*Judy Prince*

Membership Matters

Please invite a friend to our first Branch meeting of the year on September 11. If they are on-line, send your friend the meeting link by simply forwarding the email containing it.

Another helpful habit to get into is forwarding our super well-written newsletter to friends who share some of your interests and values. This small action can create wider interest in our mission and encourage membership for our Branch.

Mark your calendar now for this year's first Coffee and Conversation meeting on Friday, October 27, at 10am. More information to follow in the October newsletter.

With thanks from your Membership Chair

—*Debby Smith*

Book Club

We had an inspiring discussion of *Speak, Okinawa* at our August



meeting, exploring how culture makes us who we are. We were blessed to have a hostess who grew up in Okinawa and could share personal experiences. Thanks, Harriet!

Barbara Benson gets the award for the member who travels farthest to attend. We missed the

thoughtful observations of our beloved member, Liz Sears.

At the next meeting, at 7pm on September 15, hosted by Ann McNulty, we will discuss *Plundered Skulls and Stolen Spirits* by Chip Colwell. This book is a meditation on the relationship struggles between Native American communities and museums.

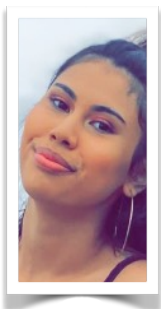
The book for October is *The Widows of Malabar Hills* by Sujata Massey, for November *The Bookseller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad. In December, bring and share books you have enjoyed.

—Cathy Draper

Our September Program

Our topic for September is “Women as Leaders: How and Why They Take the Reins,” and features Washington State legislator April Berg and student leader Grace Tinio.

Representative April Berg was elected to the Washington State Legislature in 2020 to serve HD 44 in Snohomish County. She brings to the Legislature a wealth of experience in community service and business. She served on the Everett and Edmonds School Boards and the Mill Creek Planning Commission. She ran her own business and also worked for Boeing.



Grace “Grace” Tinio is one of four Edmonds College students selected to attend the AAUW virtual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCWSSL) last May. Grace is majoring in criminology and plans to become a family lawyer.

She will share her experience of the NCWSSL conference with us.

—Marianne North

AAUW-Seattle Event

Lisa Maatz, former AAUW national public policy director, speaks on “Gender Equity and U.S. Politics” on Saturday, September 18, 10am, on Zoom. Advance registration required [here](#).

New Group Forming

We had a successful planning meeting in August although we’re still looking for a group name. There was a wide-ranging conversation about various issues that concern us right now. The objective is to support each other as we go about our daily lives.

Subjects we might discuss in this group include sharing resources, transportation, health-exercise-food, finances, technology, family, repair companies, and social connections.

If this is something you might be interested in, please RSVP to Shirley Buono in case of meeting time and day changes. The next meeting is scheduled for 10am September 27, at Jane Simpson’s.

—Shirley Buono

Public Policy

Judicial Policy in Washington State

Did you know that Washington State has a [Gender and Justice Commission](#) (GJC) as part of the Washington State Judicial Branch?



It was formed in 1989 after a state legislative mandate required a review of gender bias in Washington State courts and found that indeed there was gender bias.

This was no surprise because judicial gender-patterned reasoning had been well-documented in many studies in other states. One multi-state study, [Courts, Gender and “the Right to Die](#), reviewed appellate court rulings on Right to Die cases. Clear examples of gender-patterned reasoning included:

- A man’s opinion is rational and a woman’s remarks are unreflective, emotional or immature.
- Life-support is a medical assault on a man and a medical neglect for a woman.

The analysis of the case rulings showed clear judicial gender bias:

- For women, a family/guardian member was granted medical decision rights in 43% of the cases versus only 12% for men.
- For women, the health institute held the right in 21% of cases versus 0% for men.

Reviewing judicial rulings on select topics is part of what the GJC does through the Gender Justice Study project. While the GJC doesn’t typically take positions on proposed legislation, it can support legislative language through its analysis and reports.

Gender bias in medical competency decisions continues to be reported nationwide as a key barrier to women’s independence in end-of-life decisions. Having the GJC confirm this is an issue in our state would help support adding

gender equity as a consideration to the Death with Dignity bill HB1141 in 2022.

The GJC is especially critical in Washington as an oversight group because most of our judicial candidates run unopposed so there is no voter oversight. That’s the case this year.

A few groups like the [National Women’s Political Caucus of Washington](#) are working to encourage more candidates to run for judicial roles. Next year we hope for a more competitive judicial race. Then we can develop a list of questions for judicial candidates based on women’s rights issues.

Check out the [Gender and Justice Commission](#) website to review their reports on gender bias in the judicial system in Washington state.

Stay safe. Stay Healthy. Stay connected.

—Sandra Distelhorst

State Leadership Conference

The AAUW State meeting on August 7 was excellent. I’m glad that Judy Prince and I were able to attend from the Edmonds Branch, along with Sandra Ripley Distelhorst who is also our State Public Policy Chair.

Amy Klosterman discussed the changes in Title IX and Karen Anderson talked about its history and the way we could celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Title IX.

Sandra Distelhorst gave an excellent presentation of the Public Policy tools we have. We can be very proud of the Public Policy activities of AAUW-WA which offers many opportunities for us to be engaged in legislation, and which makes AAUW-WA members a force to be reckoned with in terms of public policy.

Successful Membership Strategies—Why the Lewis County Branch Keeps Growing While the Rest of Us Don't! was presented by Kathy Halsan and Cathy Cavness. They focused on both attracting and retaining members. Their branch went from about 45 members to 70 in the last couple of years. Most of their members are retired though they have a handful of younger women in the branch. They conduct branch surveys frequently with a 75% response rate. Of these, 73% respondents say they joined to meet and socialize with other women. 89% say they attend branch meetings because of interesting programs. Those who do not participate say it is because evening meetings are a problem, they don't like to socialize, and health problems.

They try to make their website welcoming and have gained new members through it. Their membership directory has member's photos. They have a Branch Handbook with bylaws, history and other documents that doesn't need to be updated every year.

Also discussed at the State meeting were State Communications and the new AAUW initiative for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. There is a simple procedure to follow to put our events on the AAUW WA website now. The AAUW website has a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion toolkit. There is also a simple procedure to post our events on the AAUW-WA website now.

—Marianne North

Budget for this Year



This budget for 2021–2022 (*see attached*) was approved by the board with the inclusion of two major events. The actual costs associated with these two events are not known at this time but the board wants the membership to be aware of these events happening in the year 2022.

Under Special Projects is listed a fundraiser for the Scholarship A3E Foundation. The fundraiser will be organized and supported by the AAUW branch but all proceeds will go the the separate Foundation.

Plans are underway for an Art Show in March. More information to come soon!

Also under Special Projects is a special event being planned with Edmonds College to promote the STEM scholarships and also Edmonds College.

This event will be held in June of next year and more information will be available in 2022. We anticipate using some of the cash reserves in the bank account to cover the costs of this event if needed.

One of the possible costs is catering an evening event but this is very up in the air as to what food that might be and for how many people.

The budget is just a proposed plan for the future but the board is very excited about these two new events happening.

—Ruth Allen

Front photo: Steller's Jay by Mary Ross

