

# Edmonds SnoKing Branch Newsletter



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- **Keep Our CARE Act webinar on Zoom, January 5, 5pm.** Hosted by ACLU & AAUW-WA. More info on page 4.
- **January Branch Meeting, January 8, 10am, on Zoom.** 2022 State Legislative preview and Lobby Day plans
- **January 11, 18, 25, & February 1, 7pm, on Zoom.** Hormone-disrupting Chemicals in Everyday Products by Dr. Fran Solomon.
- **Diversity Book Group, January 19, 7pm, at Merrie Emmons.** Share recent readings & decide this year's selections. For more information, contact Cathy Draper.
- **Lobby Day, January 24, on Zoom.** Registration starts January 5 [here](#).

Send submissions to Pam Canell, Editor  
Front photo: Hummingbird © Mary Ross



## President's Message

Happy New Year to you!

As we face a new year with anticipation, I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of our branch and the mission of AAUW. All of us working together are making a difference in the lives of girls and women locally, nationally, and internationally.

I look forward to seeing you on January 8 for our branch meeting and talking about plans for Lobby Day and the upcoming art show.

Wishing you and your families all the best in 2022.

—Jodi Forsell

## Board Notes



The Board reviewed the results of the membership survey.

Edmonds College will not hold an Expanding Your Horizons event

this year due to staff shortages in the schools.

The STEM Scholarship Awards event planning is well underway with several very qualified STEM speakers to choose from. The Board finalized this year's scholarship amounts.

Susan Teel is now President of the A3E foundation; Judy Prince is Treasurer, and Jodi Forsell is Secretary.



Your foundation is in good health and ready to distribute funds for this year's scholarships. We are working on a system to accept credit card contributions in time for the March 25 art show fundraiser.

The board is considering using some of the current funds to establish an endowment. As the endowment grows over the years, it will be able to fund some of the scholarships.

Eventually it may fund all of the scholarships.

— Judy Prince

## Membership News

Thank you to all who participated in our Membership Survey! The results are in, with over 50 percent of our membership responding!

The Survey Team has shared the results with the Board, and now the Membership Team plans to call those who volunteered to share their opinions early in January. A summary of the results of the survey is on the last two pages of this newsletter and can also be read online [here](#).

Hopefully, we will gain new insights into ways to engage and retain our members and reinvigorate our branch.

—Deby Smith

## Art Show

Do you know of a special local artist? We hope to have 35 artists set up in the Edmonds Art Center lobby for our Friday, March 25, art show. We will be sending out a "call to artists" in January and would love to include our members' favorites. Our hope is to have a mix of types—ceramic artists, painters, etc.



The art show is for one night only; finger food will be free with a no-host bar. There will be an entrance fee of \$10 for the public. Monies raised from the art show will fund our branch scholarships for women.

If you know of someone to invite to have a booth at the art show, please send their contact information to Linda Clay or Elena Cervantes. There will be a special email

address for the artists to submit their work and respond to the "call."

If you would like to be part of the art show crew, let Linda or Elena know! —*Ann McNulty*

## Join Together?

Would you like to join others in watching virtual Lobby Day this year?

We are trying something new! Small groups of four to six women would meet in an AAUW member's home where we would discuss what we are learning, take action ideas, and enjoy our brown-bag lunches while participating in virtual Lobby Day on Zoom.

If you would like to open your home and/or participate in one of the small groups, email Jodi Forsell. It should be fun and informative!  
—*Jody Forsell*

## January Program

Sandra Distelhorst, AAUW-WA State Public Policy Chairperson, will review the public policy priorities of AAUW Washington and discuss related upcoming state legislation. She will describe how to become involved in the highly successful AAUW Lobby Day scheduled for January 24 on Zoom as well as effective ways for you to interact with your legislators.

The meeting will begin with Dr. Fran Solomon, environmental scientist, giving an overview and answering questions about the [online seminar](#) being offered this month (co-sponsored by our branch and the Seattle branch) which focuses on women's health risks from personal care products that contain endocrine disruptors.  
—*Marianne North*

## Cosmetics as Gateway to STEM

On Christmas Day this year, my 11-year-old grand-daughter proudly showed me a book her mother had gifted her on making your own cosmetics. I was thrilled to see clear descriptions using simple products about how to make facial cleansers, moisturizers, and shampoo. My granddaughter is really interested in what we consider "girl" things: make-up, baking, fashion. Her mother has adeptly integrated chemistry and math into these activities.



The book my granddaughter showed me illustrated using white clay and rose petals as ingredients. She planned to get the rose petals from her neighbor. I asked her mother to make sure her neighbor doesn't use pesticides or other harmful products on the rose petals.

Cosmetics is a complicated business. Bad things can happen to simple ingredients in the process of making products that we believe make us look and feel better. It can be overwhelming figuring out what is safe.

Often on the morning talk shows, they feature a young businesswoman who has launched a new brand of cosmetics. On the *Today Show* recently they featured a woman who left her job in finance and created a line of make-up. I looked on the Environmental Working Group [website](#) where one is able to enter the product name and get a rating of product safety. I was pleased to see the product was rated best. I was also pleased that I had this tool available to help me select personal care products. I am thankful to Dr. Reitha Weeks, geneticist and speaker last year at our Scholarship Recognition program, who told me about this website.

I am grateful I belong to a circle of informed, interested women who are working to make our world safer for our girls and women.

Dr. Fran Solomon has used cosmetics to teach girls at STEM camps about endocrine disruptors in our personal care products. She will be talking on this topic at our branch meeting on January 8, and the online seminar will launch on January 11 at 7:00 p.m. I hope you will participate in this seminar and invite other women and older girls to attend also. To register, go to our branch [website](#).  
—Marianne North



## Public Policy

2021 was a rough year for public policy. We saw some big wins for women's health care in Washington while other states saw huge losses with new restrictive abortion laws. In Washington, there are legislators who every year introduce bills to restrict or ban abortions. There are five bills on the docket already for the coming session. The latest is HB1679 that would *prohibit abortions performed by means of medication*. It is sponsored by Brad Klippert (LD8-R, TriCities) and Rob Chase (LD4-R, Spokane).

One of the biggest threats to reproductive health care in Washington state is hospital mergers. A bill to regulate hospital mergers so they do not reduce access to care or quality of care will be introduced this session, the Keep Our CARE Act. AAUW-WA is co-sponsoring an information session hosted by ACLU-WA on January 5 at 5 pm. You can register for free [here](#).

Leah Rutman, ACLU-WA Liberty Counsel will be one of our guest speakers on Lobby Day to talk about the Keep Our CARE Act bill.

We are extremely fortunate to have Charlene Krise as a guest speaker for Lobby Day. Charlene is the Executive Director of the Squaxin Island Museum Library and Research Center, a Squaxin Tribal Council member, and a Squaxin Island Artist. She will talk to us about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/ People and what we can do to help indigenous women in our communities.

At our Branch meeting on January 8 we will review other bills coming up this session, like:

*Student loans*: HB1659 would expand how state grant and scholarship money can be spent to include childcare, books, transportation, and room and board. We can thank Rep. Ryu (LD32-D) for co-sponsoring this bill and ask our other representatives to sign on as co-sponsors. Our scholarship team might want to weigh in on this bill.

*STEM education* will be spotlighted this year with three bills. Our state Tech Trek team will be following these bills.

At our January Branch meeting we will also review "How a Bill Becomes a Law" and "Tips for Easy Advocacy" with a guest presenter. My goal is to post our district legislator profiles and 2021 voting records on our website by mid-January. The ESK Public Policy team will start meeting on Wednesdays at noon after the New Year.

Look for an email from me with your Lobby Day legislator meeting times for LD1, LD21, and LD32. And an email from Judy Prince for LD38 and 39.

Hope to see you at the Branch meeting on January 8 and at Lobby Day January 24.

Happy New Year!

—Sandra Distelhorst

## Edmonds SnoKing AAUW 2021 Member Survey Results

In November members were surveyed for information regarding their participation in our local branch of AAUW: reasons for membership, level of participation, preferences regarding future expansion, and suggestions for improvement. What follows is an overview and an *interpretation* of the survey results. Actual survey responses are available for review.

Of the 49 members of the branch, 53% (26) responded, or a little over half the membership. Three (6%) of the responses were from those who self-identified as rarely attending meetings. Respondents who gave an "Other" reason could mention several factors in their response, hence more "Top" reasons listed below than 26.

### Key Findings:

1. 58% (15) of the 26 suggested their primary reason for joining AAUW was the AAUW mission.
2. 54% (14) of the 26 said that socializing with persons who supported AAUW goals was primary. For these persons, AAUW missions are a proxy for selecting persons with whom they wish to socialize.
3. The personal circumstances dictate whether socializing via ZOOM or in person is preferred. Health status, calendar conflicts, transportation issues play a part in preferences for Zoom meetings. Whether via Zoom or in-person, the need to socialize, not just passively listen to programs was repeatedly brought up. Those with Zoom preferences wanted break-out sessions to socialize, while other wanted more in-person contact.

Members were asked how each would persuade a new person to join AAUW. This was an open-ended question and responses often included several factors.

1. Of the 24 responses given, 46% (11) responses mentioned supporting the mission of AAUW.
2. 63% (15) responses mentioned socializing with like-minded women.
3. A few responses were negative in terms of adding new members

One of the highest response levels in the survey (18 or 69%) was recorded for attending meetings further north as part of a strategy to attract new members.

The question about new opportunities to socialize elicited 63 options/suggestions from the 26 actual responses, i.e., respondents were interested in lunches AND going to movies, plays and concerts. Again, this emphasizes the social aspect of AAUW membership and participation. Going to lunch in restaurants or in-home tied with the question about attending meetings further north; both had 18 responses.

Members were asked about programs

1. 62% (16) of the 26 responses were positive about the programs at the meetings.
2. 23% (6) of the responses said there was some dissatisfaction with the programs.
3. 12% (3) said they did not attend, but no reason specified. One needed a reminder to ensure attendance.
4. Various suggestions for programs were made. One theme was the desire to have discussions/interactions with fellow members around program content at the meetings. Again, the social aspect of the meetings was very important, as much as the topic of the program. There was mention of the importance of in-person meetings, as well as using the break-out session feature in Zoom to accomplish discussions.

Members were asked to indicate how they would like to volunteer to help sustain AAUW. There were many responses, and they should be followed up to expand the number of active participants.

Members were also asked to comment on programs that were enjoyed, or which were not....and responses should be fodder for the Program Committee.

**Recommendations:**

1. Any meeting, activity or program should pay as much attention to the social aspect of the event as to AAUW's mission. Those who simply support the mission, but do not value the interpersonal interactions may be those members who do not attend meetings and may not volunteer, but simply write an annual check. Annual checks are fine, but we need to increase *active* members. We need to keep the social aspect of our group front and center when deciding what we can do and how to do it. Several responses across several survey questions mentioned having *fun*.
2. Although 62% of the respondents (16 out of 26) said they were satisfied with the programs, only half of our members typically attend meetings, and a number who responded showed some dissatisfaction with the programs (23% or 6) or do not attend (12% or 3). Revamping programs/meetings may be important in membership development and retention.
3. Non-mission activities (lunches, plays, etc.) could be expanded and would be welcomed by many members.
4. There seems to be enough support to proceed with moving some activities north to both hopefully recruit new members and offer existing members something new.
5. Some members need Zoom, others crave a return to in-person. We need to support both options, although the best way to do this may need to be worked out.