

Edmonds SnoKing Branch Newsletter



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- **No Branch meeting in July or August**
- **Jayapal Q&A, July 11, 1 pm on Zoom**
(See flyer [here](#).)
- **No Diversity Book Group meeting in July**
Next meeting in August.
- **AAUW-WA Summer Leadership Meeting, August 13, 9am-3pm on Zoom.** Registration opens in August.
- **Next AAUW-WA webinar “Is the Gender Revolution Stalled?” September 13, 7 pm, on Zoom.** Registration opens in August.

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



President’s Message

Summer has arrived at last, and I hope we all get a chance to enjoy it.

Thanks to everyone who came to our annual retreat. We had lively discussions about growing our branch membership, increasing our visibility in the community, and offering programs that would interest younger women. We also met our two newest members, Kim Waller and Lou Ann New-Ford.

Finally, please welcome our new board members:
Linda Clay, VP of Membership and VP of Fundraising
Ann McNulty, VP of Programs
Elena Cervantes, Public Policy Chair
Judy Prince, VP of Finance

We won’t have a Branch meeting until September, but we are planning summer field trips and would love for you to join in the fun (*see page 2*).

Thanks to everyone for being a member of our Edmonds Sno-King branch!

—Jodi Forsell



Board Notes

The scholarship event success was celebrated and suggestions and ideas for next year discussed.

One of the students attending virtual NCCWSL was unable to attend the second day due to illness; the other student was unable to log on at all. Everyone is hoping for an in-person event next year.

A date has been established for next year’s Expanding Your Horizons event. It will be March 21, 2023, and a keynote speaker is being sought.

The Board discussed plans, ideas, and concerns regarding the upcoming June 24 Branch Retreat entitled “Renew, Re-Engage, and Re-Energize.”

Membership Matters



On Tuesday, June 21, seven of our members carpoled to Tulalip to tour the Hibulb Cultural Center and have lunch at the nearby Taco Truck.

We watched an introductory film on the Tulalip Tribes which emphasized the

importance of several cultural traditions: among them, the Longhouse, hand-made

clothing, utensils, and canoes created entirely from cedar trees.

Tulalip children were forced to endure our state's Indian Boarding Schools, where vocational skills were emphasized over the academic, and their native language and clothing were forbidden.



This excursion was truly educational, and the group had a wonderful informal Mexican lunch at the outdoor tables provided by the Reyes Taco Truck. Everyone expressed an interest in doing another quick trip in July or August. If you have an idea for another field trip, please contact Jodi Forsell or Debby Smith.

Don’t miss our next field trip, which will be to the Kingston Alehouse for lunch on Wednesday, July 20. We have space for four more members! We plan to walk onto the ferry about 11:00 am and have lunch at 12:30 pm on the restaurant's deck. Contact Debby Smith by email if interested.

Scholarship Awards Event

On Thursday, June 2, our branch and Edmonds College hosted a joint STEM Scholarship event. Six students from local high schools and the College were each awarded scholarships for their outstanding academic records and



their contributions to the community. Emily Levesque, astronomer and Assistant Professor at University of Washington was the keynote speaker.

Among the student scholarship recipients, Carly Cooper stood out as the very first awardee of an AAUW scholarship from Scriber Lake High School.



Carly Cooper missed her entire freshman year due to medical issues but managed to not only catch up, but to participate in Running Start. She is interested in pursuing health

care, medicine, and veterinary medicine. She volunteers at PAWS.

Carly was nominated by Christopher Collins, Scriber's Career and College Specialist. Mr. Collins had this to say about the event, which he attended, along with Carly and her parents: "It was an amazing experience for not only myself, but also those who will be inspired by science and technology. Thank you for your support of Scriber Lake High School and our student, Carly Cooper."

We are looking forward to working with Scriber Lake High School in the future, as we pursue our goal of empowering young women entering community college to pursue their dreams.

Kiana Pham, from Lynnwood High School, is described by her Honors English teacher as "a student that teachers love to have in class." She took two AP classes and five Honors classes. Kiana's extracurricular activities

included: swim team, Taekwondo, dance team captain, Key Club, and Lettering Club. She enjoys baking and her specialty is macarons. Kiana plans to pursue Industrial Engineering at Edmonds College and then transfer to the University of Washington.



Kylie Prescott, from Mountlake Terrace High School, is an avid equestrian, weight lifter, and hostess at Nordstroms Cafe. She completed an Honors pathway specializing in aeronautic engineering. She plans to study Mechanical and Civil Engineering next year at Edmonds College.



Alex Weber graduated from Edmonds-Woodway High School while in the Running Start program at Edmonds College. She played trombone in the jazz band and wind symphony and mentored a fifth-grade trombone student. Alex participated in Puget Soundkeeper, National Honor Society, and Environmental Activism Club, with ocean cleanups around Edmonds and Seattle. She



plans to pursue a four-year degree in Environmental Science or Marine Science.

Here is Alex Weber's thank you note to our Branch, written on a note card with her art on the front.



Thank you AAUW!

Your scholarship is not taken for granted. I feel honored that you took my faceless application and decided that it was worth your generous support. It is difficult to put into words exactly how that feels, especially when going through a time of uncertain transitions.

The financial assistance you have given me does more than help me graduate without debt. It also gives me the peace of mind and clarity of thought that I need in order to properly focus on my academics.

As I am responsible for paying my tuition, this money will also give me time to balance work, self-care, and future investments and connections with my schoolwork in a mentally healthy way.

I am truly grateful for your time, consideration, and acceptance.

Alex Weber

*Edmonds College Running Start Student
Heading to University of Washington,
College of the Environment*

Danielle More-Porter will continue her computer science studies at Edmonds College.



Blanca Sanchez-Colin will continue her science and engineering studies at Edmonds College.



Note: More photos of the scholarship awards event can be found on our Branch website and Facebook page.

Jayapal Q and A

Seattle AAUW invites you to a multi-branch meeting on Monday, July 11, at 1 pm on Zoom with Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal. She will spend 30 minutes on questions and comments. [Pramila Jayapal](#) represents the 7th District and she is chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. A link to the flyer for this event can be found [here](#). If you want to attend, please email Gay Armsden, g.armsden@gmail.com or president@aauw-seattle.org. You will receive a Zoom link on July 10.

Women's Shelter Donations

The YWCA Pathways for Women shelter in Lynnwood is seeking donations of household cleaning products and gently used bedding, especially twin/full sheets.

These donations allow the shelter to ensure funds can be used to directly support clients. Also needed are other household items such as can openers, pots and pans, silverware, potholders, oven cookware, glasses, kitchen utensils, throw rugs (non-slip) along with full-size bottles of shampoo and lotion, bleach, laundry soap, and dishwashing sponges and brushes. Gas cards are always appreciated as well.

Donations can be taken to the shelter on weekdays at 6027 208th St SW in Lynnwood. Call 425-774-9842 for more information.

AAUW-WA Summer Leadership Meeting

AAUW branches are the backbone of our organization, and their leaders work hard to enable their success. In order to assist in that work, AAUW-WA will hold its annual Summer Leadership Meeting on August 13, 9 am to 3 pm on Zoom. We will include breakout sessions where those in different leadership roles can confer with one another about issues in their branches, a public policy workshop, a session on recruiting and training treasurers, and other topics of interest to you. Whether you are a current branch leader or think you might be interested in becoming one in the future, we'd love to have you join us.

We are asking branch leaders to share their greatest challenges with us to help us make this meeting an important means of confronting

those challenges. Please let us know your challenges and ideas at programs@aauw-wa.org.



Branch Retreat Energy

I left yesterday's annual retreat so energized and excited for the coming year! As the incoming VP for Membership, we

discussed the issue of dwindling membership that so many non-profit groups are experiencing. The reasons are many and we talked about a lot of them. Loss of members and fewer new members was happening before Covid which then complicated every aspect of our lives. Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc., are all trying to figure out the best way to go forward and continue to be a support encouraging leadership, education, and equity in their communities. *We are in it with them!* Our dynamic discussion was captured as we talked and you'll be hearing more from Jodi and others as we start the new year.

For me, I want you to know that I am committed to increasing active participating membership with a variety of opportunities so all can continue to feel proud of what we stand for and say, "I was a part of that!" I absolutely understand that some have limitations as to how physically active they can be or would rather be a 'shadow support' in the background. *I respect that.* My goal is to find something that works for each of you so that when scholarships are given, an article appears in the newspaper, or someone mentions AAUW you can smile knowingly for being a part of something that brings women and girls one step closer to equity

in educational opportunities, economic stability, or representation in the workforce.

Lastly, I would like to publicly thank Debby Smith for the daunting job of holding us steady and keeping up with membership, especially the last two years. I was one of the newbies just weeks before the Great Lockdown and fortunate to be able to meet on her patio with other new members. Debby was so welcoming and knowledgeable. As I said yesterday, I knew I'd found my tribe. I knew I'd feel like I belonged. Thank you, Debby, that little meeting offered more than know.

—Linda Clay
Incoming VP of Membership

AAUW-WA Women and the Economy Webinar Series

On Saturday, June 11, AAUW-WA began an important and informative Zoom webinar series on women and the economy. Our kickoff speaker was Ariane Hegewisch of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, a national authority on economic status of women and the policies that could move women forward economically. Subsequent sessions will be held on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the fall.

On September 13, Paula England of NYU will answer the question "Is the Gender Revolution Stalled?" by examining trends in women's status in recent decades. She is an eminent sociologist who has spent a lifetime examining women's issues, especially the wage gap.

On October 11, Karen Dove, Executive Director of ANEW in Seattle, will speak on women's access to well-paying jobs in the building trades. ANEW provides quality training,

including apprenticeships, and employment services to women and people from underserved communities in Washington.

On November 15, Kelly Jones of American University, will speak on her research on the economic consequences for women of restricted access to reproductive services. Professor Jones is an applied microeconomist whose research examines the effects of various economic policies on gender equality and women's economic wellbeing.

On December 13, State Senator Claire Wilson will speak on child care policies in Washington state. Her expertise on the topic comes from 25 years working as an early childhood education administrator and as a legislator working to develop new policies to improve childcare access. She will be joined by Sarah Brady, the policy and advocacy manager for Child Care Resources of King County.

Public Policy

The AAUW Public Policy meetings I have attended the past few weeks have been somber affairs, highlighted with bursts of anger, hope, and calls to action. This is a tough time for women's rights.

One of the robust discussions at the national AAUW State Public Policy Chairs meeting on Wednesday was about AAUW state and branch membership – are we losing members because of AAUW's stance on abortion? The responses from different states: Yes, absolutely; No, I don't think so; Maybe? We gained members! The AAUW response: AAUW unapologetically supports women reproductive freedom including access to abortion. "AAUW strongly condemns the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*

Organization. AAUW believes everyone has the right to make decisions about their own reproductive lives without government interference. Abortion access is vital to women's ability to control their lives, bodies and futures. Without reproductive freedom, there can be no equity."

At the meeting on Wednesday, we also talked about local action. I shared our Edmonds City "action" and I want to thank Laura Johnson and Susan Paine, Edmonds City Council members, who introduced a [Resolution for Reproductive Freedom](#) for our city. Other AAUW state policy chairs asked for a copy. We know that cities can play a strategic role in women's rights. The Texas abortion ban legislation started in a [small town in Texas](#) and spread like wildfire, fueled by an unprecedented political climate change.

How are other local communities and states responding?

California, a "safe" state, launched a [citizen's constitutional amendment to ensure the right to an abortion](#) is secure. Most safe states have "codified" legislation that can be overturned by their state elected officials. However, the constitution can only be "rewritten" by a vote of the citizens. Constitutional amendments are a much stronger action to protect women's rights. In Washington state our strongest gun control bills were put in place by People's Initiatives not elected officials. In Pennsylvania, some citizens are going in the other direction, asking for a [constitutional amendment to ban the Governor](#) from vetoing bills they don't agree with (pro-choice bills) to further limit protections. We have had a similar legislation proposed in our state. ELECTIONS MATTER. INITIATIVES and RESOLUTIONS MATTER.

The state of Nevada reported on their "[expand the ERA](#)" legislation. Something to look at for Washington. We need to continue to press for federal constitutional amendments, like the

ERA, to ensure women's rights, as well as look at state constitutional amendments. Louisiana reported a sliver of hope as a [judge placed a temporary hold](#) on their state abortion ban. Hawaii is working on making sure abortion providers are protected from lawsuits. Although Maui is a long "flight of hope" away from the mainland, they want to protect all women's reproductive freedoms and the people who support them.

If you want to hear more about the Dobbs decision and "What can – and can't – be done to counter the effects of this dramatic opinion" tune in to the California AAUW free webinar on July 7th at 7 pm. You can register [here](#) . . .

ELECTIONS MATTER

Check out the LWVSC website for recordings of local [candidate forums](#) and new forums to come. Redistricting and a changing political climate may change the predictability of races so be sure to VOTE and carefully review candidate information. Especially important is the Secretary of State election. Look for an article on elections in the [AAUW-WA Evergreen Leader](#) on this important race and others. Here are a few of the forums coming in July.

[Secretary of State candidate forum](#): Thursday, July 14th at 6:30 PM (8 candidates).

[CD1 candidate forum](#): Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM

[CD2 candidate forum](#): Thursday, July 7, 2022, 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM

CD7 candidate forum: TBD

Sign up for the [Two Minute Activist](#). Check out our new state [Voting Tools webpage](#).

Take Care. Take Advocacy Action.

—Sandra Distelhorst