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Hello AAUW members! Our big event this month is the Holiday Party on Saturday, December 10. More about that in this newsletter.

Any questions or concerns? Reply to this email or contact me directly, [mbucherross@yahoo.com](mailto:mbucherross@yahoo.com).

Mary Ross  
AAUW ESK Communications



**AAUW**  
Edmonds SnoKing (WA) Branch

Together, we can achieve a vision  
of equal opportunity for all

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## Newsletter | December, 2022

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## President's Message

Happy Holidays to everyone!

I cannot believe how fast this year has gone by and with so many changes for me personally.

First, I am writing this as the snow is falling in beautiful Lake Chelan. My husband and I just moved here on November 9th, so I am busy unpacking and trying to get used to how much colder it is.

November is usually the month we form a nominating committee to fill open board positions. Two positions are open for nominations and elections in April, 2023:

- **President.** I am willing to serve one more term. I would like to work with someone to be co-president with me as I may not be able to attend all of our meetings and or events. If someone would like to be the co-president, please let me know.

- **Secretary.** Due to health concerns, Pam Canell had to step away from this position. One of our newest members, Sita Bhaskaran, has graciously agreed to be secretary.

Our December meeting is a Holiday Party, including a potluck lunch and gift auction as a fundraiser for our branch.

Hoping to see you at our Holiday Party on December 10,

Jodi Forsell  
President

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## Put These Dates in Your Calendar

*Thursday, December 1, 11 a.m.*, "Belonging," a webinar hosted by national AAUW's Inclusion and Equity Committee to aid members and branches in becoming more inclusive. [Register at this link.](#)

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No Diversity Book Group this month.

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*Saturday, December 10, 11 a.m.*, Holiday Party at the home of Ann and Jock McNulty. Details in this newsletter.

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*Tuesday, December 13, 7 p.m.*, AAUW WA State webinar, "The Economy MATTERS." State senator Claire Wilson will speak on child care policies in WA State. [Register at this link.](#)

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*Thursday, December 15, 3:30 to 5 p.m.* Branch Board meeting via Zoom.

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### Looking Ahead:

- Lobby Day is on *Monday, January 30, 2023*. This is the start of Lobby Week.
- Annual Meeting, AAUW WA State, will be held on *April 15-16, 2023*, in Walla Walla.





## Membership Matters

Our branch continues to show slow, but steady, growth in members. We've had six women join in recent months: Lou Ann New-Ford, Kathleen Andleman, Sita Bhaskaran, Jennifer Long, Harriet Fuji, and Pat Hooper. Starting with the January newsletter, each of the new members will be asked to share something about herself. There will be a new member gathering following the holidays and I'll be sharing more about that later.

Increasing participation is a goal for this year. It's wonderful that new members are joining with a commitment to the overarching mission of AAUW, and are willing to join teams and take part in programs to achieve it. Watching and discussing a webinar, actively supporting fundraising for scholarships, and representing AAUW at a community outreach event, are all ways to be active in our branch.

Yet, there are other opportunities in which help is needed.

Last year's survey made clear that many would like to see more social activities. Sue Renhard has offered to help and has some great ideas, but she doesn't want to do it alone. Who is willing to do a bit of planning with Sue? I'll help with communication. Ideas have included movies, a walking group, visits to museums, carpooling to view Christmas lights and ending at someone's home for cocoa, wine, and appetizers, etc. Please consider if this is something you could do.

See you at our Holiday Party on December 10!

Linda Clay  
VP for Membership  
lindarclay@gmail.com



## Holiday Party

December 10 is our branch Holiday Party! Come to Ann McNulty's home for a potluck and branch fundraiser. The festivities begin at 11 a.m. so we can visit over lunch. Please bring something to share, either finger food or something that can be managed while sitting on a couch, living room chair, etc...this won't be a formal sit-down dinner!

There is parking in the area, but carpooling is best. We will be phoning to see who would like a ride and who prefers to drive.

Saturday, December 10, 11:00 to ???

Home of Ann and Jock McNulty, 731 198th Pl SW, Lynnwood  
303-817-1508 (cell) or 425-640-7969 (landline)

Bring food to be shared

Bring something for our fundraiser (more on that below)

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## Holiday Party Fundraiser

Typically at our December gatherings, we have raised money for our branch expenses. Linda Clay has asked those who come to bring something that can be auctioned:

- New or gently-used
- Wrapped
- Maximum \$30 value

Each person will be asked to give hints or a partial description of the item...it can be from a trip, an interest or hobby, or something else, just NOT a white elephant!

Folks can then bid on what is described, with the money going to the branch. This is in lieu of a raffle basket.

Ann McNulty  
VP for Programs



## Art Show Update

Planning for the Art Show has started! There was an informational Zoom meeting on November 17 and most of the core Planning Team is in place. This year's event will be at the Edmonds Center for the Arts on Friday, March 31. Elena and Linda are again co-chairs.

Seeking sponsors for the event is a top priority over the next few weeks. Sponsors from last year will be approached first and new sponsors sought to build up both visibility and a solid monetary base for the Art Show.

These are the areas where we need volunteers. Each has a team leader. You would not be volunteering alone.

**\*Sponsorships:** Seeking sponsors for the event, requires phone calls and going to prospective business sponsors. A script and information are provided.

**\*Tickets:** Checking when people come in, selling tickets at the door

**\*Checking out:** Assisting with check out

**\*Raffle Baskets:** Collecting items/gift cards from members, seeking donations, putting baskets together, assisting with raffle at the event

**\*Silent Auction:** Procurement of silent auction items and assisting with silent auction at the event

**\*Food for the event**

Please think about how you can participate so that the event can continue to grow and make money for scholarships. Contact us via email, phone or text.

Linda Clay (425.293.7613, lindarclay@gmail.com)

Elena Cervantes (425.293.4682, elena.cervantes1@gmail.com)

Art Show co-chairs





## Outreach

For now, things are all quiet on the outreach front for the month of December. With unpredictable weather and folks traveling for the holidays, it makes putting together an outreach event difficult. But with the New Year approaching, there will be new opportunities to share AAUW's mission!

Elena Cervantes  
Outreach Team Leader



## Notes From the Board Meeting

The Branch Board met on November 17, via Zoom. The board agreed that we need to find a college liaison as a replacement for Aubrey

Healey and we will be drafting a recruitment.

The Scholarship Team leaders reported that the team is recommending four scholarships for 2023.

We have successfully recruited members to take over Pam Canell's responsibilities as secretary and newsletter editor. They are Sita Bhaskaran and Jennifer Long, both new members.

The January meeting will be on the Edmonds College campus and will focus on Lobby Day.

Jodi Forsell  
Interim note-taker



The Diversity Book Group is taking a break in December.

In January, the book group meets on Friday, January 13, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Harriet Fuji. The book to be discussed is *Salt Houses* by Hala Aylan.

Upcoming titles are *Ordinary Girls* by Jaquira Diaz and *House of Broken Angels* by Alberto Urrea.



## Public Policy Updates and Actions

Senator Patty Murray was re-elected and is now positioned to be one of the most powerful senators in the U.S. Congress. We have a new House Congresswoman in southwestern WA, [Marie Gluesenkamp Perez](#). Many AAUW-WA members were active in battleground elections this year and can claim success in helping elect candidates that are pro-AAUW issues. Thank you, AAUW advocates!

We have ~25 new state legislators and five House Representatives moving to the Senate and at least half of these new positions are filled by women. There will be a big change-up in committee assignments with a lot of fresh ideas and energy. The only change in our ESK Districts was in District 38 with both House Reps retiring and replaced by [Julio Cortes](#) (D) and [Mary Fosse](#) (D). In District 39, Rep. Sutherland (R) was replaced by [Sam Low](#), a more moderate Republican.

December is a great time to *Welcome New Legislators* and *Introduce AAUW*, as well as thank returning legislators for their support of AAUW issues. You can remind returning legislators, who have not supported AAUW issues, that we still share many common goals and would like them to step up and support women's rights through policy changes. As State AAUW Public Policy Director, I'll be sending out *Welcome* and *Welcome Back* letters to legislators in early December.

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### Resources and Priorities

We have [a list of 2023-2024 New Legislators by Branch and all Legislators by Branch](#). We will add AAUW issue and bill match information to the spreadsheet as we gather it. Let me know if you want to be the lead "gatherer" for a legislator or issue.

We have two new priorities to consider for our state public policy

priorities: Apprenticeships and Broadband. See [AAUW-WA 2023-2024 Public Policy Priorities](#). Watch for an all-member email asking for your comments on these priorities.

This year we are using BillTrack50 for more than just Lobby Day bill review and tracking. We are creating issues-based scorecards that can be shared with an easy link. For example, here is the [Broadband Scorecard](#) we used to get up-to-speed on state Broadband policy introduced in 2021-2022. These issues-based policy scorecards provide helpful background for our 2023 policy work. The scorecards also give you access to legislators' profiles, bill sponsorship records, and much more.

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## **It Takes a Team**

Join our Public Policy team. We need your input on our policy and advocacy work. What issues are you most passionate about? There are lots of ways to participate. Join us for Lobby Day or take on a project (e.g., Title IX project planning starts in late January). Let's see what our Branch team can accomplish this year. Our first 2023 planning meeting is Thursday, December 1, at 3 p.m. [via Zoom](#).

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## **Lobby Day is January 30**

AAUW WA State Lobby Day is on Monday, January 30, and it is the start of Lobby Week. This is a period of time devoted to visits with our legislators.

Our branch meeting on Saturday, January 14, will be devoted to preparation for Lobby Day, branch action, and AAUW priorities. I'll be putting more information on the [Public Policy page](#) on our website.



I'm excited about all the positive policy energy. Let's grab it and advocate for AAUW in 2023!

Sandra Distelhorst  
Public Policy Team Leader  
aauw.esk.publicpolicy@gmail.com



## **Giving to Foundation A3E**

The Foundation for the Advancement of Education and Economic Equity ([Foundation A3E](#)) was established by the generous contributions from AAUW Edmonds SnoKing Branch in 2018. Foundation A3E is tax exempt under IRC 501(c)(3).

During the month of December you have time to make a 2022 tax-deductible charitable gift to Foundation A3E, and to benefit from several types of gifting opportunities.

- Qualified Charitable Contribution as all or part of your required

minimum distribution from your IRA

- Direct Contributions of cash or property to a qualified charity

For details on these two gift-giving approaches see [Giving to Our Foundation A3E](#). (This can also be found on the [Foundation webpage](#).)

Susan M. Teel



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