

Hello AAUW members.
Happy Spring! We have some great updates and events for our Branch in the upcoming months. More about all of this following in this newsletter.

Any questions or concerns? Reply to this email or contact me directly, JenniferL91@hotmail.com.

Jennifer Long
AAUW ESK Newsletter Coordinator



Edmonds SnoKing (WA) Branch

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

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Newsletter | April 2024

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President's Message

Greetings fellow members!

Spring is here and with it a busy time for our Branch.

A big thank you to Lori Cross, Helen Behan, and Pat Hooper for helping at Edmonds College for Expanding Your Horizons!

We have several busy committees in full swing right now! Our scholarship team is accepting applications for our 5 scholarships, our spring fundraiser team is putting plans in motion for our May 16 event, and our event planning team is busy putting plans in motion for our annual scholarship brunch which is held on June 8.

Our annual business meeting is this month during our regular monthly meeting. We still are looking for someone who would like to lead Programs for our Branch. Feel free to reach out to me or Ann McNulty to discuss the position in detail. Please join me in thanking Ann in finding such great speakers these past two years.

Happy Spring!

Jodi Forsell
President

These links take you to sections of our newsletter.

Calendar
Membership News
Programs
Outreach
Fundraising
Notes from the Board Meeting
Diversity Book Group
Public Policy Updates



Put These Dates in Your Calendar

Saturday, April 13, 10:00am, monthly Branch meeting at Edmonds College.

Wednesday, April 17, 11:00am-Noon, Coffee and Conversation at Third Place Commons (17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Park).

Thursday, April 18, 3:30-4:30pm, monthly Branch board meeting via Zoom. Details on the Branch Website.



National AAUW Voting

Watch your email for ballot access on April 3 - May 15, 2024. **The AAUW Edmonds SnoKing Board recommends you vote Yes to drop the degree requirement.**

You are probably aware of the upcoming vote on “Open Up AAUW”, the initiative to eliminate the college degree requirement for AAUW membership. The proposed National bylaws changes are detailed on the [AAUW website at AAUW National Election 2024](#), where you can also find an [Open Membership Toolkit and FAQ](#). In addition, the Open Up AAUW website contains much information on this change.

We have tried this vote several times and it has yet to pass. Let’s make this vote to Open Up AAUW membership be our last vote on opening up AAUW membership! Please vote, and **please vote YES**, to making AAUW the inclusive organization it strives to be.

Donations Needed

Faux Jewelry Faire & Treasure Hunt

benefiting AAUW Edmonds SnoKing Branch

Do you have items just sitting in your jewelry box?

The Fundraising committee is planning a branch fundraiser and looking to collect your well, but gently loved costume jewelry.

We're accepting costume jewelry donations of all kinds; rings, earrings, bracelets, necklaces, brooches, hat pins, etc.

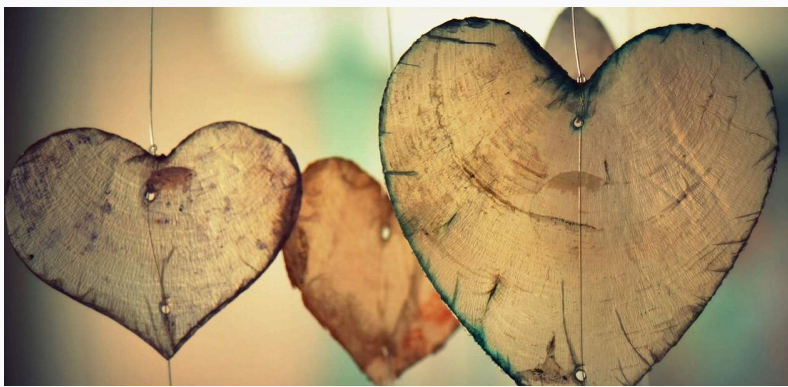
For Pickup
Call/Text/Email
Ann, Linda or Pat to schedule
Ann_mcnulty@msn.com
(303) 817-1508
Lindarcly@gmail.com
(425) 293-7613
P.hooper1431@gmail.com
(607) 382-1431

**Donate by:
May 11th**

Drop-off Location
Heather Margo
9am-4pm M-F
Koenig Financial
120 5th Ave S.
Edmonds, 98020

The next fundraising event is to benefit Branch expenses. This should be a fun evening and members are encouraged to ask friends, family and other groups in which you belong to consider donating 'unwanted jewels.' Tickets for the evening event, Thursday, May 16, will be \$20 and available through EventBrite or at the door.

Linda Clay
VP for Membership
lindarclay@gmail.com



Membership Matters

New member, Barbara "Willie" Kissinger, has been kind enough to share some of her background and interest information. Some of us have already had the pleasure of meeting her. We look forward to her dynamic and intelligent addition to the branch.



I have an art degree so mostly for personal enrichment. My career has been focused on Senior Adult activity development. Ironically, I have aged into my previous client demographic!

Literacy is very important to me. I was a Laubach Literacy tutor for quite a while, helping children with their reading, getting enough nutrition, support for their other needs. I enjoy doing crafts and reading as much as possible.

When we arrived in Edmonds from Virginia in early 2019, my husband of 50 years died unexpectedly. Then Covid hit and so, during the past 5 years, I have seen almost nothing of this beautiful state. Since I don't have a traveling partner anymore, I'm not sure how I will accomplish this but I'm finally ready!

In high school in NJ, I performed in musicals with Meryl Streep. And yes, she was very nice and incredibly talented.

This hat was created for my 70th birthday by my brother, John. I love hats!



Programs

April 13: This is our business meeting, election of officers, and we will also take an opportunity to socialize with brunch on the agenda!

Save the date! April 21 is our annual state business meeting at 12:30-4:00pm via Zoom. Look for an email soon with Zoom link. We have two speakers lined up to talk about climate issues. One is Ming-Ming from Refugee Artist Initiative speaking on refugee women turning trash into treasure. Also, Renee Hadley from the Walla Walla branch will speak on her conservation efforts through planting trees. We will also hear updates from the state board with a finance update, and will vote in bylaws absolute new board members.

Ann McNulty
VP for Programs



Outreach

For our Evening of Art for Scholarships we have a great list of volunteers so far but still have a few holes to fill.

Some of the roles left to fill are: handing out / dropping off flyers for potential participating artists, help with acquiring items for the silent auction, putting together a donation basket for the raffle, volunteers to sell raffle tickets at the event, and a few folks to promote AAUW at our informational table.

More information and details about the scholarship fundraiser will be shared at April's business meeting. I hope to see you there and look forward to answering any questions. If you're unable to make it to the meeting but would like to help in some capacity, please contact me via email or phone.

Elena Cervantes

Community Outreach & Scholarship Fundraiser Event Coordinator



April is the last opportunity to make donations of professional clothing to the WSU Everett Coug Closet. To streamline the drop-off / collection process please leave your donations in your vehicle for the duration of the meeting. Afterwards, you can drop off your donations at my vehicle, orange colored Kia Rio, in the parking lot and be on with your day!

Elena Cervantes



Notes From the Board Meeting

Thank you, Elena, for creating a lovely new brochure for our AAUW Edmonds SnoKing Branch. These will be handed out to the expected 400 attendees at the *'Expanding Your Horizons'* conference at Edmonds College on March 27.

Members can bring costume jewelry donations to the April meeting. The jewelry fundraiser will be open to the public. Another *Clothing Closet* collection is planned in April.

The 2023 Scholarship Event planning is getting started.

For our 2024 WSU scholarship for an on-going student, the scholarship committee has selected a Mechanical Engineering student who is a first-generation American and a first-generation college student.

The undergraduate scholarships team has received one application, and expects to receive more as the application deadline is still a month away.

From the Public Policy team:

- . The team had a letter to the editor in the Seattle Times on the gender pay gap: <https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to->

SnoKing public policy team will meet to strategize on the best ways we can make sure our local schools (high schools and colleges) and public understand the changes.

- Three initiatives will be on the ballot in November to repeal critical new laws put in place in 2023 related to capital gains tax that funds our schools, and repealing the climate commitment act.
- AAUW is partnering with When We All Vote and, in a few weeks, we will have some new Get Out the Vote tools to look at.

Sita Bhaskaran

Secretary



Our book sale will return during our Branch meeting on April 13. Please check your bookshelves for any books that you are willing to part with, that you think other branch members would enjoy reading, and bring them along with you. Also, bring some cash so you can purchase new reading materials. It is not too early to stock up for summer reading! All funds raised go to Branch operations.

Our Diversity Book Club will meet on Monday, April 15, at 1:30pm at the home of Merrie Emmons. The book we will be discussing is "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. All members are welcome to attend, but please RSVP to Cathy Draper or Lori Cross so



Public Policy Updates and Actions

Spring Advocacy!

Public Policy is switching to a Spring and Summer schedule and Local Projects now that the legislative session is over. Projects include Equal Pay, Title IX, and Elections.

Did you see our letter to the editor in the Seattle Times on [gender pay](#): change policies, practices? See our new updated AAUW state webpage on [Pay Equity](#). Thanks Mary Ross!

We have an opportunity to share our pay gap data with our state [legislative](#) and [congressional](#) representatives and ask them why there is such a wide range in pay gaps across Washington State (59 cents to 92 cents by LD and 67 cents to 87 cents by CD).

We can also share the new living wage dashboard data for [Snohomish County](#) that shows our county has one of the highest living wage minimum wage requirements in the State: for a single working adult with no child it is \$29.59. The state minimum wage is \$16.38. In Seattle the minimum wage is set higher at \$19.97. Do we need a higher minimum wage in Snohomish County?

With new Federal Title IX rules to be released in the next few weeks, there is work to be done to update our AAUW members and our community about the changes. See my [meeting notes](#) on Title IX from the AAUW national meeting. We updated our AAUW-WA [Title IX](#) webpage.

This is a big year for elections. Not just “who will be our national leader”, but “who will be our state leaders”? Key state leaders are retiring or running for different positions, leaving many open seats. The deadline for filing for candidacy in our state is May 10. We also have three initiatives on the state ballot that will critically impact our state’s future. All three initiatives would repeal state tax laws on climate, health, and capital gains.

There is a lot of election advocacy work to be done including Get Out the Vote. AAUW is partnering with [When We All Vote](#) for 2025, a group co-chaired by Michelle Obama! I am super excited about this partnership.

The Edmonds-SnoKing public policy team will meet to brainstorm on what advocacy actions and election advocacy our Branch wants to engage in during the coming months. Join us!

Email sandra.distelhorst@gmail.com for team meeting times and locations.

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



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