

Hello AAUW members.

Welcome to November! Hard to believe we're nearing the end of 2024. There is some great info and updates 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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President's Message

Hello wonderful members,

We had a great meeting at Renton Technical College (RTC) on October 19. Our afternoon session was led by Doris Martinez, head of

DEI at RTC. We had great breakout sessions, one of which was to tell our story of when we became aware of our racial identity. Have you ever thought about that? How do you feel about it and how, if at all, do you behave differently because of it? She challenged our organization to be more inclusive so we can get new and different perspectives to advance the agenda of gender equity. I left the meeting that day with lots to ponder. If anyone is interested in viewing the movie we saw that day let me know and perhaps we can organize a Branch watch party.

Hope to see you on Zoom this November.

Jodi Forsell
President



Put These Dates in Your Calendar

Thursday, November 14, 3:30pm-5:00pm, Monthly AAUW-ESK Branch Board Meeting; see online Branch calendar for details.

Saturday, November 16, Joint Zoom meeting with Seattle Branch.



Programs

Social citizenship requires that individuals and groups be able to fully take part in the public sphere. In the context of bathrooms and politics, ensuring equal access to restrooms – or denying it to targeted groups – becomes a powerful way for society to define who is a full citizen and to indicate who belongs and who doesn't belong in public spaces. In this talk on November 16, Dr. Chatfield discusses the history of sex-segregated bathrooms as well as her research on state-level policies from the past twenty years that impact gender, social citizenship, and bathroom access.



Dr. Sara Chatfield is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Denver. Her research focuses on American political development, women in politics, and political behavior.

Washington State will host a fireside chat on November 23 via Zoom, to share ideas on what branches do during this fall election. Listen to how to host a candidate forum or host a voter registration event. The event starts at 7pm; the Zoom link will be sent closer to the event.

Save the date! Our annual holiday party will be on December 14th at the home of Ann McNulty. Everyone likes our “Guess the Gift Game” so we’ll be doing that. Please bring a brunch item to share - let’s enjoy raising a cup of coffee

and enjoying the holiday season!

Jodi Forsell
Interim Program Director



Outreach

An Evening of Art for Scholarships successfully raised nearly \$9,000 to support local women in STEAM education. Woohoo!

A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors, donors, and artists for their generosity and commitment to empowering future innovators and leaders. Together, we are making a meaningful impact in the lives of women in our community!

Thank you to all our members who contributed, supported, and helped make this fundraiser happen. And a very special thank you and congratulations to members of the planning team: Linda Clay, Ann McNulty, Jodi Forsell, Sandra Distelhorst, Debby Smith, Pat Hooper, and Corrie Wilder. Your hard work, drive, and commitment made the night a smashing success!

AN EVENING OF ART FOR Scholarships

Thank you Sponsors & Donors!



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Membership News

There are many opportunities to be involved with other members in the Branch to exchange ideas, get to know one another, and support one or more areas of the AAUW Mission, “*AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*” Indeed, our many different committees are designed for just that.

- **Public Policy** - follows current issues and policy makers and keeps membership informed.
- **Community Outreach** - uses opportunities through community and college events or create our own to inform the Edmonds SnoKing area of what’s happening within our Branch and at national.
- **Caring and Sharing** - plans and executes activities and donations that will benefit women and girls. There are usually 1-3 opportunities between September and June.
- **Scholarship** - organizes steps to offer scholarships to high school students who identify as female and plan to further their education after graduation; and to one who plans to attend Washington State University Everett Campus. The Scholarship Awards Event is held in Spring and members are encouraged to assist and attend the event.
- **Book Club** - members meet monthly to discuss important books on current topics.
- **Fundraising** - selects and plans events to raise money for the Branch and scholarships. Members are encouraged to take part in the planning and executing or support of fundraising.

This is a short list of a few of the opportunities available to all membership. If you have questions or would like to join one of these groups, please contact me. lindarclay@gmail.com or 425.293.7613.

NOTE: **Coffee and Conversations** will be on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 11:00am-12:00pm. *HOWEVER*, November and December will be on the THIRD Wednesday due to the holidays. Our next meeting will be at Third Place Books in Lake Forest Park.

Linda Clay
VP for Membership
lindarclay@gmail.com



Fundraising

Fundraising within our Branch is intended to support the Branch, smaller donations such as for the Girls Robotics Team, and scholarships.

Branch funding has typically happened through smaller, ongoing efforts, such as Mystery Gift Auction at the December Holiday Party, raffles at meetings, and book sales. Last year we held a “Jewelry Faire” in the Spring.

The main way to raise money for scholarships is through an annual event. For the past three years it has been “*An Evening of Art*” where artisans, silent auction donations, and sponsors are an integral part of the money raised. It takes a lot of planning and preparation that are not unlike what would be needed for any fundraiser, regardless of the scale or type of event. We have been fortunate to raise significantly more with this annual event than has been raised in past years. Members also no longer need to be the primary source of monetary donations as they often are with branch fundraising.

During the January 2025 meeting we will discuss the pros and cons of

continuing to do a large fundraiser or whether the Branch wants to move in a different direction.

A new idea for a Spring fundraiser for the Branch is in the works. Stay tuned for details! (think Suffragette and pink teas ?)

If you would like to join the Fundraiser Team, please contact me, lindarclay@gmail.com or 425.293.7613



Notes From the Board Meeting

The Art Show went very well and raised ~\$9,000 to be applied to our scholarship fund. The hope is to offer five scholarships this year.

The current plan for Programs for this year is as follows:

November: Joint Zoom meeting with the Seattle Branch on the politics of bathroom access.

December: Holiday party, Saturday December 14 at Ann McNulty's house.

January: Lobby day preparation. Also, discussion of Branch fundraising.

February: Talk by AARP speaker on ageism.

March: Tanya St. John of the University of Washington will speak about under-diagnosed autism in youth, and how girls especially are getting under-

diagnosed.

April: Debbie Dimitri will give a performance as a suffragette. Possibly combine this performance with a pink tea party.

May: Annual meeting and election of officers.

June: Scholarship event and wrap-up.

Our current Branch membership stands at about 41. Coffee and Conversations will be held on the 4th Wednesday of every month.

Public Policy initiatives, including transgender policies, are being reviewed at the national level. New legislation on paid family leave is in the works.

Sita Bhaskaran

Secretary



Our Diversity Book Club will meet at 1:30pm on Monday, November 18, at the home of Lori Cross. The book we will discuss is "The Wind Knows My Name" by Isabel Allende. All members are welcome to attend. Please let Lori know if you plan to attend.



Public Policy Updates and Action

Words matter

With so much misinformation, disinformation, and word salad, word spinning or word “weaving” going on today, the public policy team is taking a close look at our AAUW National Public Policy Priorities to make sure they convey the mission, values, and vision of our members and can be a good guide for us the next two years for our local advocacy work.

You will get a chance to VOTE to approve them in April but, better yet, JOIN in the conversation before the vote! A final version will go to the AAUW National Board at the end of November!!

Our State team sent our comments to the AAUW National Committee hoping to be able to see some significant changes this year.

Define “gender” in 2025 - 2027 terms.

Have you seen the AAUW DEI Toolkit? It is huge! Lots of good information but some of it is outdated.

Add important missing key “words”:

LGBTQ, Nonbinary, Transgender
Long-term Care, Gender-affirming Care
Marital status, Parental status, Family status
Economic security for older women

Change outdated phrases:

- separation of church and state vs religion and government
- sexual identity vs gender identity
- transsexual vs transgender

Clarity terms and usage:

- “end white supremacy”
- “dependent care”
- “higher education” vs “postsecondary education”, “career training”, “apprenticeship”

We will work on updating our [state public policy priorities](#) during the month of November and December at our weekly Tuesday noon meetings.

Are you interested in the words we use? Join in the discussion Tuesdays at noon. We want to hear from members! Check our [state calendar](#) for the Zoom link. Or contact Sandra Distelhorst to set up a local meeting or to request a copy of the comments we sent to National AAUW and add your own comments!

Email Sandra at publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org

Sandra Distelhorst
Public Policy Team Leader
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