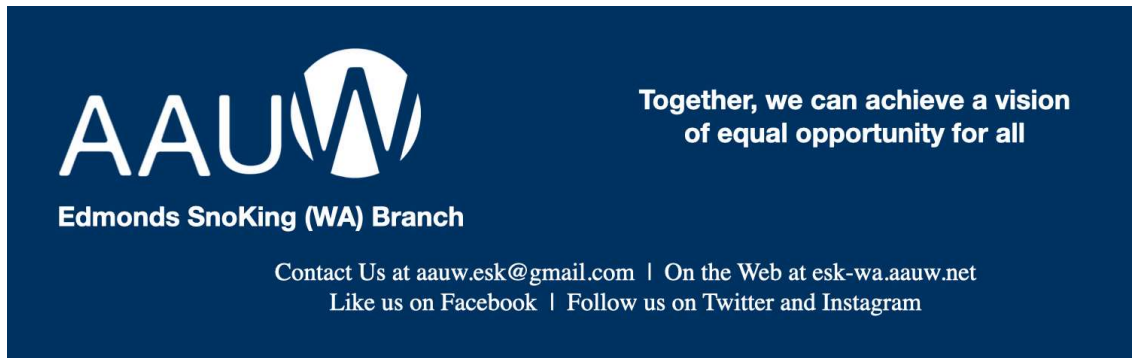


Hello AAUW members.

It's nearly time to wrap-up 2024! Wishing everyone a joyous and festive-filled December. 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



Newsletter | December 2024

[View this newsletter in your browser](#)



President's Message

Dear members,

This time of year makes me thankful for all of you who support our Branch, activities, and the AAUW mission. Recently a few members watched the movie "JOIN or DIE" at Edmonds Waterfront Center. The main point is we all have a basic need to be connected. Joining member organizations allows an opportunity for "social capital", meaning when individuals do good for the community the outcome is that the community thrives and in response can do good.

Our theme this year is "Get informed, stay engaged". Come to our meetings and learn about a new topic, make friendships, get involved in our various committees.

Hope you can enjoy being with friends and family this holiday season!

Jodi Forsell
President



Programs

We have lots of great meetings coming up this winter.

December 14 is our holiday party! Bring your favorite brunch food to share. We'll have our gift exchange and bidding on the gifts people bring. It's been a fun way to raise money for our Branch.

January 11 our own Sandra Distelhorst will lead us in discussion about the upcoming legislative session. Come learn about Washington State's Public Policy priorities. We'll also talk about ways to engage during Lobby Week.

We will also be talking about fundraising and ideas for fundraising going forward and reviewing our Branch budget.

January 27 is Washington State Lobby Day. Speakers to be identified, and a Zoom link to register will be out in late December. All our welcome and no fee to register this year.

February 8 we will have a speaker from AARP talk about ageism and healthy aging.

Also in **February** we are gearing up for something truly heartwarming! Our Caring and Sharing Project will inspire kindness, connection, and community. Stay tuned for all the details - you won't want to miss this opportunity to make a difference.

March 8 a speaker from the University of Washington will join us to talk about autism: Why does it go undiagnosed longer in girls than boys? Why does it seem more common now? This meeting will be informative.

Coffee & Conversations will resume in January as well.

Jodi Forsell
Interim Program Director



Outreach

It was lovely to see several Branch members attend the free screening of "JOIN or DIE", a community-focused documentary about the decline in our collective social capital, civil engagement, and community activism.

The event attracted a large audience, providing us with an excellent opportunity to promote AAUW alongside other local nonprofits. Many

attendees expressed interest in our Branch and upcoming programs. Thanks to Sandra for highlighting this valuable opportunity. It was incredibly impactful to have so many members able to participate and helped make this outreach event so successful!

Future Outreach: In the new year, attention will be focused on further strengthening our relationship with WSU Everett and the student body. We have an opportunity to create a symbiotic relationship that will benefit the Branch and scholarship fund for years to come. If nurturing this type of connection is interesting to you, please contact me.

As a Branch we have a lot on the horizon; take a look at the graphic below and mark your calendars for these upcoming meetings.

Looking forward to seeing folks at the Holiday Potluck on December 14!



UPCOMING AAUW EVENTS

empowering women since 1881

DECEMBER

SAT
14

HOLIDAY GATHERING

11am-1pm, Ann McNulty's House
731 198th PL SW, Lynnwood 98036

JANUARY

SAT
11

PUBLIC POLICY & LOBBY WEEK

10am-12pm, Edmonds College Snohomish Hall Rm. 338
20000 68th Ave W, Lynnwood 98036

FEBRUARY

SAT
08

WOMEN & AGEISM

Its affects on women's health, work and family life.

10am-12pm, Edmonds College, Snohomish Hall Rm. 338
20000 68th Ave W, Lynnwood 98036

MARCH

SAT
08

AUTISM & GIRLS

Learn from Dr. Tanya St. John, clinical psychologist, why girls are being under-diagnosed with autism.

10am-12pm, Edmonds College, Snohomish Hall Rm. 338, 20000 68th Ave W, Lynnwood 98036

MORE INFO & EVENTS:

[HTTPS://ESK-WA.AAUW.NET/](https://esk-wa.aauw.net/)

Elena Cervantes
Outreach & Scholarship Fundraising



Membership News

What a great time of year to welcome several new members! Please welcome Elizabeth Gately, Allison Jack Hannan, student associate Adeline Gobel, and grad students Yvette Troyna and Katie Jones. Welcome and we look forward to seeing you at future meetings or public events!

Our Branch was well represented at the recent event hosted by the Caftan Club Edmonds at the Edmonds Waterfront Center. The purpose of the event was to view the documentary, "JOIN or DIE," which chronicled the decades long study by social scientist Robert Putnam, about social groups, their purpose, the trends and impact on politics, community, and democracy. It's available on Netflix and I encourage everyone to watch it. You may have read his first book, Bowling Alone. It was at times discouraging and yet at the end I was left feeling very positive about who we are and what we're about at AAUW. We had a table, along with about 8 other volunteer groups, and enjoyed the opportunity to reach out to those who attended. Thank you, Elena, for getting it all put together for us!

Our Branch meeting this month will also be our annual Holiday Party and, once again, Ann McNulty has graciously offered to host. This is also a Branch fundraiser. Please bring a wrapped gift, new or gently used enough to be regifted, about \$20.00 in value. NO white elephant gifts, please.

NO Coffee & Conversations this month. I will be out of town.

Linda Clay
VP for Membership
lindarclay@gmail.com



Other News

It takes a village for AAUW Edmonds SnoKing Branch to work.

Currently we need someone to be our Branch treasurer - prior experience preferred but we can train as well. If interested contact Jodi at jrforsell92@gmail.com

We also need two people to be members at large for our A3E foundation, our Foundation Board.

Commitment includes quarterly and as-needed meetings, reviewing activity related to scholarship finances, and making sure we are compliant with State and Federal agencies.

Not a big time commitment and is done via Zoom for all meetings.



Notes From the Board Meeting

Planning is underway to award five scholarships, at ~\$2500 each, in 2025-2026. This is one more than was awarded this year – the plan is to add an “art” scholarship this year. The High School scholarship committee’s plan to name the new scholarship after our resident artist Elena Cervantes was well received by the Board!

The State Public Policy team is meeting every week and working on planning for the January 27 Lobby Day, revising our public policy priorities to align with changes in National public policies and changes in our State priorities and member interests.

Our Holiday party, on the 2nd Saturday in December, will be at Ann McNulty’s house. There will be a holiday gift exchange.

The Outreach Team arranged a free screening of the documentary “JOIN or DIE” at the Edmonds Waterfront Center on November 19 at 6PM. Our Branch will have a table at this event.

Harriet reported that the branch finances are in a satisfactory state. She will make the Branch budget available for review at the December Board meeting.

Sita Bhaskaran
Secretary



Our Diversity Book Club will
return in January 2025



Public Policy Updates and Action

The next four years will present many policy challenges and opportunities. That is the theme for our AAUW-WA 2025 Lobby Day Event on January 27. Please save the date and sign up for [This Week in Olympia](#) to get weekly updates and action alerts during the session.

On December 17 at Noon, you can join the State Policy Team for a conversation with Nancy Sapiro, our state legislative consultant. The Zoom link is [here](#).

Our Branch is **unique!** For a small branch we have a big voice!! We have members residing in 8 legislative districts (that's 24 legislators). All our Branch state legislators were re-elected and they ALL scored 100% on our [2024 AAUW Legislator Scorecard](#). Many of them have key leadership roles for 2025.

Here are some highlights:

LD21 Senator Marko Liias (Edmonds, Lynnwood) is not just Chair of the Transportation Committee but champions AAUW issues. See his excellent review of legislation on [Investing in Education](#) and [Media Literacy and Digital Citizenship](#).

LD38 Senator June Robinson (Everett, Marysville) is the Chair of Ways and Means and our go-to State budget guru. See her [November Revenue Forecast](#).

LD1 Senator Derek Stanford (Bothell, Lake Forest Park, Lynnwood) is a long-time champion of consumer rights, see his [2024 Report on Consumer Protections](#).

LD44 Senator John Lovick (Mill Creek, Everett, Snohomish) has a new leadership role as Vice President Pro Tempore. A long-time public safety policy and peace maker he is our go-to champion for public safety. See [Building Trust in Law Enforcement](#).

Check out your legislators: [AAUW-Edmonds-SnoKing 2025 Legislators](#).

Other good news: The WA Legislative website has a new look and a new [Learn and Participate](#) page. It is super easy now to find the [member roster](#), [search for bills](#) and find [committee meeting agendas](#) and links. Committee work sessions start the week of December 9. Watching a recording of the meetings is a good way to learn about the committee priorities for the year as well as “get to know” the legislators on the committee.

Save the date: January 27 is AAUW Lobby Day and an opportunity for you to meet with your legislators during that week. You can thank them 100% for supporting AAUW bills in the past and you can advocate for their continued support for policies that impact women including continuation of paid family medical leave programs, childcare and early learning programs, gender-based violence protections, and retirement and social service program protections. Protecting existing Washington State laws and program funding will be a key priority over the next four years.

This is not a time to step back but a time to step up our advocacy efforts.

Hope to see you at our Branch January 11 in-person meeting!

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



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