

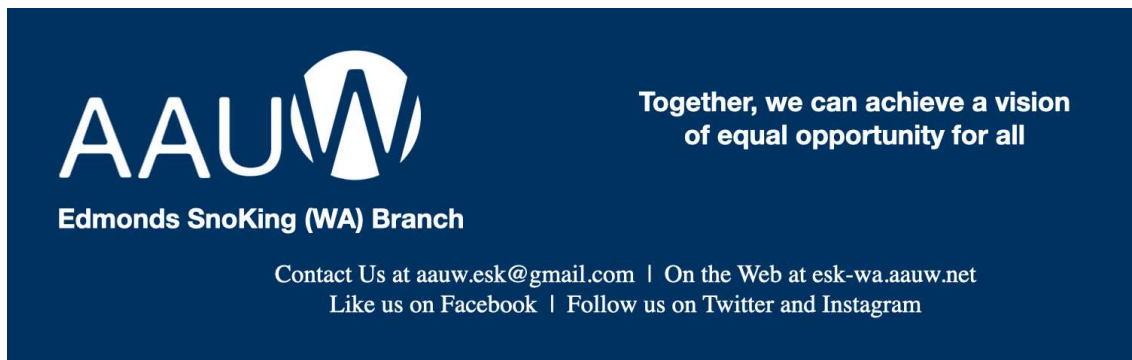
Hello AAUW members.

This is an updated February newsletter: please see more content under Membership News section.

As we begin February the days are staying light just a little bit longer and the birds are becoming active again...other signs of our upcoming Spring will start to show in the next few months. We have some great programs lined up for the next couple of months. 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 | February 2025

[View this newsletter in your browser](#)



President's Message

Hello wonderful members!

As I write this, I'm just finishing up a fun three days in Snohomish. My husband and I saw "Legally Blonde" at the Village Theatre. They put on a great show. One of the themes in that production is women need to stick together. That message really resonated with me as we march into these next four years with a bit of fear and uncertainty. How will the rights that we have fought for during the last 100 years be dismantled, eliminated, or changed? One thing we keep talking about is that we need to work locally with our State and cities to ensure we speak up for things that matter to us - safe spaces, access to affordable healthcare which includes reproductive health, affordable childcare, and so much more.

I am inspired by the 77 women that took time out of their day for our State Lobby Day on January 27th. We had some great speakers on the State budget, healthcare, and LGBTQ rights. If you missed the session, the recording and slide decks are going to be published on

our State website.

We have some great events planned for our Branch. Our fundraising/event planning team is off to a great start working on our Pink Tea on April 12th with Debbie Dimitre and her rendition of Alice Stokes Paul. More details are in this newsletter!

Our speaker for February 8th is Cynthia Hinton from AARP, discussing Ageism and Six Pillars of Brain Health. We are also collecting items for Cocoon House so please bring your donations to the meeting. Victoria O'Gorman and the Caring and Sharing team are bringing some special treats for Valentine's Day too!

As we approach Valentine's Day but throughout the year, perhaps we can all take a page out of Bishop Mariann Budde and show mercy, compassion, and love to one another!

Jodi Forsell
President



Programs

February 8th – Branch meeting Edmonds College

Our speaker at our February 8th meeting is Cynthia Hinton from AARP and she will be talking about ageism and six pillars of Brain Health. Also, see more info below about our Sharing and Caring project.

March 8th – Branch meeting Edmonds College

Our speaker is Tanya St. John from the University of Washington, and she is speaking on Autism. She will be focusing on how autism is diagnosed, how it is being treated, and how care givers can help with a child or grandchild who has been diagnosed. This talk should prove useful for many of our members and raise awareness and knowledge for us all.

April 12th – Branch meeting at Edmonds College, Woodway Hall

AAUW will be hosting a Pink Tea party much like the ones held during the suffrage movement in the early 1900's. More info in this newsletter!

Jodi Forsell
Interim Program Director

Support Cocoon House: Donate Clothing for Youth in Need

Dear AAUW Members,

As we continue our commitment to support our community, we are collecting donations for **Cocoon House**, an organization dedicated to helping youth ages 12–24.

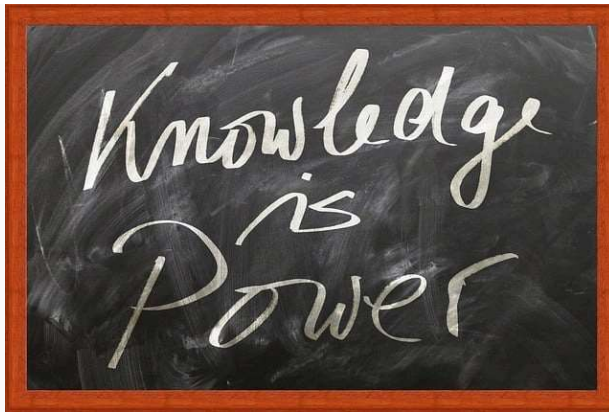
Items Needed:

- New underwear (all genders, all sizes)
- New or gently used sweatshirts, sweatpants, jeans, or seasonal clothing (all genders, all sizes)

Please bring your donations to our meeting on **February 8th**. During the meeting, we will sort and pack these items for delivery while enjoying some delightful **Valentine treats** together.

Your generosity can make a real difference in the lives of young people in need. Thank you for your support!

Warmly,
Vicki, Debby, Ann, Pat, Beth, Mary Lou



Outreach

Hi folks! We have some fun and exciting Community Outreach activities in the works.

First up, a way to support young ladies curious about STEM education and career pathways...

WSU Everett is hosting their annual Girls Explore STEM Program on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at 10am. They have asked if our membership would be interested in providing support for this year's event.

In the past, our Branch has financially contributed a small portion to assist with transportation of students from local school districts to the WSU Everett campus.

At our February meeting, we'll briefly hear from our very own Branch member and WSU staffer, Dr. Corrie Wilder. She will share a bit about the Girls Explore STEM program and how our collective financial contributions will support girls, grades 6-12, in this one-day immersive and hands-on experience.

If you feel moved to support Girls Explore STEM at WSU Everett, you'll be able to make a cash, check, or Venmo donation at our February meeting. If you'd like to volunteer for hands-on and Day Of help, please contact me directly via email.

In the past, AAUW Edmonds SnoKing has provided support to programs such as Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) through Edmonds college and sponsored young girls to travel and participate in AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

As a Branch, we hope to make large contributions to programs similar to these in the near future. This is one of the major driving forces behind Branch fundraising in the

coming months. Check out the flyer below for more info on Girls in STEM.



GIRLS
EXPLORE STEM

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025
10:00 AM • WSU EVERETT



Girls Explore STEM* is a free event, open to students in grades 6-12. features hands-on workshops led by faculty, students, and local experts, a resource fair for parents, and keynote by retired NASA astronaut Dorothy "Dottie" Metcalf-Lindenburger.

With STEM careers growing rapidly—projected to increase by 8.8% by 2028—this event supports diversity in STEM by creating a space for young women to explore their interests.

This year, we anticipate over 100 young STEM adventurers and their families to attend.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Crimson Sponsor: \$5,000+

- Prominent logo placement on event materials and website.
- Speaking opportunity and tabling space at event.
- Recognition during the opening remarks.
- Recognition in press releases and social media.
- Logo presence on event T-shirts.

**Additional presenting sponsorship opportunities available Spring 2025.*

Grey Sponsor: \$2,500 - \$4,999

- Logo on event materials and website.
- Tabling space at the event.
- Recognition during the opening remarks.
- Recognition in press releases and social media.

Friend of Butch T. Cougar: \$1,000 - \$2,499

- Logo on event materials and website.
- Recognition in social media.
- Recognition during the opening remarks.

WHY SPONSOR?

- **Brand Visibility:** Gain exposure to a targeted audience of young girls, parents, educators, and community leaders.
- **Community Engagement:** Support and inspire the next generation of female STEM professionals.
- **Networking:** Connect with other sponsors, industry leaders, and potential future employees.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility:** Showcase your company's commitment to diversity and inclusion in STEM fields.



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EVERETT

**WSU Everett champions diversity, equity, and inclusion. We warmly invite individuals from grades 6-12 to join us in building an inclusive community for all.*

Next up, our Branch FUNdraiser: Save the date! April 12th, 2025 from 10am-12pm, Woodway Hall @Edmonds College.

We're hosting a Pink Tea! We'll socialize, enjoy Debbie Dimitre's live rendition of Alice Stokes Paul, Suffragette and author of the ERA and plot how to overthrow the patriarchy! And we'll sip tea too. Invite your friends. This event is open to the public.

Tickets and tables will be available for purchase online via Eventbrite and through our website. Members will also receive an order form via snail mail or snag your tickets our February and March meetings. Forms of payment accepted: cash/check/Venmo.

Tickets: \$20 each

Table: \$100 (6 seats)

Raffle tickets: \$5 each

"The Woman's Party is made up of women of all races, creeds and nationalities who are united on the one program of working to raise the status of women." ~ Alice Stokes Paul

As a Nation, our protest movements have spanned decades. Attendees are highly encouraged to dress in their version of Suffragette fashion.

Hope to see you at the February meeting!

PINK TEA

AAUW Edmonds SnoKing hosts a Pink Tea!

We'll gather, sip tea and take in Debbie Dimitre's live rendition of Alice Stokes Paul, Suffragette and author of the Equal Rights Amendment.

\$20

April 12

10am-12pm

Edmonds College
Woodway Hall
20000 68th Ave W.
Lynnwood, 98036

*Attendee's are encouraged to dress in theme with Suffragette's throughout the decades

Elena Cervantes
Outreach & Scholarship Fundraising



Membership News

We have had quite a number of new members join us during the past year. Twelve, to be exact! I have secured several bios and will be sharing them over the next few months. We are such a diverse group, at least regarding our life and work history, but rarely have time to share with one another. We've decided to continue to add time and food to the meetings more often to allow the opportunity for more socializing.



Sheila Richardson joined AAUW two years ago. She describes her life as currently at play in the Universe, sharing joy, energy and resources for the good of all beings.

Sheila is a Washington native and earned a BA English Education, with a minor Far Eastern Studies at the University of Washington. She and her husband live in the Richmond Beach area.

Her working life background includes leadership of non-profit boards; Director WA State Digital Media Alliance, Internet pioneer and Tech market development consultant. She was a founding director of a Public Relations agency, as well as an Investor and

Marketing Director at POWDER Magazine.

Sheila's interests include skiing, travel, and involvement in other groups that focus on making a difference. She recently agreed to join the A3E Foundation and serve as treasurer and said she looks forward to being more involved with our Edmonds SnoKing Branch.

Please note the following is updated for the newsletter:

It is with great sadness that I let you know of the passing of one of our longtime and dear members, Jan Holsbo, on January 11th. She had been having health issues for some time. Her sister, Marlene Constance, wanted us to know and shared some information about Jan for those who may not have had the pleasure of knowing her well.

Jan was born and raised in Ballard and graduated from the University of Washington. Following graduation, she was hired by the SmithKlein Beecham Group in California. She worked there until retirement in 2017. As the company merged and grew, Jan used new opportunities for growth and promotions, ending as the Quality Safety of California.

As an indication of Jan's sense of freedom and adventure, when she moved to California, she lived on a 40ft boat that she and her uncle piloted to the San Francisco Bay. Love of water was a constant in her life. She traveled all over the world and scuba dived wherever she traveled, including Australia, Europe, Asia, and South America. She was a founding supporter of the Monterey Bay Aquarium and supported the Seattle Aquarium when she returned to Washington.

Jan first joined AAUW in 1989 in Alameda, California and upon retirement joined the Edmonds SnoKing Branch. As a Legacy member she demonstrated her commitment to the mission of AAUW and she was extremely supportive of our efforts to give scholarships for young women going into STEM. She served as a past president and co-president and was a member of the A3E Foundation.

Jan will be missed by the Edmonds SnoKing Branch and our sympathy goes out to her last surviving sibling, Marlene Constance, as well as her extended family.

Linda Clay
VP for Membership
lindarclay@gmail.com



Other News

Help needed! Our Branch needs two people to step up to be treasurer for our Branch and for our Foundation. The Branch responsibilities include reconciling the bank every month and processing dues for membership.

Also, our treasurer sits on our board and attends the board meetings once a month. The Foundation treasurer keeps track of our finances for our annual Art Fundraiser, sits on the Foundation board which meets quarterly, and keeps the organization in compliance with annual filings with the IRS and State of Washington. Training is available!! We welcome you to join our board. It's a great way to learn about our organization and get to know each other better

Contact Jodi at 425-877-7044.



Notes From the Board Meeting

Elena is planning The Pink Tea, a Branch fundraiser for April 12. Woodway Hall at Edmonds College has been reserved for this event. The term "Pink Tea" is from the suffragette era and is a get-together that focuses on and champions women's rights. It does not require attendees to dress in pink.

Linda reported that our Branch headcount stands at 52, with approximately 1/3 who are actively involved members.

Sandra reported that her team is getting bills ready in preparation for Lobby Day on January 27. There was particular interest in the Ninth Grade Success bill. This stems from the recognition that ninth grade is a pivotal year for students. The focus of this bill is on identifying vulnerable kids, and providing opportunities for both college-bound students and students better suited for other tracks such as trade certifications and trade schools.

Sita Bhaskaran
Secretary



The Diversity Book Club will meet on Monday, February 17 at 1:30pm at the home of Helen Behan. The book we will discuss is "Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law" by Girman Haben. All members are welcome. Please let Helen know if you plan to come so she will know how many to expect."

Our popular book sale will return at our February Branch meeting. We currently have some excellent books available for sale, so remember to bring some

cash! All proceeds go to our Branch operation expenses.



Public Policy Updates and Action

Lobby Day on January 27th was a great success with over 70 members and guests participating in our virtual event. If you missed it, you can view the recording, handouts, and presentations: [click-> here](#)

You will learn about our State budget and why we have a 12-billion-dollar deficit and what we can do about it. You can learn about what health advocates are focusing on in 2025. And you can hear from our state LGBTQ Commission about the work they do and the bills they are following this session.

We reviewed the good bills our State leadership is moving forward to strengthen our gender inclusive school policies and support students at risk of not graduating. We heard about bills to strengthen our early learning and childcare programs, protect reproductive and pregnant person rights, support inclusive workplaces including protections for domestic workers. There is also a suite of bill to protect immigrants from coercion and bias in the workplace and prevent unnecessary deportation. You can find the list of Lobby Day bills and Talking Points at our [Actions We Take](#) webpage. It also includes a [Meet your Legislator Checklist](#) and a link to find you legislators' [contact information](#).

It includes a sample letter that can be sent to your legislators. This is a good time to

reach out to your legislators – as well as local leaders – and let them know you appreciate all the good work they do to keep Washington State a good, safe inclusive community. You can also reach out to Governor Ferguson, our State Attorney General Nick Brown, and all our other State executive team and let them know you support their upholding our Washington State laws that embrace an inclusive, safe, and healthy community for all.

Sandra Distelhorst
Public Policy Team Leader
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