

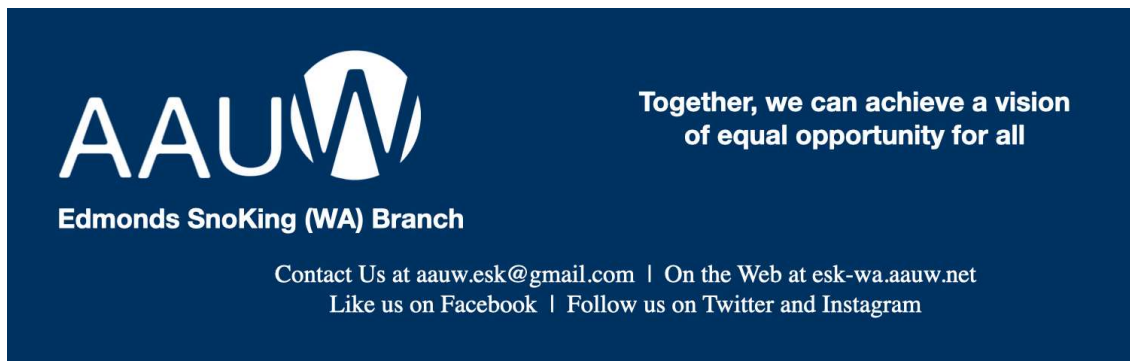
Hello AAUW members.

Welcome to June and a busy month for our Branch.
A big *Thank You* to Jodi for leading the Branch for the past 4 years,
and congratulations to Linda for her move into this important role!
There is some great info and updates in this newsletter.

We'll pause the newsletter for the summer and return in September.

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

Jennifer Long
AAUW ESK Newsletter Coordinator



Newsletter | June 2025

[View this newsletter in your browser](#)



President's Message

Hello wonderful members!

This will be my last President's message as my term ends and I turn the baton over to the capable and talented Linda Clay.

It's been a tremendous opportunity to work with all of you and get to know you better as we worked on empowering women on our journey to achieve gender equity for women and girls! I'm excited to see how our Branch will continue to carry on this work. I was very supported by all of you. I want to thank our amazing board members with whom I have worked:

Linda Clay - Membership and Fundraiser chair

Elena Cervantes - Community Outreach, and fundraising and social media

Sita Bhaskaran - Secretary and webmistress

Harriet Fuji - Treasurer

Sandra Distelhorst - Public Policy

Lori Cross - Scholarship and publicity
Cathy Draper – Scholarship committee

Please welcome our new members to our board:

Pat Hooper - Co-chair Membership

Lisa Utter - Public Policy

Laura Yurka - Treasurer

And thank you to all our behind-the-scene members who help make our Branch so successful:

Jennifer Long - newsletter editor; **Ann McNulty** - holiday party host;

Vicki O'Gorman - chairing our Sharing and Caring interest group; **Su**

Nelson - reserving our meeting rooms on Edmonds campus.

I hope everyone has a wonderful June.

We hope to plan a few summer outings to get together socially - stay tuned.

Thanks for a great 4 years!

Jodi Forsell
President



Programs

June 7th Scholarship Event. Edmonds College, 10am-12pm –
Woodway Hall, room 202.

Join us for our end-of-year celebration as we meet our 6 scholarship

recipients!! We are presenting our first ever *Elena Cervantes Art Scholarship*!! Light breakfast and coffee will be served.

Our Branch needs you! We are still in need of a few people who would like to help plan programs/speakers for our 2025-2026 Branch year. If you know of a great speaker or organization that you'd suggest for future Branch meetings, please let me or Linda Clay know. Your suggestions are appreciated!

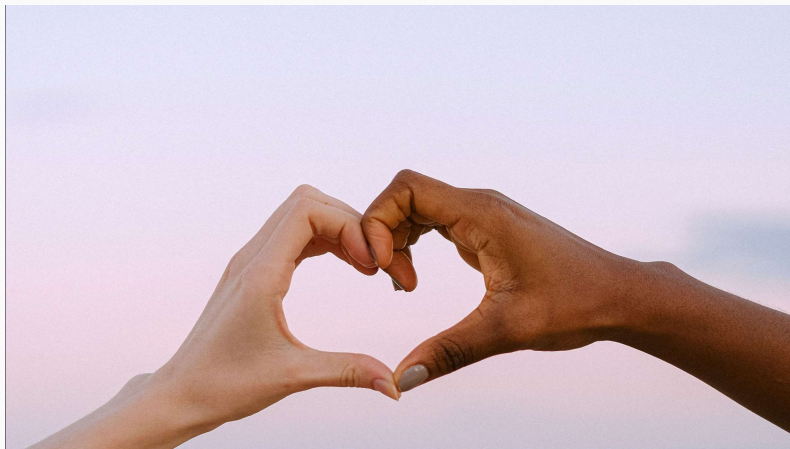
Jodi Forsell
Interim Program Director



Outreach

Watch for updates here when we return in September 2025

Elena Cervantes
Outreach & Scholarship Fundraising



Membership News

As it goes with most organizations, membership has ebbed and flowed over the past few years. This year we are enjoying more flow. And those who are joining are ready and willing to be involved and active, which is a serious plus for the Branch. Currently, we have 50 members.

- Since last fall 11 new members have joined, with three being students.
- I anticipate two more members joining within the next month, one of whom is a scholarship recipient.
- The effort to enlist, engage and retain members is ongoing. Working with Community Outreach in social media, Publicity, using print and online articles, and continuing to strengthen connections with Washington State University has made a difference.
- Weekly emails with information regarding upcoming events and opportunities is also proving to be a positive. We all lead busy lives and having the occasional reminders helps.
- Coffee and Conversations has morphed into several different versions, but we seem to have landed on a day and locations that work. We have been alternating between “Third Place Books” in Lake Forest Park and “The Coffee House” in Richmond Beach. Currently, we meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month.
- Community Hub continues to be a thorn in everyone’s side and I’m sure we have lost at least a couple along the way because relying entirely on technology and a wonky website isn’t conducive to engagement or retention.

Membership renewals

June is renewal month for many of our Branch members. As a reminder, here’s a breakdown of dues, which are \$97/year:

National: \$74

State: \$10

Branch: \$13

You can go to this link to register

https://my.aauw.org/NC__Login?startUrl=%2Fapex%2FNC__Login

or send a check to our PO Box

AAUW - ESK

PO box 722

Lynnwood WA 98036

Thanks for your continued support of our Branch by being a member!!

Linda Clay

VP for Membership

lindarclay@gmail.com



Fundraising

Once again, this year's fundraising proved to be very successful.

- The \$10,000 dollar goal was reached, and the Branch will be presenting five \$2,000 scholarships. Finding sponsors was more difficult this year, but we did get a huge boost by WSU offering us the space for free and becoming a top tier donor. We also secured first time sponsorship from Fluke, which we hope will be the beginning of a growing connection.
- One of the scholarships will go to a student expecting to attain a degree in Fine Arts. While this is a change from giving

scholarships only to women choosing STEM fields, the argument was made that it seems fitting since the money is raised via an art focused event. It has also been shown that women in the art world make less money and struggle to have their art recognized. Discussion will be had as to whether this will remain as part of the scholarships in the future.

- We also had a Christmas brunch, again hosted by Ann McNulty, which included a mystery gift auction. The money from this event goes to the Branch operating budget.
- The most recent fundraising event, The Pink Tea, was a first-time event that proved to be far more successful than anticipated. We had hoped for ~40 attendees and, as most of you know, it was about 100. It required a significant amount of planning and preparation; however, thanks to so many members stepping in to help and Elena's Family and Friend Village, we were able to pull it off. There is talk of doing this again, but probably not next year. Some of us aren't ready to face teacups for a while.
- However, there have been a lot of questions about doing the jewelry event again. If we take some of what was learned by the pink tea and the first jewelry sale and apply it, I think this has potential.
- Branch funds and Scholarships are both left with one good year going forward. I'm looking forward to seeing what's planned for the 2026-26 year!

It's been a great experience to be "VP" for both Membership and Fundraising, and I'm confident that those who follow will be outstanding.

Thank you for the gift of your support.



Notes From the Board Meeting

Next report from the Board will be in September 2025

Sita Bhaskaran
Secretary



Our Diversity Book Club will meet at Ann McNulty's house on Monday, 6/16/25, at 1:30pm. We'll discuss the book "Women in the Valley of the Kings: An Untold Story of Women Egyptologists in the Gilded Age." All members are welcome to attend. Please let Ann know if you plan to come, so she has an idea of how many people to expect.

Our July book will be "By Any

Other Name" by Jodi Picoult.
The location has not been
determined.



Public Policy Updates and Action

The first 2 items below are from Lisa Utter, who will be the Branch Public Policy lead starting in the 2025-2026 Branch year.

ITEM #1

On July 19, 2025, Mike German, author of *"Policing White Supremacy The Enemy Within"* will be coming to Snohomish County to talk about his book. If interested in reading and discussing this book, please contact Lisa Utter at 425-750-4961 or eldt61@yahoo.com.

In *"Policing White Supremacy"*, former FBI agent Mike German, who worked undercover in white supremacist and militia groups, issues a wake-up call about law enforcement's dangerously lax approach to far-right violence.

Despite over a hundred deadly acts by far-right militants since the 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, and the far right's attempts to obstruct transfer of power to a duly elected president on January 6, the FBI continues to deprioritize investigations into white supremacist violence, instead targeting marginalized groups such as

environmentalists and Black Lives Matter. In 2005, for example, the FBI labeled eco-terrorists as the top domestic threat, despite not a single fatal attack in the United States.

Is anyone interesting in reading and discussing this book with me and other interested members - either before or after the author comes to speak? If so, please contact me at 425-750-4961 or eldt61@yahoo.com.

ITEM #2

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS to help organize a candidate forum.

Candidates for local offices on the ballot this Fall include municipal and special districts, such as school, water, fire, hospital, and Charter Review Commission. Last off-year election, in 2023, AAUW-ESK held a well-attended informal meet and greet with candidates in October at a local park. Many candidates and voters attended. We have also held luncheons in the past for candidates but that attracted a more limited crowd.

As new Public Policy lead - I would like to organize a Meet and Greet event this year. I am meeting with Elena at 1:30pm on Tuesday, June 10 to discuss this event. If you want to volunteer to help at this event or have ideas, please contact me. We can break this into very manageable and limited pieces of work with a few people, so even if you know your time and energy is limited, you can help.

Lisa Utter contact info: 425-750-4961 or eldt61@yahoo.com

National and State News

May was a busy month for AAUW national. We elected new Board members, passed Bylaw changes, approved the 2025-2027 Public Policy Priorities that focus on **higher education** AND launched a [new strategic plan](#) that includes clear achievable BRANCH GOALS! National has a set of [advocacy toolkits](#), [webinars](#), and [action alerts](#) to help branches meet these strategic goals.

Our Branch is already poised to meet the first three goals: fund local scholarship, encourage girls to pursue STEM careers, and advocate

for policy changes to remove barriers to success in education and the workplace (Lobby Day).

The last goal is “engaging members and building effective networks”. This goal is one that our new Public Policy Chair Lisa Utter is especially qualified to help us achieve! Lisa worked with AAUW-WA, the National Women’s Law Center, NOW, and the Economic Opportunity Institute during the legislative session to make sure we had coordinated testimony lined up to protect our pay transparency laws. I am super excited to have Lisa leading our Branch advocacy work this year. I hope you will join her public policy team!

Academic Freedom

AAUW has a history of supporting academic freedom, and exploring its relationship to tenure – see AAUW’s 2020 Tenure Denied publication. Trump executive orders threaten academic freedom (see Trumps first 100 days) and the latest May 23 executive order, Restoring Gold Standard Science, continues to escalate the threats to academic freedom and scientific integrity. Our state public policy team is finalizing a position statement in support of academic freedom and campus free speech. In 2023, we issued a position statement related to K-12 public schools: Supporting Public Educators, Academic Freedom, and Equity Efforts in Schools.

The 2025 position statement, Academic Freedom and Campus Free Speech, is still in draft form but once approved by the State Board, we can share it with our local colleges and universities. We have at least 7 higher education institutes in the SnoKing area. Let me know if you have suggestions or comments about the academic freedom statement or want to be on the final review team.

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



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