

Hello AAUW members.

Well, here we are in 2026! Wishing everyone a new year that is healthy, safe, and engaging. Please see details in this newsletter for more information on our Branch events and news.

Any questions or concerns? Reply to this email or contact me directly, [JenniferL91@hotmail.com](mailto:JenniferL91@hotmail.com).

Jennifer Long  
AAUW ESK Newsletter Coordinator



## Newsletter | January 2026

[View this newsletter in your browser](#)



## President's Message

Happy New Year Everyone! With a new year comes the expectation of starting new and looking forward. I don't know about you, but I'd like to do exactly that. 2025 was quite a ride!

I would like to thank Jennifer Long for doing the newsletter for the past

few years. Jennifer joined us and jumped right in taking over the newsletter when we needed help. Jennifer, you have always done a wonderful job and we are very grateful. She also helped with the Scholarship Team and worked on the Scholarship Recognition event at the end of the year. You will be missed, Jennifer, and I wish you the very best in your next volunteering adventures.

Jodi Forsell has offered to take over the newsletter beginning with the February issue. Thank you, Jodi, for once again filling in where and when there is a need. You are amazing!

2026 is here and ready to get going. Our first meeting of the year, January 10<sup>th</sup>, will be the annual Public Policy presentation to prepare for Advocacy Day. Our Public Policy Chair, Lisa Utter, will present information for us to consider and discuss how it aligns with the goals of AAUW. Lisa is also president of the Snohomish County League of Women Voters. AAUW and The League of Women Voters have recently partnered regarding political action. We are fortunate to have such a knowledgeable person in our midst!

Being informed of upcoming legislation and involved with our representatives has always been important and it is now more than ever. I hope that many of you can attend and take the opportunity to plan to meet with your legislators and discuss upcoming legislation.

Until then, stay warm and dry and enjoy every lengthening day of light!

Linda Clay  
President

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## Programs

Mark your calendars for our next monthly Branch meeting on **January 10th at Edmonds College, 10am-noon**. This will be the annual Public Policy presentation to prepare for Advocacy Day.

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## Outreach

We're looking forward to finding community engagement opportunities. If you happen to know of any, please send the info my way:  
[elena.cervantes1@gmail.com](mailto:elena.cervantes1@gmail.com)

Elena Cervantes  
Outreach & Scholarship Fundraising

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## Membership News

Our next Coffee and Conversation will be on January 21st at 11:00am at the Richmond Beach Café. This is a great opportunity to meet other members, learn about our Branch, and make new friends!

Our two new interest groups are meeting in January: game night and exploring the arts. Reach out to Jodi Forsell for more info!

Our state advocacy day is January 26<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. Registration link is on the AAUW WA State website. The theme this year is Artificial Intelligence.

Jodi Forsell & Pat Hooper

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## Sharing & Caring News

The Sharing and Caring members came through with boxes of socks, hats, scarves, and gloves...just as the weather has turned so much colder! The Winter Warmth Drive was delivered to the Hygiene Station on the December 15, to many thanks from the staff. And thanks to all our Sharing and Caring folks who donated items.

For those of you who are not aware of the Hygiene Station, it is supported by the Jean Kim Foundation, and provides much-needed showers, food, clothes, and other assistance to our homeless in Snohomish County. The Hygiene Station was in danger of closing, but Rick Steves jumped in and purchased the site on 164<sup>th</sup> in Lynnwood.

The Sharing and Caring group pulls together two to three charitable drives a year. We take suggestions from Branch members and Sharing and Caring members decide where to donate next. Watch for information about our next drive in this newsletter and join in supporting another worthy charity this Spring!

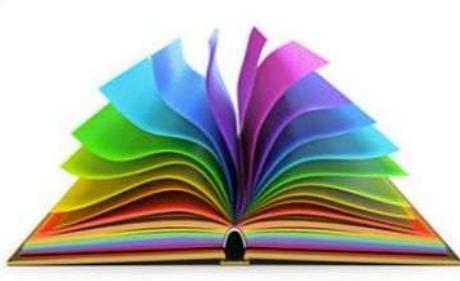


## Notes From the Board Meeting

The Board did not hold a meeting in December so watch for the next update in the February newsletter.

Sita Bhaskaran

Secretary



Our Diversity Book Club will meet on Wednesday, January 21, at 1:30pm at the home of Lori Cross. This is a change from our usual meeting date (3rd Monday of the month). The book we will discuss is "The Briar Club" by Kate Quinn. Any member is welcome to attend. Please let Lori know if you plan to come, so she will have an idea of how many people to expect.



## Public Policy Updates and Action

### NATIONAL

Nationally, there are many issues on the burner from Education policy to voting rights. AAUW National has great tools to make your advocacy easier. You can sign up for Action Network emails [at Two Minute Activist](#). If the emails are too much you can just go to the main site and see the most recent Two Minute Activist actions with quick info to comment, call, or contact on an issue. But wait there is more, once you have signed up you can find basic information about your representatives from Congress all the way down to your city council - as well as contact information and all the social media feeds that they participate in. And you can log your relationships or interactions with these officials, which allows AAUW to keep track of where they stand on things AAUW has taken a stance on. Empower yourself, the organization, and advance our goals.

### STATE

The 2026 Washington Legislature session starts on January 12<sup>th</sup>. It is a short session, scheduled to finish up 60 days later on March 12<sup>th</sup>. AAUW's virtual Advocacy Day is scheduled for Monday morning, January 26<sup>th</sup>.

I encourage everyone to use the [2026 Advocacy Day Check List](#) to get ready to meet with our legislators. We will schedule meetings with legislators for this area. Our legislative consultant, Nancy Sapiro, who provides a weekly update for AAUW, will provide an update online in the morning, and we'll arrange Zoom meetings with legislators later in the day. With a minimal investment of time, you can be up to date on our advocacy positions and prepared to talk to your legislator. If you

know your legislator, please consider arranging an appointment; the legislators really want to hear from their constituents.

AAUW's Advocacy focus this session will be AI but the legislature is also very focused on budget, and we'll want to monitor to ensure that programs that we support are not decimated by budget cuts.

Subscribe to Nancy Sapiro's [This week in Olympia](#) to keep up to date with easy links to support the AAUW's policy bills.

I look forward to discussing our public policy on January 10<sup>th</sup> and seeing our members online on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in helping with Advocacy Day, please contact Lisa Utter, Public Policy Committee Chair.

Public Policy Team

[aauw.esk.publicpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.esk.publicpolicy@gmail.com)



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