



AAUW PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITY ISSUES

Strong system of Public Education
Equality, Individual Rights and Social Justice for a Diverse Society.
Economic Self-sufficiency for Woman

MISSION

Advancing Gender Equity Through Research, Education and Advocacy

VISION

Equity for all.

VALUES

Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

AAUW FUNDS

The Educational Foundation is one of the largest sources of funding for graduate women in the world awarding millions each year in scholarships.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

(LAF) works to combat sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

Highline AAUW theme is "Harmony"

Highline Branch - May 2025 Newsletter

Serving Highline & South King County Area of Washington State



FRAUD, AGAIN! By Kay Crane

Fraud is alive and well all over the place. I am writing to tell you all about two recent efforts to steal money from Garry and me by means of one kind of fraud or another. Please take care of your hard-earned resources!

Last week Garry and I received an email which said it was from the Social Security Administration, suggesting we check our on-line account, just to make sure everything was up to date and correct. It had a faint whiff of fish about it, so I took it into our bank manager at Umpqua, Lynda Isernio, who was kind enough to speak to our branch about fraud recently.

Lynda confirmed immediately that the email was the opening effort in a scam because: The government does not use email to reach people. It sends snail mail. The letter is too general. It says that their advice will depend on our age group. If it were "for real" they'd know our age group.

We've never set up an on-line Social Security account.

Clearly the first questions they'll ask are for our Social Security numbers, birth dates, home address and other personal information. The Social Security Administration has all the information it needs about us.

I forwarded the email from "Social Security" to our son Daniel who works on Consumer Fraud for the Department of Justice. It won't be the only fraud attempt on his desk!

I was still feeling smug and pleased with myself for stopping this fraud effort in its tracks when another, different one, started yesterday. Our credit card company sent an email saying that our card had just been used at Lowes to the tune of \$1250. The credit card company asked politely whether that was our charge or not. I answered immediately "not", and they stopped the card in its tracks. In the last few hours, the number has been used in Virginia Beach (Virginia), Houston (Texas) and Los Angeles (California) while Garry and I have been here in Washington State. The credit card company is all set up for this particular kind of fraud: they will take care of the charges and are issuing us a new credit card with a new number. They have even sent us a list of the companies they think still have that card number so I can get in touch with them and either give them the new number or not, as I decide.

I expect every one of you has equivalent stories to tell. Keep your eyes open! Remember that the government uses snail mail, does not email or text or phone calls to reach people. Anyone who insists that their particular deal is good for only the next week or two hours or whatever, is up to no good. When in doubt, don't! Discuss the situation with a friend or relative or trusted bank official or another advisor. Trust your instincts: if you smell fish, it's probably because the "deal" is fishy!

My two-bit advice – Credit cards are safer than debit cards. You can call a credit card company any time of the week and fraudulent charges can be frozen immediately. If it's a debit card, you may have to wait for the next business day for any action, so the thieves may continue charging and could clean out your checking account in no time. Anneliese

**State of the State Speech for AAUW-WA Annual Meeting
April 26, 2025**



I plan to share highlights of the year and some of our activities as well as give a more detailed picture of what our board members do for AAUW-WA.

One program highlight this year, the first in-person conference at Renton Technical College, was "Telling Our Story" by Jimi Okubanjo, producer of the "Arise Firebird" documentary. The focus stories were of professional women and their struggles for equity in the corporate world. Members interacted with President, Dr. Yoshiko Hayden, DEI Director, Doris Martinez and CEO, April Sims of the Washington State Labor Council.

We also started a series of Fireside chats; the first one was on the Future of AAUW. Two others were presentations by branches on promoting election participation such as community forums and fund-raising projects. The last one was a follow-up from Lobby Day, reviewing our bills in the legislature.

The Public Policy team is a very active component of AAUW-WA. They sponsored, along with programs, the Lobby/ Advocacy Day and worked with our legislative advocate, attorney Nancy Sapiro for our Senate and House bills that reflect our mission "Equity for all" in areas of education, health and economic security. Nancy, along with Public Policy and Communications is providing members with up-to date status of our bills and actions that members can take. Public Policy members have had the Seattle Times accept two Op Eds, one on the Washington Cares Act and the other on Pay Transparency. They also worked on a third one, SB 5355 which provides safety in institutions of higher education for student survivors of sexual assault.

AAUW-WA offered a "Great Decisions" presentation and discussion with members from Oregon, Idaho, and Washington with Dr. Jeffery Morton, Professor of Political Science at Florida Atlantic University and Fellow of the Foreign Policy Association on "The Israeli Palestinian Conflict". Members felt that it was a balanced presentation of the role of the United States in the larger context of recent history in the Middle East.

Besides these state-wide programs, we also support a STEM Summer Camp (Tech Trek) for 110 girls going into 8th grade, held at PLU, July 12-19. AAUW national research shows that girls at this age are open to exploring opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math. Branches are actively selecting girls based on recommendations from their science/math teachers, as well as giving this opportunity to girls who may not otherwise be able to attend such a camp.

I wish to thank our Board members for their participation even though you may hear from some. Thank you to **Susie Johnson**, VP of Finance who monitors the budget and our investments and for offering a meeting for branch treasurers. Thank you to **Barbara Sando**, Vice President, Bylaws and Policies, for her tracking the Community Hub which provides updating memberships for the Evergreen Leader monthly. Thank you to our secretary, **Sandy Heidergott** for her prompt minute review. Thank you to **Sandra Distelhorst**, our Public Policy leader, for her research, investigation of the legislative issues, her work with the national Advocacy Team, and to her committee members who meet every week in the legislative season and bi-monthly when not. Thank you to **Jeanne Nygard** who provides engaging topics at monthly meetings for branch membership vice presidents as well as welcome letters to new, renewing and returning members. Thank you to **Nadine Stecklein** with Colleges and Universities for reaching out to college members and her assistance to branches in sending college women to NCCWSL, now managed by NAPA. Thank you to **Mary Ross** for her work on handling the new web format, keeping our web page current, offering workshops to branches on their web page updates and Canva. Thank you to **Judi Edwards**, the Evergreen Leader editor, her representation of the Special Projects Fund. Thank you to **Jodi Forsell** for her work on offering a variety of Programs. Thank you to **Myrna Muto** who has joined the Board replacing Yvonne Berliner for DEI and now DEIA, Diversity Equity Inclusion and Accessibility; she is our representative on the national Diversity committee and offers a monthly meeting for our branches.

Again, we cannot say "Thank you" enough.

Emily Hitchens, AAUW-WA State Board President



AAUW-WA Public Policy Priorities – 2025-2027

AAUW-WA's Public Policy Priorities are chosen according to the criteria of critical need, viability, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership. These STATE priorities are informed by national and local action. Additional priorities may be added based on circumstances. Updated [National AAUW Public Policy Principles and Priorities for 2025 - 2027](#) will be voted on by membership in April. National has narrowed their focus for advocacy to that of higher education, whereas AAUW-WA has kept a more expansive list of issues to allow room for branches to choose those areas most important to their members and communities.

Education

AAUW-WA Education Priorities

- Vigorous enforcement of state-related Title IX policies, protect student rights; prohibit harassment and bullying in schools
- Inclusive curriculum that includes STEM, sexual health education and civics education
- Equitable access to technology, including broadband and media literacy training
- Subsidized early learning as part of state public education
- Apprenticeship programs providing equal access for women and underrepresented populations
- Higher education and career training accessible to all students; reduce barriers to success (See national priorities)
- Oppose privatization of public education

Economic Security

AAUW-WA Economic Security Priorities

- Leadership training for career development; mitigate occupational segregation
- Work-life balance (e.g., paid family medical leave, livable wage, pay equity, childcare)
- Workplace safety and protections from discrimination
- Preserve social safety net programs
- Equitable taxation and program funding allocations

Health and Wellbeing

AAUW-WA Health and Wellbeing Priorities

- Comprehensive healthcare including insurance coverage, health system regulation
- Reproductive care and long-term care
- Trauma-informed medical services for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence
- Healthcare professionals and public awareness/training and research regarding women's unique health needs
- Climate and environmental policy that protects women and vulnerable populations.

Social Justice and Civil Rights

AAUW-WA Social Justice Priorities

- Self-determination in reproductive health, gender-identity and family structures
- Freedom from violence, abuse, and bias, including sexual assault and gun violence; support for survivors
- Freedom of information and protection from mis- and dis-information

Approved by AAUW-WA membership April 26, 2025.



AAUW HIGHLINE BRANCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 4, 2025 – 1:05 – 2:00 PM

Present: Kay Crane, Emily Hitchens, Teri Riordan, Anneliese Ellerton, Wendy Wenger and Jean Munro.

Agenda

Update on the AAUW-WA Annual State Meeting to be held on April 26, 2025, between 10 AM and 1 PM. Anneliese will send out a reminder with a link to registrar for the meeting. Emily stated that updated information had been posted in the March 26th Evergreen Leader.

Membership Renewals: Teri suggested that members be encouraged to renew online. Wendy brought up the concern not all of members were comfortable with that process. It was decided that renewal reminders would be emailed and mailed to a few members who do not have online facilities. Instructions would be sent regarding online renewal as well as renewal forms for those who decide to pay by check. Calls may be made to members reminding them to renew and help with the renewal process.

Emily reported on the Olympia Branch 100th birthday meeting.

New Business:

April 5th “Hands Off” Rally: There will be a public rally in Des Moines from 1:00 to 2:00 P.M. The board advised that any signs carried by AAUW members should not officially display political affiliation. AAUW has specific guidelines regarding these issues.

April 13th “Fireside” zoom discussion by Michael Scott-Baumann on Israel and Palestine is scheduled. The Evergreen Leader has published this event. Anneliese will also email a reminder with a link to the event.

May 22nd - Renton Technical College (RTC) Art Show is currently showing at the college. A decision to attend was put on hold until Jean was able to obtain the final details for the board. Jean was asked specific questions such as date, publicity, reservations and other requirements. She will look into lunch meeting reservations for May 22nd.

May 15th Meeting at Huckleberry Gardens in Burien was postponed. The board was informed that the owner requested a date after the 15th due to their heavy seasonal business. It was suggested to hold off this event until June 17 through 20th.

Dinner Group - The branch had a dinner group a few years ago, but it was discontinued. It was suggested that a planning meeting could be held in July to revive and organize it.

Other Business

Anneliese thanked the board for praising her work on the newsletter. This was based on a compliment that Emily received from a member of her YWCA group.

Next Board meeting: Friday May 2nd at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Wenger, recording secretary

Highline Branch Leadership Team

Co-Presidents

Jean Munro 206-579-6035
jeanmariemunro10@gmail.com

Kay Crane 206-242-0605
gandkcrane@msn.com

Finance

Teri Riordan 425-228-7485
teririordan@yahoo.com

Secretary

Wendy Wenger 206-242-0245(w) 206-276-6494 (c)
2015AAUW@gmail.com

Tech Trek Liaison

Emily Hitchens
206-824-6816
Ameliahitchens95@gmail.com

Membership/Newsletter

Anneliese Ellerton
858-205-3771
ellerton13@gmail.com

Social Communications

Mary Kay Ault 206-772-4156
marykayault@msn.com

Public Policy

Kerry Lohr 206-870-4136

State Board

Emily Hitchens 206-824-6816
ameliahitchens95@gmail.com

Mailer

Carol Erickson 206-246-5767
ericksoncarol677@gmail.com

Website

Jean Munro, Lynn Zachow

Summary of Board Meeting May 2, 2025

Present: Wendy Meyers, Kay Crane, Mary Kay Ault, Emily Hitchens and Anneliese Ellerton. CTO – 1:05 pm

May meetings:

May 15 – Huckleberry Gardens visit tabled.

The board decided to change venue to Zenith Holland Garden and then to Emily's for tea. Date: Saturday June 21st. Meet at nursery at 1 pm then to Emily's for tea.

May 22 – RTC art show & luncheon - Jean emailed that she is waiting for the official art exhibit invitation. Date discussed was May 22nd. This is not an official branch meeting. Kay suggested this is an excursion.

May Branch Meeting - Saturday brunch at Wesley May 24th. Book/puzzle exchange. Potluck? Other ideas? Favorite travel experiences. Kay will check with Carol Mohler for reservation on the 24th.

July party to celebrate honorary lifetime members, Kay Crane, Linda Wade and Pat Scott. Special honorary certificates for Molly Nordhaus Cone and Gwen Koch, since AAUW national seems unable to recognize them. To be held at Wesley Gardens. Kay will contact Carol Mohler to make reservation. Certificates to be printed by Emily. Time to be arranged. Maybe hors d'oeuvres. Afternoon meeting. 12th or 26th? (*update: meeting confirmed for July 26th*)

AAUW Highline Brochure prepared by Anneliese. Board gave approval to print 100 copies for \$76 & free shipping (by Canva).

Dinner Group: Mary Kay re-introduced idea of a former cuisine group. Kay offered to host the planning meeting. Anneliese and Mary Kay still have the list of those who originally signed up. Mary Kay will email those on the list to ask if they are interested.

Renewals –How are renewals coming? Too soon to tell? Checks to be sent to Teri Riordan (treasurer). Updated renewal form and instructions on how to renew online will be in the newsletter.

New Business: Suggestions for excursion groups, such as art, museums, theaters, gardens, Greek Orthodox fairs, visiting Trolls, etc. Kay suggested sending a survey to members for ideas they might have for excursions. Anneliese will include survey in the newsletter. Also, it would be a good idea to form a committee to organize events.

Adjourned at 2:15 - Next meeting Friday, June 6th?



What are your favorite AAUW activities or programs? _____

Any suggestions for future AAUW Highline programs or activities? _____

Would you be interested in any of the following: Art, film or music groups, visits to local museums, gardens, walking tours, special excursions? _____

Are you interested in continuing our Cuisine/Culture group? _____

Please offer your ideas. We would love to get your feedback. _____

Please email Anneliese at ellerton13@gmail.com with your feedback. Thanks!

Highline Branch Member News & Announcements



To Our Highline Branch Members who may be feeling "Under the Weather", recovering from illness, injuries or surgery.

Wishing all the best for Penny Tetter and a full recovery from her stroke. We look forward to seeing her smile again at our meetings.

If you know of anyone who needs some well wishes or cheering up, please let us know so we can send a card.



Happy May Birthdays

Janis Jacobson 5/4

Gwen Koch 5/6

Jane Emerson 5/25

Kathleen Rathbun 5/5

Liz Zietz 5/9

Chris Kopet 5/30

If we have missed anyone's birthday, please email Anneliese at ellerton13@gmail.com



Membership Renewal

Update on National & Highline Branch Dues

The National Board met in February and discussed a proposal to increase National dues by \$5/year for the next five years. Based on feedback received from members and staff recommendations, a smaller National dues increase was approved. **National dues will increase by \$2/year this year and again next year**, effective on April 1 for each year.

The good news is that Highline and WA State dues are unchanged for 2025-2026. Effective April 1, new members and those renewing their branch memberships will pay just \$2 more. \$97 (\$74 National + \$10 State + \$13 Branch). *If the new fees cause a financial hardship, members who wish to continue their membership, may contact the board.*

If you would like to renew online (preferred) please use this link: <https://www.aauw.org/>

For instructions on renewing online, download "Step by Step Tutorial for Renewing Your AAUW Membership Online".

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=3519c59337&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-a:r-1076801951245424633&th=1956db592a0e7c7a&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=f_m7xyf2zo0&zw

If you do not wish to renew online, here is the downloadable renewal form which you can print and send with check to our treasurer Teri Riordan (see form below).



"Diversity, Equity and Inclusion"

Annual Membership Renewal

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Directory Information (*please fill in if there are any changes*)

Today's Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

College(s)/University (s) attended: _____ Degree(s): _____

Birthday: (M/D) _____ (so we can send you a card)

Check your membership category:

___ Renewal of regular membership (National \$74+State \$10+ Branch \$13) **\$97**

___ Life Member (for existing Life Members (State \$10 + Branch \$13) \$23

___ Honorary Life Member for members 50+ years (State \$5 + Branch \$13) \$18

___ Dual Member (if Seattle/other is primary AAUW Branch) \$13

___ Friend of Branch \$13

___ Donation (voluntary) \$__

I am enclosing my annual dues check, payable to Highline AAUW for \$__

Please renew online at <https://www.aauw.org/>

Or mail completed form and check to:

**AAUW Highline
c/o Teri Riordan
18315 152nd Ct SE
Renton, WA 98058**

Please detach and return upper portion only-----✂



Keep this Receipt

___ Renewal of regular membership (National \$74+State \$10+ Branch \$13) **\$97**

___ Life Member (for existing Life Members (State \$10 + Branch \$13) \$23

___ Honorary Life Member, for members 50+ years (State \$5 +Branch \$13) \$18

___ Dual Member (if Seattle/other is primary AAUW Branch) \$13

___ Friend of Branch \$13

___ Donation (voluntary) \$__

Total remitted-----\$_____

Check # _____ or money order _____



Friday, April 7, at 1:00 pm: Highline Board Zoom Meeting

Seattle Branch invites you: Saturday, May 17 at 10:00 am: May Program & Annual Meeting

Shattering the Prison Pipeline with Andrea Altheimer

Location: Northwest African American Museum, 2300 S. Massachusetts St., Seattle

Free, reservations required: RSVP@aauw-seattle.org

For more information on Seattle events, visit the website at www.aauw-seattle.org

Thursday, May 22nd: Renton Technical College (RTC) Art Show and luncheon. Jean Munro will email the invitation. This is an open meeting for anyone interested in viewing the local art exhibits.

Saturday, May 24th, 10:30am – 12:30 pm: Potluck Brunch and Branch Meeting to be held at Wesley Gardens Club Room. Members are invited to bring their favorite dish and share their favorite travel experiences.

Saturday, June 21st: Meet at Zenith Holland Gardens & Nursery in Des Moines at 1:00 pm for a tour. Afterwards, members are invited to the home of Emily Hitchens for tea. *Further details to follow.*

Saturday, July 26th, 2:00 – 4:00 pm: End of year party to celebrate our branch's Honorary Lifetime members. Light afternoon refreshments will be available. Location: Wesley Gardens Club Room.

West Seattle & Points South online interest group: Several of our Highline members have joined the above group, which meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 am. The current theme is "Writing triggers". Next meeting is on Tuesday, May 13, at 10:00 am. If you are interested in joining this virtual coffee club, email Barbara Sando at barbarasando@yahoo.com

Time to Vote on National Bylaws and Public Policy Priorities

All members should have received their National ballot and instructions via e-mail. The voting period for the proposed National bylaws changes and revised public policy priorities runs through **May 13th at 2 pm PDT**. Results of the voting will be available on May 14th. [For details, see [proposed bylaws changes](#) and [proposed public policy priorities changes](#) on the AAUW website.]

For more information regarding AAUW-WA events, visit the website at <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/>



Sunday, May 11th



Morning and Afternoon Book Group Discussion Meetings

2nd Friday – Mornings at 9:30 am unless otherwise specified *

May 9, 9:30 am – *True Tales of Puget Sound* by Dorothy Wilhelm, Discussion: Anneliese Ellerton, Host: Judy Storey

June 13, 9:30 am – *The Women* by Kristen Hannah, Discussion: Kathie Walker, Host: Kathy Linnell

July 11, 9:30 am – *Something Lost, Something Gained* by Hillary Clinton, Discussion: Joanna Brunso, Host: Eva Parks

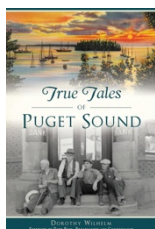
1st Monday - Afternoons at 2:30 pm unless otherwise specified *

May 5, 2:30 pm – *Northwest Trolls: The Way of the Bird King* by Thomas Dambo, Host: Janis Jacobson

June 2, 2:30 pm – *Underland: A Deep Time Journey* by Robert MacFarlane, Host: Emily Hitchens

August 4, 2:30 pm – *The Last Devil to Die*, by Richard Osman, Host: Kerry Lohr

True Tales of Puget Sound by Dorothy Wilhelm



From the shores of Gig Harbor to the slopes of Mount Rainier, the towns surrounding Puget Sound all have incredible stories to share. How did Old Fort Nisqually, now perched on a lofty bluff above Tacoma, move twenty-two miles from its original 1843 site in DuPont? Did Eatonville's copper-infused paint inspire the phrase "painting the town red"? Read about the famed Pie Goddess of Enumclaw and about a cookbook compiled by Emma Smith DeVoe of Parkland that included helpful tips from suffragettes. Join author Dorothy Wilhelm, of the television show *My Hometown*, as she explores these beloved town tales and uncovers the rest of the story. (*Amazon*)

Northwest Trolls: The Way of the Bird King. by Thomas Dambo



Fairytale and Exhibition

During the summer of 2023 I drove through the USA and installed ten amazing larger than life troll sculptures made from locally sourced recycled wood. The road trip was called *Way of the Bird King* and now you can also read the fairytale featuring all the trolls from [Way of the Bird King](#):

In a world where chaos swirls and destinies intertwine, Oscar, a once-ordinary young wooden troll, reluctantly finds himself engulfed in a great adventure. Traveling through forest, mountains, endless planes and over wicked waters Oscar meets new friends and a few foes, a sweet old Orca swimming in the dark goo and a little human child with a

birdhouse staff.

Will [Oscar find the legendary Bird King](#)? Or does destiny have a different crown waiting for him?

Dive into this enthralling tale that weaves folklore, environmental awareness, and the discovery of one's true potential.

(*Thomas Dambo*)

Jakob Two Trees in Issaquah



I'd never even seen a Troll until I recently visited Jakob Two Trees in April and by coincidence, my daughter and grandkids went to Lincoln Park later that month!

Now I plan to visit more. Anneliese

Bruun Idun in Lincoln Park



AAUW Highline Branch Newsletter
2121SW 152nd Street, #203
Burien, WA 98166

