



Highline Branch - June 2025 Newsletter

Serving Highline & South King County Area of Washington State



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"

Mark your calendars for our **June 20th "First Day of Summer"** meeting at Zenith Holland Nursery at 23260 Marine View Drive S, Des Moines at 1:00 pm!

We will learn about the history of the area and the history of the gardens. Afterward, we are all invited to Emily's for tea. Her address is 24245 13th Avenue S, Des Moines. Please RSVP for this meeting to Mary Kay Ault at (phone) 206-772-4156 or email marykayault@msn.com.



Established in 1907, Zenith Holland Nursery is the oldest continually operating business in Des Moines. We specialize in growing and providing quality plants ranging from hardy perennials to culinary herbs, colorful annuals, sedums, ground covers and hanging baskets.



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!



AAUW HIGHLINE BRANCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2025 – 1:05 – 2:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Kay Crane at 1 p.m.
Those present: Emily Hitchens, Mary Kay Ault, Jean Munro, Teri Riordan, and Kay Crane.

Plans for the June meeting: Date is Friday, June 20, at Zenith Holland Gardens in Des Moines, at 1 p.m. The Gardens location is 23260 Marine View Drive, Des Moines; phone 206-878-7002. We will learn about the history of the area and the history of the gardens. Afterward, we are all invited to Emily's for tea. Her address is 24245 13th Avenue S, Des Moines. Please RSVP for this meeting to Mary Kay Ault at (phone) 206-772-4156 or email marykayault@msn.com.

The July meeting is scheduled for Wesley Gardens on Saturday, July 26, from 2-4 p.m. We will be honoring our long-term members.

Our treasurer Teri reports that renewals are coming well.

Mary Kay is going to send an email to the people who came to the dinner group planning meeting, going ahead with the first of the dinners.

Penny Tetter is home now, enjoying her cat, and would welcome calls and visits. Phone 206-818-1946, address 132 169th Place, Burien.

We discussed a theme for the coming year and agreed on "Participation and Engagement."

State AAUW is planning a conference for September 6 to be at Heritage College in Toppenish.

Mary Kay is interested in starting a "Read the Book and See the Movie" study group.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 7 at 1 p.m. on zoom. All members, of course, are welcome. If you would like to attend, please let a board member know so you receive the zoom link.

The meeting adjourned just after 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Crane



*AAUW Highline Newsletter will be on summer vacation.
We look forward to seeing you in September!*

Highline Branch Leadership Team

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Jean Munro, Lynn Zachow

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 and speedy recovery for Kathleen Rathbun.

We are happy for Penny Tetter who is now recovered and back home.

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



Happy June/July/August Birthdays

Judy Storey 6/9

Sharon Feucht 6/13

Elise Stratton 6/14

Kathy Linnell 6/24

Eva Parks 6/29

Mary Kay Ault 7/4

Betsy Bermel 7/27

Sallye Gilbert 8/22

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

May Branch Meeting & Social



Our AAUW Highline Holiday Brunch was held on Saturday, May 24th at Wesley Gardens Club Room. Twelve members and two guests attended.

Kay Crane opened the meeting with a cheerful greeting to all of the members and guests. Some of the items she addressed were, celebrating Molly Cone's long awaited Honorary Lifetime membership, future branch meetings.



She then introduced Highline branch member and retired state senator Karen Keiser, who gave an overview of current legislative events and issues. She stated that WA State was in good shape in supporting those in need, despite federal cutbacks.

Members shared their holiday experiences which were camping the Oregon coast, exotic cruises, and a spectacular archeological trip to Petra in Jordan. Other trips included hiking in Glacier Park and a windy trip in Norway with disastrous consequences.



Members then shared some of their best childhood vacation experiences. All in all, it was a great meeting and the refreshments were excellent.



We have three girls going to Tech Trek! Kaylie, Amani and Zoe. They are all from Meeker Middle School near Panther Lake in Kent.

Their science teacher is also going, and she will have a couple of workshops as well! Her name is Neeraj Agnihotri. Thursday, July 17th is the day that AAUW members visit the program at PLU.

Submitted by Emily Hitchens



National AAUW SPPC News June 4, 2025

1) Public Policy Priorities - The new trifold is a surprise - a good one! It includes the higher ed priorities on one side and more comprehensive issues on the other.

[Trifold on the 2025-2027 Public Policy Principles and Priorities.pdf](#)

2) Budget reconciliation bill - AAUW is calling for a Day of Action June 12th to oppose the bill.

Send the AAUW action alert AND call Sen Murray and Sen Cantwell.

- AAUW action alert. Click [this link](#):
- June 12th Day of Action
 - Call Senator Murray's Office: WA DC: 202-224-2621; Seattle: 206-553-5545
 - Call Senator Cantwell's Office: WA DC: 202-224-3441; Seattle: 206-220-6400
- [Talking points and WA state data](#)

3) U.S. Department of Energy Direct Final Rules* rescinding civil rights protections against sex-based discrimination in [sports](#) and [education](#); [race-based discrimination](#); [disability discrimination](#); [age discrimination](#) - deadline to comment is June 16. AAUW is developing a template for members to use for comments.

- See [AAUW-WA summary of DOE' 47 Rules being rescinded](#).

*Direct final rules bypass that typical regulatory process that takes one to two years with an extended public comment period.

4) President's FY26 proposed budget for Department of Education

See Patty Murray [summary of Budget](#).

See How FY26 budget would impact your school district - see the OSPI [Map](#) and to see how it would impact your school district see the OSPI [Spreadsheet](#). For example, Seattle would face a \$2 million dollar loss, Spokane \$2.5 million dollars, and Walla Walla \$1 million dollars.

5) NO KINGS Demonstration June 14th. We can't endorse candidates, but we can criticize elected officials about their policies. Discussion on if that means we can criticize Trump? Kaline referred to the guidance document and asked members to consider if it is an issue past nonpartisan gathering or a partisan protest. There were some states who assumed they could wear their AAUW Badge, others assumed not. WHY can't AAUW support democracy - we don't have to stay out of the fight. Here is the guidance. [AAUW Guidance on Public Demonstrations](#)

6) A State Chair asked for clarification on changing 501c3 to 501c4. Kalina will follow up.

7) CA share trans allyship guide: <https://sites.google.com/view/aauw-ca-public-policy-allyship/home>

Note - WA state had 4 anti-trans bills introduced last session on our watch list for 2026. **Note that 28 House Reps co-sponsored anti-trans legislation and 3 Senators.**

- [H.B. 1699](#) Defending equity in interscholastic sports. Sponsors: [Volz](#), [Walsh](#), [Chase](#), [Graham](#), [Griffey](#), [Schmidt](#), [Stuebe](#), [Dent](#), [Orcutt](#), [Ley](#), [Klicker](#), [Barkis](#), [Caldier](#), [Abbarno](#), [Couture](#), [Marshall](#), [McClintock](#), [Burnett](#), [Schmick](#), [Dye](#), [Jacobsen](#), [Connors](#), [Corry](#), [Ybarra](#), [Barnard](#), [Engell](#)
- [S.B. 5136](#) Protecting the rights of parents and guardians by using students' given names in public schools. Sponsors: [McCune](#), [Fortunato](#), [Wilson, J.](#)
- [H.B. 1027](#) Concerning housing of inmates in state correctional facilities. Sponsors: [Jacobsen](#), [Marshall](#), [Burnett](#), [Couture](#)
- [H.B. 1038](#) Prohibiting puberty blocking medications, cross-sex hormones, and gender transition surgeries for minors. Sponsors: [Jacobsen](#), [Marshall](#), [McEntire](#), [Ley](#), [Walsh](#), [Schmidt](#), [Eslick](#)

8) There are 4 bills AAUW is supporting – all bills we have seen before during Democratic control leadership that also have not moved (like the ERA) and have little chance of moving forward in 2026 but is “an opportunity to highlight the issues”.

[Gender Equity in Education Act](#) (GEEA) aims to strengthen Title IX enforcement by providing educational entities with resources, training, and technical assistance to ensure gender equity. In 2023 Rep. DelBene and Kilmer and Senator Cantwell were co-sponsors.

- [Women and Underrepresented Minorities in STEM Booster Act](#) would grant 15,000,000 each fiscal year from 2026 to 2030 to the National Science Foundation to increase participation of women and underrepresented minorities in STEM.
- [Helping Student Parents Succeed Act](#) will be reintroduced. It would ensure that student parents know their rights and have access to their school's policies on leave, accommodations, childcare, financial aid eligibility and more.
- [Understanding Student Parent Outcomes Act \(117th session\)](#), would add parenting status to national education data.

Call to Action – ask your Congressional Reps to co-sponsor bills.



"In just 100 days, the Trump Administration has made one thing unmistakably clear: it is waging an aggressive campaign to dismantle higher education — impacting the very students who need it the most." (100 Days of the Trump Administration: A Relentless Assault on Higher Education." [AAUW press release](#)) AAUW Fact Sheet: [Key Executive Order and Actions in Trump's First 100 Days](#)
We are proud to be an independent, fearless voice for equity, and we are organizing with renewed urgency against this dangerous agenda. The future of higher education is at stake. The future of opportunity is at stake.
We must act — loudly, boldly, relentlessly. Join us. Fight back. Defend the right to learn. [TAKE THE PLEDGE FOR EQUITY.](#)



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 _____



Monday, July 7, at 1:00 pm: Highline Board Zoom Meeting

Seattle Branch invites you: Tuesday, June 17, 2025, 6:30-9:30 pm

2025 AWIS Awards Banquet

Location: UW Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st St., Seattle , WA 98105

Seattle AWIS (Association for Women in Science) invites you to their awards banquet where Seattle AAUW will be a table sponsor.

The public is invited to the banquet – AWIS members and non-members, all gender identities, students & professionals! Contact Gay, AAUW President, for availability at the AAUW Seattle table president@aauw-seattle.org.

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

Friday, June 20: 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. (*See page 1 for details*)

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, July 8, at 10:00 am**. If you are interested in joining this virtual coffee club, email Barbara Sando at barbarasando@yahoo.com

Branch Meeting: Saturday, July 26, 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.

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

Open Position for Board Secretary – We Need Your Help!

The Board is looking for a branch member who is willing to contribute just a few hours of her time a month.

Duties of the secretary are recording and keeping minutes of all board, membership, and special meetings.

The secretary shall also facilitate and promote the purpose and mission of AAUW.

Please contact Kay Crane at gandkcrane@msn.com or call her at 206-242-0605 if you would like to help.

Morning and Afternoon Book Group Discussion Meetings



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

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: Kathy Linnell

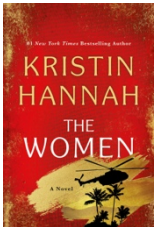
August 8, 9:30 am – *Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride, Discussion: Liz Zietz, Host: Eva Parks

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

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

***The Women* by Kristen Hannah**



From the celebrated author of *The Nightingale* and *The Four Winds* comes Kristin Hannah's *The Women*—at once an intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time and an epic tale of a nation divided.

Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

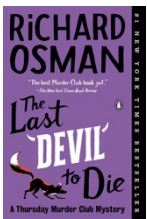
As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is over-whelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets—and becomes one of—the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost.

But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

The Women is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.

Goodreads

***The Last Devil to Die: A Thursday Murder Club Mystery* by Richard Osman**



The fourth installment in the beloved and New York Times bestselling series from Richard Osman, also author of We Solve Murders

"The best Murder Club book yet. . . A poignant complement to both the fair-play mystery plot and the characters' lively humor."

—The New York Times Book Review

It's rarely a quiet day for the Thursday Murder Club.

Shocking news reaches them—an old friend has been killed, and a dangerous package he was protecting has gone missing.

The gang's search leads them into the antiques business, where the tricks of the trade are as old as the objects themselves. As they encounter drug dealers, art forgers, and online fraudsters—as well as heartache close to home—Elizabeth, Joyce, Ron, and Ibrahim have no idea whom to trust.

With the body count rising, the clock ticking down, and trouble firmly on their tail, has their luck finally run out?

And who will be the last devil to die?

AAUW Highline Branch Newsletter
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AAUW-WA supports diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and academic freedom in Washington state colleges and universities.

“AAUW will not stand silent while these rights are stripped away behind closed doors or buried in bureaucratic budgets.”

AAUW Press Release
“100 Days of the Trump Administration”