



CHANGING THE WORLD ONE WOMAN AND GIRL AT A TIME

March Agent

Volume 39 Issue 9

Anacortes Branch

presented by



At our March meeting, Patsy Martin, Executive Director of the Port of Skagit will present an update on a number of Port projects. Patsy will share about exciting developments happening at Skagit Regional Airport, Bayview Business Park, La Conner Marina and SWIFT Center, as well as some of the Port's special initiatives including broadband and value-added agriculture.



Port of Skagit

Join us on Thursday, March 11, at 7:00 p.m. via zoom. The link will be sent to you the day before the meeting so it will be easy to find.

Community members are welcome, but must register with our Zoom Host, Nelle Jacobson, at nelleadyj@gmail.com

Putting the "fun" in fundraiser!



At our General Meeting we approved a fun and fanciful fundraiser. It's a photo contest to select 12 Mermen to ride on a float in the 4th of July Parade and appear in a calendar that will be for sale online. We hope to find local men who will enter individually or organize a group that may include mermaids and/or "merkids" in family-friendly costumes. We also hope to get local businesses involved as sponsors. **Here's how you can be involved.** During the month of March, we are asking members to help us promote this idea in order to find willing participants and sponsors prior to a public announcement about the event. Share the attached flyer if you know someone who might be interested or is affiliated with builders, oil companies, fishing fleets, firemen, policemen, ship builders, yacht clubs, hardware

stores, restaurants, Rotary, Kiwanis, etc. We may also need help with patterns and sewing. Get creative and join us in the fun! If you have questions or ideas to share, contact terribawden@hotmail.com or visit <https://anacortes-wa.aauw.net/events/fundraisers/>

Upgrade to LIFE MEMBER and save \$\$\$\$\$

During the month of March, members can upgrade to a life membership for \$1121. This fully tax deductible gift also saves \$119 if done by March 15; after that the price goes up to \$1240. Anyone who upgrades now will be exempt from any further national dues but will pay state and branch dues each year. Watch for a mass mailing with more information and a personalized link for you to make the payment.

\$10 donation for each ticket

We have extended the deadline for the basket drawing for another month. Think about who might like to receive this as a gift if it's not right for you. The drawing will take place at the April board meeting and the winner will be announced at the April meeting.



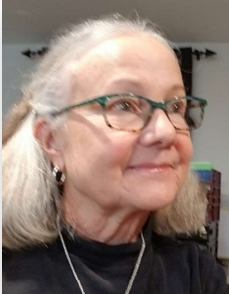
welcome

to our newest member, Sally Pullen. Sally was able to join us for our February meeting and it was a pleasure to get to

talk with her a little. Here is the information you need to update your directory: 1303 30th

Street, Anacortes; phone 602.679.9161; email snap6151@gmail.com.

Sally is a retired public school band and orchestra teacher. "I believe in women's equality in all occupations, a woman's right to choose and justice and fairness in government. Some things I am interested in: reading mysteries, historical fiction, and current affairs, sewing, gardening, travelling, cooking, hiking, and bicycling."



Member news: *Meredith Machin* is settled in her new residence and enjoying her new community. You can drop her a note at 4340 Borgen Blvd. 1447,

Gig Harbor, WA 98332. She recently shared with me that our dear friend, *Letty Hafer*, has had another stroke and is currently receiving Hospice care. Letty was very active in our chapter, often a board member, and an integral part of our early STEM program.

AAUW-WA Lobby Day was a roaring success! One hundred and thirty-five members and guests attended the training and listened to the outstanding speakers on topics that included the state budget and its impact on women; women's health and the changes in hospital ownership in WA state; and electing women to office.



In addition to AAUW-WA President Mary Williams and Public Policy Chair Karen Anderson, the following speakers presented:

- Dr. Laura Sienas, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, spoke about her horrific experiences as a provider and her support of SB 5140, Pregnancy and Miscarriage Care Act (Substitute SB5140 passed the senate on February 17).
- Margaret Babayan, Washington State Budget and Policy Center, showed us well-researched information to understand new revenue bills and tax credits legislation.
- AAUW WA lobbyist Nancy Sapiro brought us up to speed on legislation overall and how to keep current.
- Karen Besserman, Emerge WA, talked about how much support women need to run for public office and her organization's effort to fill the gap, as well as other resources that are more non-partisan.
- Sandra Distelhorst of AAUW Edmonds SnoKing talked passionately about how to develop information for candidate comparisons based on lawmakers' positions on our issues. She directed us to the AAUW Advocacy Toolkit and the AAUW Action Fund web pages for more resources.

AAUW General Meeting Minutes 2/11/2021

PRESIDING: Bonnie Underwood

PRESENT: Terri Bawden, Betsy Cave, Rosette Dawson, Patricia Griffith, Linda Hendrick, Judy Higgins, Sandy Huggins, Nelle Jacobson, Vivian Kolhoff, Karen Laws, Sally Pullen, Bonnie Underwood, Laura Jane Viverette

Call to order: 7:03

Bonnie Underwood:

- Welcome to our new member, Sally Pullen.
- We have received \$200 from Fidalgo Fudge who participated in our December fundraising party. This will go into our Scholarship Fund
- There will be another drawing to win a lovely set of Body Lotions donated by Linda Hendrick. Participants should send a check for \$10 directly to Patricia Griffith. The drawing winner will be announced at next month's AAUW meeting.

Fundraising: Terri Bawden presented a power-point proposal of the "Mermen" fundraising project which she is suggesting that we pursue. This would involve recruiting men to participate in a costume contest to look like "mermen creatures." The winners would participate in the Anacortes 4th of July parade. We would also create a calendar with pictures of the contestants which people could buy. There would be entry fees for participants which would raise money for our scholarships and some of the calendar money would also contribute to our fund. Terri asked for volunteers to help with organizing this project and several responded to her request.

Program: Nelle Jacobson hosted our Program for this meeting which was devoted to our members telling of their experiences over this past year in dealing with the restrictions of the COVID19 pandemic. "What's been difficult and What has been good" Everyone seemed to appreciate our ability to connect with family and friends with the Zoom feature on the internet. Many had to cancel trips that had been planned, and not being able to sing in choirs or express affection with hugs was a universal "downer." Some appreciated having more time to work on projects, get creative with cooking, and watching movies and reading was a plus. Also getting more sleep seemed to help pass the time. One member has been able to give piano lessons to her students and another gave piano lessons to her granddaughter over Zoom! People kept up with church services, book clubs, and AAUW with the Zoom contacts. And exercising over Zoom seemed to work well for some. The general feeling was that we will be glad to get back to more normal activities and resume the activities that we have been missing.

Next months' program will be a presentation by Patsy Martin who is the Executive Director of the Port of Skagit. This is an area close to the Skagit Valley airport that is a busy business center and contributes to our whole regional economy. This meeting will be open to the public and if you have friends who would like to hear this presentation, they should contact Nelle Jacobson to receive the Zoom link for that meeting.

Adjourn: 8:15

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Higgins, Secretary