



# CHANGING THE WORLD ONE WOMAN AND GIRL AT A TIME

March Agent

Volume 39 Issue 9

Anacortes Branch

presented by



AAUW Anacortes welcomes STEM students at our meeting on April 8, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The link will be sent to you the day before the meeting. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Kelly Valentin, an associate architect. Kelly received a Master

of Architecture from Washington State University in 2018 as well as a B.S. in Architectural Studies in 2017.



**Zoom link** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87352059032>

## Seen any Mermen lately?



Now is your chance to help us raise money for scholarships through a fun community event. Our local branch is sponsoring a Merman Contest to select 12 Mermen to ride on a float in the 4th of July Parade and appear in a 2022 calendar that will be for sale online after the parade. Local men may enter individually or organize a team that must include at least one merman and may include mermaids and/or "merkids". You can help by

promoting this with friends, family and neighbors. Anyone can participate by either entering the contest or donating to the scholarship fund that is administered through the Anacortes Schools Foundation. All donations are tax-deductible. Since we are no longer selling tickets to the Spring Tea, this is a way you can help us support local women by raising scholarship funds.





**Congratulations to Patricia Griffith! Her name was drawn at the recent board meeting as the winner of the Lather gift basket. Thank you to all who participated with their donations. We raised \$90 for scholarships from the basket donated by Linda Hendrick.**

### **Program Committee**

We are currently seeking members for the program committee. If you have a program idea, please consider joining them as they begin to plan for the 2021-2022 year. There is a list of potential programs already submitted, but we want to make sure to include new ideas each year. There will be a brief discussion at our April meeting if you have questions or want to volunteer!



## **AAUW Scholarship Committee update by Barbara Benson, Chair**



AAUW Anacortes is offering \$2000 and \$1000 scholarships to women in an undergraduate or graduate degree program or a vocational program for the 2021 - 2022 school year. In January, we began advertising in local publications and announcing the opportunity at regional higher- educational institutions.

We have received five completed applications and three partial apps. April 9th is the deadline for completion. Late April, our committee will be evaluating the candidates and then interviewing our choices in mid-May.

If you know of a deserving woman, encourage her to check out the opportunity at: <https://anacortes-wa.aauw.net/> Remember April 9th is the deadline.

### **Meet our newest members by Linda Hendrick, Membership Chair**



**Sally Pullen** [snap6151@gmail.com](mailto:snap6151@gmail.com) phone: 602-679-8663

Sally moved from Arizona in April 2019 and joined Kiwanis at her neighbor's urging. She has enjoyed learning about the community through Kiwanis but longed for something different. She belonged to AAUW in Arizona but was not an active member. She is ready for the chance now.

Sally was born in northern Indiana, about a two-hour drive to Chicago and attended Indiana University as a music student for 3 years but finished at Arizona State University when her parents moved to Arizona because of her mom's health. Sally was hired immediately after student teaching and returned to ASU where she earned a Master's in Education, focusing on Early Childhood Education. She visited her elder daughter in Anacortes at different times of the year, and fell in love with the season changes, the beauty of the water and forest. She retired early after teaching band and orchestra for about 35 years and now teaches piano lessons from my newly opened studio. "I believe organizations like AAUW support women in business, government, and other walks of life and I'd like to be a part of that here in Anacortes."

Sandy Norris [snsea@comcast.net](mailto:snsea@comcast.net) phone: 206-399-2236



Sandy joined AAUW this year after retiring from Swedish Health System as Administrative Director of Medical Education. She worked at Swedish nearly twenty-five years. Her career included teaching high school (math and science) and college (business administration and marketing). She also directed physician education programs in Montana and at MultiCare Health System in Tacoma prior to moving to Seattle. Her undergraduate degree was a BS from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas and a Master's in Business Administration from Wichita State University. Sandy and her husband, Tom, are active boaters and have been enjoying weekends and vacations in Anacortes for many years. They recently decided to spend more of their retirement time based in Anacortes and enjoy the Anacortes Yacht Club and wonderful community.

## Coming soon...Your AAUW Membership Renewal / Dues Invoice

It's getting to be that time of year again. In mid-April, branch members will receive a membership renewal / dues invoice for the 2021-2022 AAUW fiscal year. Current memberships expire effective June 30 and the new membership year begins on July 1. Your invoice will be in the form of an e-mail from memberinfo@aauw.org entitled "AAUW Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2022." The invoice you receive will include a personalized link that you can use to renew online with your credit or debit card. Renewing online is the fastest way to process your renewal, and you will receive an immediate confirmation e-mail from AAUW when you do so. For those who prefer to pay by check, the invoice also includes information on how to do that.

**YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
MATTERS**

## AAUW National Election Voting opens in April - Watch your inbox for your online ballot

**AAUW**

**NATIONAL BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

Below you will find some of the opinions shared in recent Seattle branch discussion groups about the upcoming vote on removing the educational requirement for membership.

**Group 1:** The group was in agreement that "the time has come" for this change – that it fits AAUW's mission (equity for all = membership for all). There was a little skepticism about whether this is a move to just increase membership, but AAUW does not expect much of an increase. Someone mentioned that they have felt "guilty" about being a member of an exclusionary, "elitist" organization. Two people shared stories about the knowledgeable people they have known who didn't have college degrees, and others said there were people aligned with our mission whom they wanted to invite to join but couldn't because of the education requirement. It was agreed that "education" means other things besides a college degree.

**Group 2:** A couple people strongly objected to AAUW's statement, "It's the right thing to do" because it implied that if you wanted to vote No, you were somehow "bad". It was commented that AAUW's image is one of snobbishness and exclusion, and that by opening up membership our image might improve, but only if AAUW makes itself more relevant to more people.

**Group 3:** There was a general feeling that we need to move forward in the spirit of inclusion, but there was also a sense of loss of the key educational element that has been the core of AAUW. There is the acknowledgment that not everyone has the same opportunity for higher education and that should not stand in the way of people joining us in the quest for gender equity. One positive we discussed is how the removal of a degree requirement eliminates what can be an awkward conversation with acquaintances who we think would be interested in AAUW but whose educational backgrounds are unknown to us. Someone mentioned that she hesitates inviting friends to AAUW events because she does not know if they have a degree.

## AAUW General Meeting 3/11/2021 Minutes

**PRESIDING:** Bonnie Underwood, President

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Terri Bawden, Betsy Cave, Rosette Dawson, Patricia Griffith, Linda Hendrick, Judy Higgins, Nelle Jacobson, Jessica Koeberle, Vivian Kolhoff, Meredith Machin, Karen Maughan, Sandy Norris, Megan Taylor, Bonnie Underwood,

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Patsy Martin, Speaker; and invited public

Call to order: 7:01

Bonnie Underwood welcomed everyone to our AAUW March meeting. She announced that the Basket Raffle was postponed until next month and contributions can still be made for that drawing. The “Merman” fundraising project is progressing well and will be announced publicly in April. Most AAUW Board members will continue in their positions for next year, however, we are looking for two members to co-chair the Program Committee.

Bonnie announced that the AAUW meeting in April will include the STEM Awards for the High School and Middle School students and the speaker for that meeting will be Kelly Valentin.

Nelle Jacobson introduced Dr. Patsy Martin, who is the executive director of the Port of Skagit Valley. Dr. Martin, who has a background in geology, political science and environmental management, has served as Director of the Port since 2007.

Dr. Martin presented an overview of the businesses and activities that go on at the Port of Skagit, enhancing her presentation with numerous pictures of the area. She described the mission of the Port of Skagit as, “*Creating good well-paying jobs for the Skagit Valley.*” Board members, who serve 6-year terms, are focused on creating economic growth for the area and supporting the businesses that contribute to that growth.

The Port is involved in many locations within Skagit County. The most obvious entity is the Skagit Regional Airport, which provides access to our area for many businesses as well as general aviation. Bayview Business Park includes a variety of businesses such as Viva Farms, WSU Extension projects (Bread Lab), and a beer making company. Other areas in the county with Port activities include the LaConner Marina and the Swift Center, which is located at the former hospital for mental health in Sedro-Woolley. We are also cooperating with Mt. Vernon to install the Fiber Optic Network. The Port operates with an \$11 million budget and has about 1500 employees. Dr. Martin answered several questions after her presentation and then left the meeting after thanking the group for the opportunity to tell people about her organization.

Other Items: Bonnie Underwood

- We are getting good feedback about our “Mermen” fundraising project. We need to find a large flatbed truck to use in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.
- Program Coordinator Board position: This position can be filled with two people who can work together to provide speakers for our meetings next year. We need volunteers to fill this position.

Tech Trek: Rosette Dawson

- Applicants are preparing their proposals and the teachers are very enthusiastic about getting their students involved.
- Rosette is working on getting sponsors for the girls from local businesses.
- The next AAUW meeting will be the Awards for STEM.

Adjourned: 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Judy Higgins, Secretary