



CHANGING THE WORLD ONE WOMAN AND GIRL AT A TIME

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presented by



This quote from Richard Carlson will guide us at our December meeting as we gather to remember the past, celebrate the present, and look to the future of AAUW Anacortes.

Due to the increase in flu, RSV, and Covid, we will be meeting once again on zoom this **Thursday evening, December 8, at 7:00 p.m.** We plan to remember not only our past successes as a branch but commiserate the loss of friends and colleagues. We will commemorate special moments in the history of our branch, then move on to share who we have become in the last few years as we have survived as a branch through a pandemic. And last, we will look forward with anticipation to the future. What is next for our branch?

Whether you are a long-time member or new to the branch, I hope you will come ready to share your memories and experiences. What people did you meet through AAUW who are no longer with us? What special moments did you have at an event? Which speaker or meeting was most influential or enjoyable? What mission component of AAUW grabs your attention? **Meeting link will open at 6:45:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89312004594?pwd=WDhHb2IrdndVUGcwaVF6Z0d3U2s5UT09>

Calendar and tote bags were a big success at the December Holiday Farmers Market. Thanks to members Terri Bawden, Patricia Griffith, Karan Hannah, and Sally Pullen, we sold 30 calendars and several totes. Calendars are still for sale at Marine Hardware, Red Snapper, Alley Cat Vintage & Décor and Johnson Manor. Many thanks to Terri for her amusing posts featuring our Mermen and most recently our only Merdog!





November 2022 Public Policy Report

We have a great Public Policy Committee and Team working for us in the Washington on-line branch. Here is a summary of some of our team activities for November.

Elections: Many members of our team were busy working on election-related projects. Please send a summary of your branch's election-related activities to publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org. December is a great time to

send a Congratulations email to new legislators and introduce them to AAUW. We have over 20 new legislators.

Public Policy Priorities - two new priorities added: The Public Policy Committee and State Board approved two changes to AAUW-WA Public Policy Priorities: adding apprenticeships and broadband. The change will be sent to membership for comments.

Getting Ready for 2023 Public Policy Guide (draft): Last week, I presented a draft Getting Ready for 2023 Public Policy Guide to the team. With so many new and enthusiastic team members, I wanted to make the bill review process and criteria transparent and provide other useful information to help us select bills for Lobby Day support. It can feel a bit overwhelming at times trying to navigate and locate bill-related information, so having a reference document could be useful. This guide is a working document so you can expect it to be revised and updated.

Lobby Day is Jan. 30th, Lobby Week is Jan. 30th to Feb 3rd. We've heard from members that they really want talking points for bills BEFORE lobby day. We will make this a priority. We are also working on advocacy tools to share with branches including *How to Sign in PRO or Comment on Bills*.

BillTrack50: We'll continue to use BillTrack50 to monitor bills and prepare end of session scorecards. We can also create issues scorecards. The Broadband Scorecard is helpful to introduce our team to broadband bills from last session to get us up-to-speed on the topic and learn which legislators sponsored bills. The STEM Scorecard provides a nice review of last session legislation on STEM. The Abortion Scorecard gives us an overview the types of bills being introduced in our state and the sponsors.

Team Work: The Public Policy Team talked about developing an easy to use spreadsheet to track AAUW-WA and Branch advocacy work so we can coordinate and learn from each other. But we don't want to create barriers to branch or member advocacy. So, we'll keep brainstorming on this . . . and likely pilot test a shared tracking document in the next month or so.

Issue Leads: We talked about appointing Issues Leads for the 2023 session. An Issues Lead would be a member of the Public Policy Team and be our in-house expert on the topic, represent AAUW-WA on related coalitions, lead team discussions on the policy issue and if a bill is selected for Lobby Day, would be on the Lobby Day panel. We could also create Issues Teams if there is enough interest.

Currently, we have \$18,571.20 available for scholarships and awards.



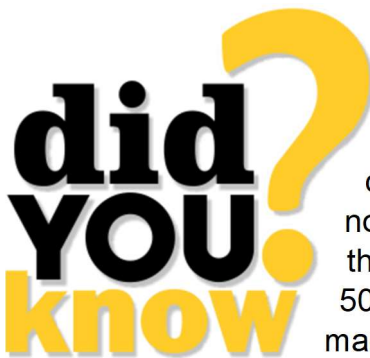


Recently Yvonne Berliner hosted a meeting to create a committee to work on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Yvonne is part of the Washington State on-line group as the branch nearest her is in Idaho. It was exciting to hear about the ways branches are working on this theme and I hope that our

Anacortes branch will be open to some fresh ideas, too. Is this something that interests you? Please let me know so you can be part of the next meeting in December. You can check out the toolbox on the national website to get more information.

I'll admit that I am not good at inviting people to meetings, however, just last week I was at a women's event and happened to make a random comment about AAUW. A woman sitting nearby asked me if I knew anything about the local branch! She had just moved here from Maryland the week before and has been in AAUW on and off since the mid-70s. We had a great conversation about AAUW, and she is excited about coming to a meeting as soon as she gets settled. I mention this because it reminds me that I need to talk about AAUW more often. I may not be good at asking people to attend, but it's easy to brag a little about our AAUW branch in passing. Try it. You might have a pleasant surprise. *bonnie*

The AAUW Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) resources aim to identify best practices for promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within AAUW. These resources present guidelines for how AAUW branches, national members, student members and individual members can demonstrate an understanding of AAUW's mission, values, goals and strategic plan. It is meant to start the inclusion conversation. We encourage all members to seek ways to incorporate inclusive practices into their branches and daily life.



Transitioning to Autonomy After five years of piloting the Tech Trek program nationwide, AAUW turned the individual programs over to the AAUW entities (states or branches) in 2018 who have been implementing the program in their local areas. Tech Trek WA has always been and continues to be a project of AAUW-WA. AAUW WA Special Projects Fund is now the sole fiscal agent for Tech Trek WA. All donations should be made through AAUW-WA SPF. AAUW-WA SPF is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization so any contributions made to AAUW-WA SPF on behalf of Tech Trek are fully



deductible to the donor. We can help support our Washington State Tech Trek by finding volunteers to work in leadership roles and support the camps as mentors. Interested? Contact Bonnie.

Just published: The Decline of Local News and its Impact on Democracy from the League of Women Votes in WA. This report has implications for all of us, especially AAUW in its work in the community and advocacy. It's long but very reader friendly! Check it out at this link:

<https://www.lwwa.org/.../Studies/LocalNews/Decline%2036.pdf>

Due to the diligent work of our Washington state IRS team, Kyle McEligot, Barbara Sando, and India Nishi we are once again a legitimate 501c4. It took a focused, hardworking, and knowledgeable consultant, Linda Akey, and advice from several non-profit accountants and attorneys, but it's done. Susie Johnson, our Finance Officer, has even filed our current 990-N, so we are in full compliance with all legal requirements



Lobby Day will be virtual this year. Mark your calendar for Monday, January 30th. The 2023 session is a long one (105 days), starting January 9th and ending April 24th. The policy team is busy preparing new advocacy tools, reviewing our public policy priorities, narrowing down key issues for Lobby Day, and getting ready to review and vet bills. Once bills start to be pre-filed (December 12th), national will send a weekly report with a list of bills for us to consider, and our Lobbyist will keep us up-to-date on the progress of bills of interest. This year we may even sponsor a gender equity bill! You can sign up for our AAUW-WA Legislative Update to get more information about bills during the session.



Some great books were discussed at our annual Book Talk meeting in November. It was interesting to find out how members select their books, so that's included in the list of good reads:

1. Linda Hendrick: Selects from recommendations and Kindle Unlimited
 - a. The Librarian at the Edge of the World by Felicity Hayes McCoy
2. Bonnie Underwood: selects by browsing the library and recommendations
 - a. Becoming by Michelle Obama
3. Barbara Benson: shares with husband and recommendations
 - a. The Smallest Lights in the Universe: A Memoir by Sara Seager
4. Betsy Cave: selects from friends, Sno Island Library and book club
 - a. Lean In by Sheryl Sandberg
 - b. The Island of Sea Divers by Lisa See
5. Patricia Griffin: selects from Fantastic Fiction site
 - a. The Code Girls by Liza Mundy
6. Judy Higgins (by Linda Hendrick)
 - a. The Hello Girls: America's First Women Soldiers by Elizabeth Cobbs
7. Karen Laws – also recommended Becoming by Michelle Obama
8. Terri Bawden: selects from book club recommendations, popular on-line books and friends
 - a. Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmis
 - b. The Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd
9. Karan Hannah: selects from book club referrals and listening to pod casts
 - a. Maid by Stephanie Land
10. Rosette Dawson: selects from book clubs, TV talk shows featuring authors
 - a. Never In My Wildest Dreams: A Black Woman's Life in Journalism by Belva Davis

- b. My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomajor
- 11. Jessica Koeberle: selects from book group and Coupeville Library
 - a. What I Know for Sure by Oprah Winfrey
 - b. A Woman's Education by Jill Ker Conway
- 12. Sandy Huggins: likes biography, NF, and historical fiction authors
 - a. The Great Book of Bad Ass Women: Fifteen Fearless and Inspirational Women That Changed History by Rachel Walsh and Bill O'Neill

