

"By Joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through economic and educational barriers so that all women have a fair chance."

News and Events



January Branch Meeting

Wanda Johnson, AAUW Tacoma Program Conductor

We are so fortunate to have Ruthann Reim McCaffee at our **January 17th Branch meeting**. Ruthann will speak around the notion of **Choices for Change**. She will look at how our choices prepare us for changes in our lives, both natural and unexpected and discuss some of the ways women are challenged in their choices through personal circumstances and through systemic inequality.

We will meet at **10:30 am at the Fern Hill Library (765 S. 84th St.) on the Eastside of Tacoma**. Car-pooling is always encouraged as we save energy and it gives us time for sharing while we are on the road.

Ruthann is a consummate encourager so we can renew our hope and power in living our abundant lives with her knowledge, wisdom, and guidance. Ruthann is a Licensed Counselor, Life Coach, Business consultant and owner of Career Management Institute (<http://www.careermi.com>). She has written an award winning book, "Suddenly Single, A Guide for Rediscovering Life After Tragic Loss" where she shares her journey after unexpectedly losing her husband.

Some of you may have worked with Ruthann through her many community activities. She has served on the University Place Economic Development Commission, was co-chair of the successful 2011 capital campaign for the UP library, and was selected by the Pacific Peaks Girl Scouts of America as a "Woman of Distinction."

Additional Notes from Program Chair: In October, Jan Lawry, spoke about writing an "ethical will". In order to do this, it is essential to do a life review. Jan volunteered to meet for a few sessions with those members who might want to do this exploration and writing after January 1st. Please contact Wanda Johnson (253) 566-8747 or wlejohnson@msn.com if you would like to participate.

Special thanks to Dorothy McBride, Connie Dunkelberger, Joye Bucklin, Les Lee Eicher, Carol Rikerd, and Dana Johnson for making the November program happen. It was great to meet our grant recipients and hear their stories.

Another bundle of thanks goes to Linda Isenson, Sheryl Ellis, Carol Rikerd and Dana Holt for putting together our December program. Sarah Roemer from Tacoma Community House gave us an update on the latest work of **Tacoma Community House**. Branch members extended their philanthropic mission by putting checks on the plate so TCH can continue its exciting and essential work.

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Presidents' Corner



Resolutions? Nope. Don't like them.

Imagine if you will, Lucy Van Pelt holding that glorious football for poor old Charlie Brown. Oh, he's all revved up. He's going to kick it this time. That thing is about to fly! Well, you know what happens as well as I do.

Placing this scenario into the context of a New Year's resolution, you are Lucy holding the key to this tantalizing accomplishment. At the same time you are Charlie Brown. Because you lack, well...resolve, you fail to boot the ball and send it into the stratosphere. The habit is not kicked. The daunting chore remains half done. You are unable to stick to the regimen, whatever it may be.



Now, I know we have some very determined people in our branch, so I'm not saying that New Year's resolutions can't be successfully fulfilled. Perhaps they work for you. Maybe it's a case of failures making the news while triumphs are yawned at or taken as bragging. All I'm saying is rather than tilting at tenuously held oblongs of leather with laces; you can involve yourself in the AAUW mission and knock it out of the park every time! (How's that for a mixed metaphor, my friends?)

We have big jobs. We have small jobs. Every one has to be done and any heavy lifting becomes lighter the more hands, muscles and minds we can apply.

We're looking for candidates, contributors, policy folks, idea people, crafters, organizers, activists, representatives...women who know how to make things happen. Let's resolve to keep Lucy and Charlie in the funny papers and make 2015 a year filled with success and accomplishment.

Dana Holt - Co-President



AAUW Tacoma Branch
Board of Directors
2014-2015

Co-Presidents

Dana Holt
Diane Palmquist

Membership Vice President

Carol Rikerd

Program Vice President

Wanda Johnson

Public Policy Maven

Linda Isenson

Tech Trek Chair

Sandy Halvorson

Communications Co-Chairs

Mary Letterman
Leslee Eicher

Recording Secretary

Donna Woolverton

Finance Officer

Phyllis Izant

Governance Committee Chair

Dorothy McBride

Time To Step Up

Dorothy McBride, Governance Committee Chair

You joined the Tacoma Branch of AAUW because you care about equality for women and girls. Want to get more involved?

Elections of officers for **2015-2016** will be held at the **Branch Meeting, March 21, 2015**. There are 5 positions up for election. All of them are 2 year terms and each offers an opportunity for you to join the branch leadership. **THINK ABOUT IT**. The Governance Committee—Dorothy McBride, Connie Dunkelberger, and Marilee Titus—serves as the nominating committee for the branch. If someone asks you to participate, be attentive and helpful! If you are interested in doing more, contact us.

PRESIDENT

This office represents the branch to the outside world and has the power to appoint standing committee chairs and special committees and task forces. The President(s) preside at meetings of both the branch and the Board of Directors. Two years ago, two new members of the branch stepped up and volunteered to share the Presidency of the branch and they've done a terrific job. Ask either **Diane or Dana** about how they divided up their duties and their experiences and recommendations.

PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENT

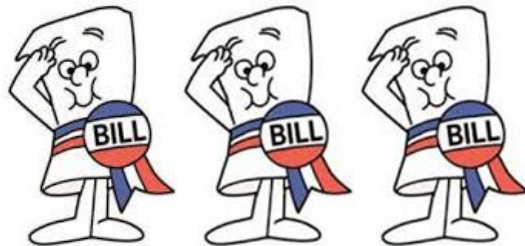
This is a job that definitely can be shared by two or more. The Program VP (s) are responsible for planning branch monthly programs from September to May. If several wanted to form a "program team", each member could plan just one or two meetings. The Program VP is a two year term and a member of the board.

TREASURER/FINANCE OFFICER

As a branch, we are fortunate to have financial resources that allow us to conduct our business and promote the AAUW branch mission. The Finance Officer leads the way by maintaining the branch accounts, proposing the annual budget, and disbursing funds as directed by the branch and the board. This job is at the heart of branch operations.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: 2 MEMBERS

The Governance and Development Committee is composed of 3 members elected by the branch. The committee keeps the bylaws and procedures up to date and serves as the nominating committee. The chair of the committee serves on the Board. Connie and Dorothy are rotating off the committee this year leaving opportunities to others to learn about all aspects of branch activities.



Two Minute Activist

Linda Isenson

AAUW's annual Lobby Day is fast approaching! Save the date, **January 26th**. The AAUW-WA Lobby folks have arranged some impressive speakers and an interesting program.

The morning starts with a panel, "Women in the Workforce, in Politics, in the Legislature, and in Education: Progress toward Equity" with Liz Berry, Washington Women's Political Caucus President, Kim Mead, Washington Education Association, President, Mia Gregerson 33rd Legislative District Representative and Mayor, SeaTac, and Cheryl Sesnon Jubilee Women's Center, Executive Director.

Then Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn will speak about "Education Priorities, McCleary Decision and the Priorities in the Legislature for 2015: What's the Emerging Agenda?" Then AAUW's lobbyist will talk about AAUW's public policy priorities and how to effectively lobby your legislators.

Please sign up by **January 22nd** to join us. <http://aauw-wa.aauw.net/files/2014/12/Lobby-Day-Agenda-2015-Final-1A.pdf>



Expanding Our Reach through Mission Grants

Dorothy McBride

Do you have an idea about ways to break barriers to equality for women and girls in Pierce County? Such as, a special research project, a mentoring program, an arts competition, assistance for victims of sexual assault, a STEM project, a scholarship for a lone mother seeking economic self-sufficiency? Perhaps you would like us to support a research project to find out more about the status of women and girls in our area. Or, do you know about a great program that helps women prepare for college and think the branch could help?

The membership will choose the projects that the branch will fund in 2015-2016 at the annual meeting in March. If you have a great idea for how we can best

use our mission budget (around \$5000 each year) to promote our goals, please submit it to co-Presidents Dana Holt and Diane Palmquist by **February 1, 2015**.

Here are the guidelines for your proposal:

*Any member or group of members may propose uses for the funds to the Board for recommendation to the membership. Any proposed project must show how the project advances the branch mission and must designate a committee, task force or individual to implement the project.

**Leaders of each project will report the results to the membership before the end of the fiscal year in which the money was allocated.



WE CAN SEND MORE GIRLS TO TECH TREK!

Dorothy McBride

For 2014-15, the Branch did not allocate branch funds to Tech Trek. Thus, we must rely on support we gain from local foundations, businesses and, especially, individual donations. For 2015, it takes \$900 to support one girl selected by the Tacoma branch Tech Trek committee.

You can help by making a tax deductible donation—any amount is welcome. Here's how to give:

1. Online by credit card or PayPal: go to <http://techtrek-wa.aauw.net/>
Use the "Donate" button for the AAUW Tech Trek Program Fund (You will need your member number. Look in the member directory or contact Carol Rikerd for your number)
2. Make checks payable to AAUW and put Tech Trek WA and Tacoma branch in the memo line. Mail to: AAUW, P.O. Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045
3. If you want to donate to the branch directly, you can send your gift to the **Tacoma AAUW Projects Fund** at the **Greater Tacoma Community Foundation**.

Again there are two ways: Online at <https://www.gtcf.org/donate-now> or make your check out to GTCF with Tacoma AAUW Projects Fund/Tech Trek on the memo line. Mail to The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, 950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 1100, Tacoma, WA 98402.

Interest Groups

Paper Crafters

Papercrafters will meet at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 8601 - 104th Street SW, Lakewood on **January 7th** from **10 am - 2 pm**.

If you are still putting the finishing touches on your New Year's resolutions or organizing and cleaning your paper crafting materials, this is a group for you this month. Along with the usual table space to spread your work there will be a table of useful items to exchange. Bring your extra stickers, paper, patterns or card stock to trade or donate along with your own brown bag lunch or snack.

Contact Connie Dunkelberger at 565.7518 for more information and directions to the church. All are welcome to come to this group.

Genealogy and Family History Group

We will meet **January 9th, 10 am-Noon** at University Place Library. Dorothy McBride will present "Using Google Search for Genealogy Research". Lunch at a local restaurant to follow for those interested.

Not So Fast Food Group

The NSFFG will meet for tea on Sunday, **January 18th at 2 pm** at the Olive Branch Café, 731 Commerce Street, Tacoma. **You must RSVP to Linda Isenson to attend as this is reservation only.**

Hot Topics

BYOT (BRING YOUR OWN TOPIC)

What Hot Topic interests you? Ferguson? Enduring racism? The Senate Torture report? Paid sick leave? Is there something else that intrigues you, frightens you, enrages you? Bring it to January Hot Topics. We'll discuss whatever is on your mind and develop some ideas for future meetings.

Join us Wednesday **January 21st** from **4-6 pm**
YMCA Lakewood
9715 Lakewood Dr. SW, Lakewood, WA
(There is a Black Bear on the premises.)

Book Groups

Daytime Book Group will meet **January 28th** at **10 am** at Jane Hahn's home, 3319 N. 18th Street, Tacoma. Connie Dunkelberger will review Sarah Vowell's *Unfamiliar Fishes*.

Evening Book Group meets on **January 26th** at **6:30 pm**. Marilee Titus will review Amy Sedaris' *I like you: Hospitality Under the Influence*. Joye Bucklin will host at 5002 86th Ave. Ct. W, University Place.

Diggers and Delvers

Diggers and Delvers will not meet in January.



“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

Helen Keller



2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Papercrafters	8	9 Genealogy	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Branch Meeting
18 NSFFG	19	20	21 Hot Topics	22 Deadline for Lobby Day signup	23	24
25	26 Lobby Day Evening Book Group	27	28 Morning Book Group	29	30	31

Check your email for the latest copy of the *AAUW-WA Evergreen Leader* or download it here: <http://aauw-wa.aauw.net/files/2014/12/Fall-2014-EL-Final-On-Line-Version1.pdf>

Save the Date AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION

June 18–21, 2015 in San Diego

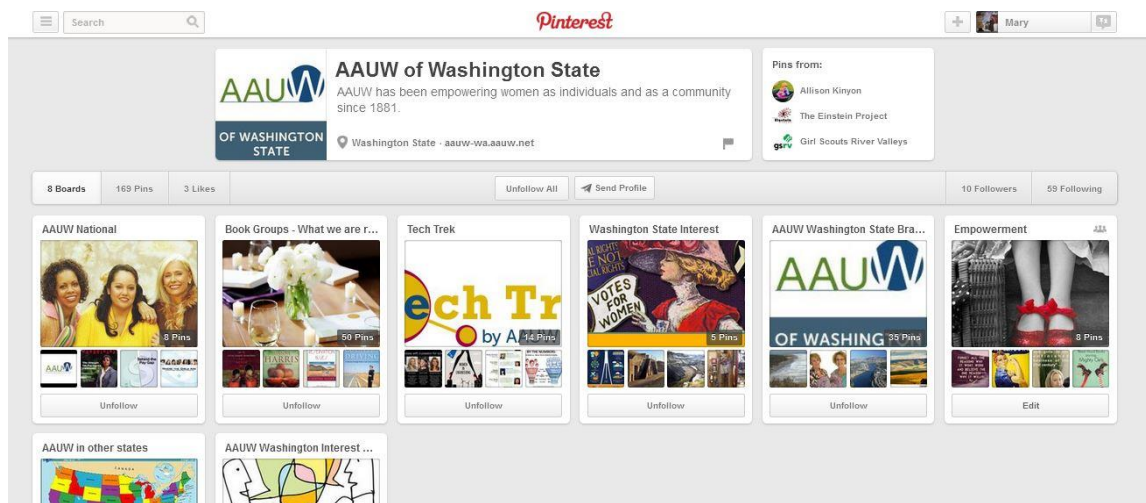
Check out convention.aauw.org for more information

AAUW Pinterest

Mary Letterman, AAUW WA Communications Maven

Have you ever wondered what other Washington Branches are reading in their bookgroups or what other types of interest groups are out there? Check out AAUW Washington State’s Brand New Pinterest Page

<http://www.pinterest.com/AAUWWA/>



Be Connected with AAUW!

AAUW Tacoma Website is the place to go to learn about our branch. There is an officers list with contact information, a summary of the interest groups (including the reading lists for both book groups), our mission statement, community involvement and branch goals and a member's center with a newsletter archive, branch bylaws, forms, and membership benefits. <http://tacoma-wa.aauw.net/>

AAUW Tacoma Facebook has daily updates of AAUW and other community events, as well as other items of interest. Feel free to add items of interest, as well as comments and 'like'. Truly, AAUW Tacoma has one of the best Facebook Pages in the country! Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.Tacoma>

AAUW Tacoma Meetup. The goal of Meetup is to help "people find others who share their *interest* or *cause*, and form *lasting, influential, local community groups* that regularly meet *face-to-face*." AAUW Tacoma uses this tool for community outreach and many of our newer members have found us this way. We are so glad that they did! It is also a wonderful way to see all of our upcoming meetings in one place and to receive reminders. <http://www.meetup.com/AAUW-Tacoma/>

Other sites worth checking out:

AAUW Washington State Website <http://aauw-wa.aauw.net/>

AAUW Washington State Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/aauw.washington>

AAUW Washington State Tech Trek <http://techtrek-wa.aauw.net/>

AAUW National Website <http://www.aauw.org/>

AAUW National Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.National>

AAUW Tech Trek Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWTechTrek>

Editors' Note

Please send notices of events and news to Sarah Nainby and Linda Isenson at aauwtacomanevletter@gmail.com. Feel free to send photos as well!

Submissions should be to us by the **16th of the month** unless otherwise noted and should not exceed 100 words. **Please notify us if you will be late.** If you have a later event that you would like included, please let us know by the 16th so we can plan accordingly. We reserve the right to edit as we see fit.