



Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

October 2025

Founded April 16, 1936 - Celebrating 89 Years Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

October 2nd

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

October Board Meeting

SCAF Building

October 9th

Social Half Hour, 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

General Meeting

Camano Library Community Room

Cindy Smith presents "Melting Glaciers and Their Worldwide Effect"

October 14th

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.

JAVA BREAK

Cookie Mill

For Coffee and Conversation

Bring a Prospective Member

October 16th

Thursday 5-7 p.m.

Member Soiree

Rose Olson's Party Barn

Get to know new members and bring prospective members

President's Message

Lael Williams

Hello to you – and the beautiful fall I'm sure you're enjoying. Our first meeting was a celebration of the Tech Trek campers. The girls shared their very positive experiences at camp. Moving into October, our general meeting on October 9 is an anticipated presentation by previous member, Cindy Smith, on her experience with glaciers. Our second "main event" is the upcoming Member Soiree. The event has expanded from just new members to all of you coming with a potential member to learn about AAUW and our branch. We will gather on Thursday, October 16, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Rose Olson's party barn for festive food and drink – including wine. More information will be coming from Lynda Buehring.

We have been known for many years as the organization that hosts the Candidate and Issues Forum. This year is a local election year and only four positions are being voted on: Stanwood Mayor, Stanwood City Council and our Stanwood-Camano School Board. It has been decided by general consensus at our September general meeting that we will pass this year due to lack of leadership to make it happen and required time to make it successful.

As Branch President, my third focus is the number of members being actively involved in our branch. As you know, an organization exists and evolves only if the members are involved to keep it active and growing. Presently, a few members do much of the work. There are many opportunities to participate in the activities that are designed for fellowship and those designed for service. Please find articles throughout this newsletter about branch activities: Book Group, Java Break, Movie Group, Day Trippers, and Purses with Purpose.

When I think of our membership, the women who joined did so because they have a college degree and have enjoyed a work life and a personal life filled with activities that bring them joy. All of us have talents and abilities to bring to our branch. We need you! One of the ways you can become involved is to join the Hospitality Committee. We had this committee for several years and then it was dropped when we weren't meeting in person. Recently, the Program Committee has asked for savory and sweet treats at our monthly program/meetings. Sometimes there are few and some times there are sooo many refreshments. Our organization needs to get organized and not leave a welcoming treat up to chance. Please help create the Hospitality Committee and enjoy other members of our group.

Looking forward to seeing you at the October 9 general meeting and the Member Soiree!

October 9—Melting Alaskan Glaciers

Mary Pilkington

Join us at the Camano Library Community Room at 1 p.m. with a social hour starting at 12:30 p.m. as former member, Cindy Smith, will be speaking about "The Melting of the Glaciers and Their Worldwide Effect". A former resident of Alaska, Cindy has done extensive research on glaciers. She concentrates on Juneau's Mendenhall Glacier.



This is an open-to-the-public event and the Shape the Future discount on national membership is in effect for those that join at the meeting.

Contact Linda Demetre if you can bring a savory or sweet treat to share.

<i>What's Inside?</i>	<i>Page</i>
President's Message	1
October 9—Melting Alaskan Glaciers	1
Membership Corner	2
Introduction to Operating Account	2
DEIA	3
Tech Trek	3
AAUW Funds	4
Public Policy	4
Projected Program Schedule 2025-26	4
Book Group Plus	5
Purses with Purpose 2026	6
Meet Our Member—Jennifer Engleman	7
Stanwood-Camano Give	7
Minutes—September 11, 2025	8

Future Events

November 6th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

November Board Meeting
SCAF Building

November 13th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

General Meeting
SCAF Building

*Linda Demetre presents "Pearl
Wanamaker" - Washington State
Legislator 1928-1940*

November 19th

Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.

JAVA BREAK
Cookie Mill

*For Coffee and Conversation
Bring a Prospective Member*



What's going on at AAUW-WA?

[https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/
activities-information/calendar/](https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/activities-information/calendar/)

Visit our branch website:
www.aauwsc.org

Public Policy

Go to:

AAUW Washington to keep up with happenings in the current legislative session and to learn about areas for action.

www.aauw-wa.org

AAUW Action Network for Congressional items regarding the national issues for action.

[http://capwiz.com/
aauw/home/](http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/)

Membership Corner—Honoring Members and Friends

Lynda Buehring, Joyce Leak

Honoring and appreciating our members are an integral part of a successful organization. The power of volunteerism touches the lives of the people we support in the community and enhances growth and stability. We are honored to serve in the AAUW Stanwood-Camano branch to honor all women in our community.

Our theme this year is to appreciate our members through activities, events, and engaging programs.

The Day Tripper outings are a great way to get to know each other better through fellowship and an opportunity to include our community filled with talented women who own businesses or serve in organizations that empower women to support each other. Together we are a talented community of strong women who have faith in themselves to go above and beyond to encourage each other to beat the odds no matter the challenges of life.

Join us for a "Member Soiree" on October 16 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Olson Party Barn, 595 Tillicum Way on Camano Island. Appetizers and refreshments will be provided. The Soiree is for current, new, and prospective members to hear about the board and events we have planned for the upcoming year. Join us and bring a friend.

Please RSVP to Lynda Buehring.



Introduction to the Branch Operating Account—and How You Can Help

Martha Huyler

The Stanwood-Camano AAUW Branch is dedicated to providing Scholarship/Recognition support by: sending girls to Tech Trek, honoring High School STEM scholars, providing college scholarships and supporting National AAUW Fellowships. Income comes from member donations but primarily our biennial Purses with Purpose Luncheon and Auction. All income and expense for these initiatives is kept in the "Scholarship Account".

Every June we approve a Scholarship Budget and an Operating Budget. Have you ever really wondered about what's included in our Operating Budget? More importantly have you wondered how we fund the Operating Budget?

The Operating Budget (\$2,580) includes all the expenses needed to support the workings of the Branch. These are the expenses that allow us to exist and provide meaningful programs for our members.

Mandatory Expenses: (\$1155) Accountant, D&O Insurance, Website, Domain Name

Technology Expenses: (\$475) Zoom, Accounting Software

Outreach & Marketing: (\$950) Branch Programs, Women's Expo, Marketing and Publicity

Here's the tricky part – The only income we receive to support the budget is from our BRANCH DUES of \$24 per person. This means if we have 60 members, we bring in \$1440. This is not enough to support the Branch. Membership dues was set around 2008, and through the years, we have embraced new technology, the expenses have risen dramatically, but the income (dues) remained the same. To meet the budget, we have slowly been taking from the Operating Balance that had been accrued, but this is no longer sustainable. For this reason, throughout the year there will be appeals for contributions to fund the Operating Account. We will be thinking of creative, fun ways to earn funds. But to start with, PLEASE CONSIDER A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THE BRANCH OPERATING FUND.

Your 2025-2026 Board

President

Lael Williams

President-Elect

Deb Narcisso

VP of Finance

Nancy Russell

VP of Finance-Elect

(open)

Co-VP of Membership

Lynda Buehring, Joyce Leak

Secretary

Karen Walden

VP of Program

Mary Pilkington

Assistants: Linda Demetre,
Mary Raymond*

Public Policy

Joanne Drewsen

Communications

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

* Appointed position, shares
vote with VP

Activity Leaders

Purses with Purpose 2026

Georgi Proulx, Mary Raymond

High School STEM Scholars

Linda Demetre, Lael Williams

Scholarship Chair

Karen Rogers

Tech Trek Chair

Mary Chesney

AAUW Funds Coordinator

Jackie DeFazio

Candidate & Issues Forum

(open)

Historian

Helen Smith

Diversity

Katie Farrey

Stanwood-Camano Give

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

Sunshine

Anne Milton

Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler



DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility) Spotlight

Katie Farrey

This year we will focus on mental health with definitions and resources from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).

Everyone experiences anxiety. Before public speaking it causes us to prepare and practice. In heavy traffic it keeps us alert and cautious. Overwhelming fear and distress can be a sign of an anxiety disorder. 19.1% of the U.S. population has anxiety disorder, with most showing symptoms before the age of 21. There are many different types. Generalized anxiety produces chronic, exaggerated worrying about everyday life. Social anxiety produces intense fear of social interaction and humiliation. Panic attacks can be mistaken for a heart attack. Phobias to certain objects, places, or events create powerful reactions of strong, irrational fear. Anxiety disorders can be triggered by stressful or traumatic events, but there is also evidence of a genetic link. Treatments include psychotherapy, medications, and complementary health approaches, including stress and relaxation techniques.

<https://www.nami.org/about-mental-illness/mental-health-conditions/anxiety-disorders/?tab=overview>

Upcoming Opportunities:

GBTQ History Month

Hate Crimes Awareness Month

Oct 8 - Latina Equal Pay Day

Oct 13 - Indigenous People's Day

Oct 15— 3:00 p.m. Eastern (noon Pacific time)

Without Fear: Live in Conversation with Author Keisha Blain

National Women's History Museum Webinar

Moderated by AAUW's Gloria L. Blackwell

<https://events.womenshistory.org/events/nwhm-presents-live-in-conversation-with-author-keisha-blain/>

Oct 18—6:00 p.m. Lincoln Theatre, Skagit Drag, The Halloween Show

<https://lincolnthatre.org/live-skagit-drag-halloween-show-2025>

Oct 22 - 4:00 p.m. Sno-Isle Online

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai - Online Author Talk

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/68c1af7f15946f2800d23ea5>

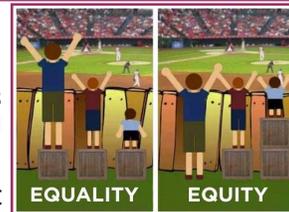
Tech Trek Campers' Messages

Mary Chesney

Those of you who attended the September meeting were fortunate to hear about Tech Trek camp this past July. The girls were talkative and happy to share their experiences. As part of the camp, they are gathered near the end of the week, to write thank you notes to their school and the Branch that sent them. Here are a few comments on the notes for our Branch.

"I don't really have a favorite activity just because everything was so cool." "I had a fantastic time here. I have learned so much about biology and engineering." "It has been an amazing experience I am so grateful for."

The Tech Trek Team is looking for one more person to help make next year's camp selections. If you would like to be part of one of the Branch's most important projects, please reach out to Mary Chesney. All the activity is conducted virtually so no driving or meetings that are far away.



AAUW Funds Empowering Potential

Jackie DeFazio

AAUW Funds is a term used for funds which are donated directly to the national AAUW organization by individual members, local branches, corporations, and folks who, while not members, support the work that AAUW does.



These funds are critical to AAUW's ability to accomplish its mission: "to advance equity for women and girls." In May 2025, the national AAUW Board adopted a new Strategic Plan focused on advancing equity for women through higher education, reiterating that "AAUW advances equity for women and girls by championing success in higher education – a vital pathway to economic security. For over 140 years, AAUW has led the fight for gender equity through advocacy, funding, and collective action."

The plan has three strategic priorities: (1) Fund Higher Education; (2) Remove Barriers to Success in Education and the Workplace; (3) Strengthen AAUW's Reach. These priorities stem from the belief that advancing equity for women and girls "hinges on the foundational belief that economic empowerment is essential for gender equity." For more specific details, check out the information on the national website: www.aauw.org.

Each year this branch donates to AAUW Funds to support our national organization's work. This year, in response to requests from AAUW members to have more specific ways to address current issues through giving in addition to the existing Greatest Need Fund #9110, two new funds have been created to address emerging issues related to the AAUW Strategic Plan 2025-2027:

The Defend Higher Education Fund #4513. This fund will enable AAUW to elevate the critical higher education issues impacting women. It will also provide strategic resources to students, staff and faculty on campuses and fuel investment in infrastructure and technology necessary to move AAUW's mission forward. Donations to this fund ensure AAUW can effectively fight on behalf of women on campuses across the country.

The Public Policy Fund #4337. This fund will enable AAUW to take action to oppose all forms of discrimination, e.g., discrimination on the basis of age, disability, race, ethnicity, sex and gender, etc. This fund will also enable AAUW to invest in strong public education, inclusive curriculum and STEM opportunities. Other areas that this fund will support are economic security for women and the reinstatement of Title IX rules.

Whichever fund(s) we choose, we can do so knowing that we empower potential.

Public Policy

Joanne Drewsen

It is so impressive how much work is done by the State of Washington AAUW and National to lobby and influence initiatives that are important to us as branch members of AAUW- Pay Equity, Equal Rights Amendment, Title IX, Women's Health and School Board Advocacy. The amount of information can be overwhelming. This month I want to share a look back at all that happened in our state legislature last year focusing on education – the 2025 priorities, what happened, and what the focus will be this year.



Attached to the email delivering the October newsletter is a thorough document put together by Sandra Distelhorst, Public Policy Director for Washington State. Please take a look at the attached and let me know where your interests lie and how you want to be involved.

Attached document: **educ-bills-2026.pdf**

Projected Program Schedule for 2025-2026



November 13	Linda Demetre presents "Pearl Wanamaker", <i>SCAF Building</i>
December 11	Holiday Luncheon, Il Granaio, Mt. Vernon
January 8	Deb Narcisso presents "AURA", <i>SCAF Building</i>
February 12	Arrowhead Ranch Tour, <i>Arrowhead Ranch</i>
March 12	Debbie Dimitre presents "Annie Oakley and Calamity Jane" <i>Utsalady Ladies Aid Building</i>
April 9	Washington Poet Laureate, <i>(location to be determined)</i>
May 14	High School STEM Scholar Recognition and Tech Trek Campers <i>Stanwood United Methodist Church</i>
June 28	Scholarship Tea and Annual Meeting, <i>Camano City Schoolhouse</i>

Special Branch Activities

Day Trippers

An informal gathering of members with time and interest to participate in a variety of outings.

Lynda Buehring, Linda Lynn

Movie Group

Meet for a movie at our local Stanwood Cinema. Watch for an email invitation.

Suggestions are encouraged.

Anne Milton, Georgi Proulx

JAVA Break is held monthly alternating between the third Tuesday and third Wednesday 10:00 a.m. at the Cookie Mill. Please save the date, bring a friend!

Our gatherings are a special time with friends to share memories and thoughts we usually don't have time to share at general meetings. Let's share a mug and great conversation... you never know where it's going to take us...!

Nancy Voelckers, Georgi Proulx

Book Group

Open to all members. Join us for lively conversation if you've read the book or if you just want to come join the discussion.

Katie Farrey
Marianne McGarry-Bloom



[www.facebook.com/
stanwoodcamanoaaaw](http://www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaaaw)



Book Group

Katie Farrey, Marianne McGarry-Bloom

All members are invited to join the Book Group whether you have read the book or just want to join the conversation. Please contact Katie Farrey if you want to be added to the email list.



Monday October 6, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Jackie DeFazio

The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club by Helen Simonson

"Constance Haverhill is without prospects. Her mother has just passed away, her brother is newly married, and now that the Great War is over, she has been asked to give up managing the estate she helped to run when the men all joined the army. It is suggested to her that she become a governess. But first, she will act as caretaker to Mrs. Fog, an old family friend who is convalescing at a seaside resort. Constance is soon swept up in the social whirl of the Meredith Hotel and its colorful inhabitants, most notably, Poppy Wirrall. Poppy wears trousers, operates a taxi and delivery service to employ local women, and manages a ladies' motorcycle club. She and her friends welcome Constance into their circle, despite the differences in their stations-- Poppy is, for all her empowered modernity, the daughter of a land-owning gentleman, while Constance has only weeks before she must find a position and a home. Constance soon learns, however, that not everything is as it seems in this pocket of English high society. As her connection to this new group deepens and she makes a powerful impression on Poppy's recalcitrant but handsome brother--a former fighter pilot who recently lost a leg in battle--old secrets come to light. Soon, the women are forced to confront the fact that the freedoms they gained during the war are likely to be revoked as the country settles into a hard-won peace."

Monday November 3, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Karen Rogers

Behold the Dreamers by Ombolo Mbue

"At the intersection of "Americanah" and "The Help" comes a riveting debut novel about two marriages - one immigrant and working class, the other from the top 1% - both chasing their version of the American Dream. In the fall of 2007, Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem, lands a job as a chauffeur for Clark Edwards, a senior executive at Lehman Brothers. Their situation only improves when Jende's wife Neni is hired as household help. But in the course of their work, Jende and Neni begin to witness infidelities, skirmishes, and family secrets. Then, with the 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers, a tragedy changes all four lives forever, and the Jongas must decide whether to continue fighting to stay in a recession-ravaged America or give up and return home to Cameroon."

Monday December 1, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Mary Pilkington

The Searcher by Tana French

"Cal Hooper thought a fixer-upper in a bucolic Irish village would be the perfect escape. After twenty-five years in the Chicago police force and a bruising divorce, he just wants to build a new life in a pretty spot with a good pub where nothing much happens. But when a local kid whose brother has gone missing arm-twists him into investigating, Cal uncovers layers of darkness beneath his picturesque retreat, and starts to realize that even small towns shelter dangerous secrets "

For more information, contact Katie Farrey or Marianne McGarry-Bloom.



Send a Little Sunshine

Anne Milton

Our branch has a Sunshine Committee to send good cheer and well wishes to members when needed. If you would like a card, phone call or email sent to one of our members, kindly reach out via email to Anne Milton, and we will honor your request.

Purses with Purpose April 25, 2026—Let's Up Our Game!

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

Thank you to all of you who have made the effort to purchase and donate purses or have spread the word to friends and family to collect gently used purses. It has helped us greatly in working towards our goal.

The PWP Purse Processing team has processed all of the purses received over the summer, and the total purses we have so far is 149 which includes 12 potential live purses. Our target quantity is 200 silent and 35 live items. We still have a way to go to produce the best PWP ever but we need your help.

The processing team has a request....we are finding the fair market value of too many of the donated purses are not reaching the Fair Market Value (FMV) benchmark we need to meet the fundraising goal to fulfill our scholarship program. We ask that you purchase purses or obtain donations of purses above \$50 FMV.

An alternative to this is to send a check in the amount you wish to spend, and the processing team will combine the donations and purchase the high end items we will need for both the silent but especially the live auction. Ask your friends. Solicit donations from your favorite purse store. If you need another copy of the donation receipt just ask. We also have programs from 2024 that can come in handy to show stores how great our auction is and the publicity they can get by being listed on the donor list at the back of the program.

COLORS & UNIQUE - we need more variety in color and uniqueness. Our auction is in the spring and guests will be looking for purses for their spring and summer adventures. Light and colorful or especially unique is the objective.

We are very happy to announce that Mary Chesney has made a very appreciated donation of a Hawaii Condo for our raffle. Thank you Mary! Lynda Buehring will lead the raffle team but she'll need members to "work" the crowd and sell the raffle tickets.

Carolyn Spector has stepped up to apply for the grants available in our area from community groups and the tribes. Thank you Carolyn!

Additional help needed is setting up the purses for the silent auction on Friday afternoon, coordinating the student and adult volunteers, and directing the setting of tables for the luncheon. These positions can be teams—whatever it takes to get the job done. See descriptions below.

Our next big task is to organize the Business Sponsorships Team. We have an experienced member of this team returning for 2026, but this is not a one person job. There are businesses and non-profits willing to donate cash to our scholarship cause....we just need to ask them. Some businesses, such as banks, need to be approached in October for the line item to get on their budget for 2026. In so many cases we just need to ask "in person," and they will accommodate our need. Their business logo is included on our event webpage and in graduated ad sizes based on their level of giving in the event program. The logo is also included on our branch website on the Purses with Purpose page for two years....so lots of visibility.

Leadership for all these needs can be provided by teams...sometimes it's easier to volunteer for leadership with a co-leader....works for Mary and Georgi as it has for many activity leaders before them. Talk to your buddies and see where you can assist in fulfilling the jobs we need for April 2026.

At this point, the Steering Committee is comprised of:

Procurement Team: Jackie DeFazio, Karen Walden, Joanne Drewsen, Jill Johnstone

Auxiliary Procurement Coordinator: Mary Pilkington

Live Auction Organizer: Karen Walden

Fulfillment/Bagging Team: Jill Johnstone, Linda Lynn

Catering Coordinator and Centerpieces: Linda Demetre

Wine and Champagne: Helen Smith

Raffle: Lynda Buehring

Grants: Carolyn Spector

Additional positions are noted below. Please contact Mary Raymond or Georgi Proulx for more detailed descriptions if you can help. This is a TEAM effort; it takes ALL of us to make this successful!

Silent Auction Team will manage the set up of the silent auction tables on Friday, April 24.

Volunteer Coordination Team will solicit volunteers from our members, the schools, and other organizations to help us set up on Friday afternoon, serve the meal, manage silent auction sold purses, and help us return the space to original condition after the event.

Table Set Up will organize volunteers to set up the tables on Friday afternoon.

Business Sponsorships Team personally approaches businesses in the community for cash donations. This team can be extremely effective and has been very successful the past two events. Martha Huyler has stepped up to be on the team, now she needs a team...please consider.

TEAM WORK will make our event the best and most FUN ever. Join in and help today.

You do not need to do it by yourself nor will you have to.

Contact Mary Raymond or Georgi Proulx with any questions.



A girl can
never have
too many
purses

Meet Our Member

Jennifer Engleman

I grew up in the Midwest on a farm. We raised cattle, wheat and alfalfa for hay.

I went to KU (Kansas University) and got my bachelors in Organismal Biology and many years later completed my MSPH (Master of Science in Public Health) from Walden University.

Something that might surprise you?? I ran a marathon in Anchorage Alaska (many years ago). Another thing - I went vegan 5 1/2 years ago - for my health, the planet, and of course the animals.

I wanted to join AAUW to meet women on the island and to join the Book Club.

My career was in environmental compliance. I worked for Fuller Brush, Tnemec, Amoco and Burlington Northern Santa Fe railway. The last 19 years were with the railroad, and my territory was British Columbia, Washington and Oregon.

My hobbies include learning to play the ukulele, hiking with my dog, traveling with a hiking group of women that I met several years ago on a trip. I enjoy cooking and eating, sketching, gardening and basket weaving.

I am also a member of Flames. We are an auxiliary that supports the south end Mabana fire station.

I just finished an addition/remodel on my home. And I'm very glad that I'm done with that. (Or at least close to being done.)

I just completed the Sound Water Stewards training and have been very busy with intertidal monitoring, pigeon guillemot surveys, beach clean ups and educational outreach.

Most of my travels include camping, hiking, or traveling back to the Midwest to visit my mother who turned 94 last February.

I look forward to getting to know more of you!



Stanwood Camano Give December 2, 2025

Georgi Proulx, Mary Raymond

Fall has arrived and brings preparation for our branch's participation in Stanwood-Camano Give on December 2, Giving Tuesday. We are going to continue the project tradition collecting for two Tech Trek camperships of \$4000 total.

The mechanism for collecting the donations is a bit different this year as SCAF will be using Mighty Cause software to manage the collection of the donations and providing receipts. Georgi is working on the AAUW page to include photos from Tech Trek 2025 and videos of our September 11 Tech Trek presentations in our appeal to our community and their family and friends for support.

While SCAF will provide advertising and marketing on Instagram, Facebook and the Crab Cracker, our branch's only promotion is on Facebook. Georgi and Mary encourage you to join Facebook and share our posts that will begin November 1 and continue through December 2.

To join our Facebook presence please visit and "like" : www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaauw

Once again SCAF is soliciting local organizations and businesses for several prizes throughout the day that will match your gift. The SCAF team is always so creative with this portion of the fundraiser. They are also working on getting a donor to cover the credit card fees so we receive every penny. If you choose to donate by check prior or on the day of, our VP Finance, Nancy Russell, would be pleased to accept it; it does get reported back to SCAF and added to our project total.

As we get closer, we will share the schedule of matching prizes or you can watch Facebook for the posts announcing them beginning November 1.

SCGive has increased from 24 organizations to 31 so there's more competition for donation dollars. Please find us, like us, share with family and friends...then DONATE!



General Meeting Minutes - September 11, 2025

Program: Middle School campers shared their Tech Trek camp experiences in a question and answer format lead by Mary Chesney at the SCAF building.

Call to Order: President-Elect Deb Narcisso called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Katie Farrey read the Land Acknowledgement.

Linda Buehring read a tribute to Joyce Leak's husband about Don's life and legacy.

Linda Buehring read a statement with the theme, "Bring a Friend". She invites each of us to bring a friend to the upcoming "Members Soiree" event. This event is being held as a welcome to new and prospective members of our branch. It will be held on October 16th from 5-7 in the evening at Rose Olson's barn.

Secretary's Report -Karen Walden asked for approval of the minutes from June general meeting as printed in the June newsletter. Motion to approve was made by Nancy Voelckers and seconded by Linda Buehring; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Nancy Russell reported the operating account current balance at \$3,313.14. The scholarships account nets \$36,785.25.

VP Programs - Linda Demetre reported that most of the programs have been scheduled. January is yet to be planned.

Candidates Forum - Georgi Proulx reported that the group, "Citizens for a Better Stanwood/Camano School Board" has approached the branch about partnering with us since selecting new school board members will be included in this year's election. Discussion centered on whether the branch wanted to partner with another organization, and the consensus was not to affiliate with another organization. Reasoning: We must retain our "control" of the event due to our positive historical reputation of the event, and we are "NON-partisan" not "bipartisan". Additionally, due to lack of leadership at this late date there is not enough time to complete all the tasks needed for a successful event. The consensus was to pass on this year's forum.

Public Policy - Joanne Drewson encouraged us to read about AAUW's Public Policy on the state website. You can track current legislative actions and look at "The Two-Minute Activist" link which is especially informative in that it provides specific resources for advocacy. An example of an opportunity to support public education and families is a class offered through the state called, "Washington Family Engagement Training".

<https://wafamilyengagement.org/parent-leadership/>

Purses with Purpose 2026 - Georgi Proulx shared that the Purses Prep Committee is meeting tomorrow. She still needs volunteers to lead the following committees: volunteer coordination, silent auction, and Friday night set up.

Mary Chesney generously offered her condo in Hawaii as a raffle prize!

Tech Trek - Mary Chesney would like two more volunteers. She suggested the possibility of a former student camper with Judy Prince (no longer a branch member) as a back-up joining the select committee.

New Business - An idea to form a Hospitality Committee that would be responsible for organizing volunteers that bring and set up refreshments at our meetings and other events. There was a short discussion led by Linda Demetre, and it was decided not to do this at this time.

Book Group Katie Farrey reported that the group will be reading, The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club. Jackie DeFazio will be host and Joyce Leak will lead on October 6th at 2 o'clock.

Movie Group - Georgi Proulx suggested going to see, Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale on September 23rd with lunch at 1 p.m.

Java Break - Wednesday, September 17th at the Cookie Mill at 10 a.m.

Day Trippers - Linda Buehring shared that she is looking for events and activities. She would like to have four this year.

Deb Narcisso adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Karen Walden
Secretary

