



## Lewis County (WA) Branch

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### Celebration!!

Be sure to attend the End of Year Celebration of all our work and recognition of our Scholarship Recipients!

Thursday, June 5 - 6:00 p.m.

Chehalis United Methodist Church  
16 South Market Blvd

Mexican platters from Casa Ramos will be served.

Cost for the food to come from donations, \$10 recommendation

Feel free to bring a dessert to share.

The Hostess team will provide beverages and plates, napkins and utensils.

**In order to know amount of food to request, please let Wendy Tripp know you are attending by June 3rd.**

## 2025 - 2026 Elected Officers

We welcome back some familiar faces of officers for the 2025-2026 term of the Lewis County Branch of AAUW and are excited to bring in Viki Draper as our new branch president, who is joined by president-elect Monique Farland. Membership VP's are Cathy Cavness and Kathy Halsan. Programs are headed up by Wendy Tripp and Kelly Stanley. Our treasurer is Donna Loucks, and Secretarial duties will be handled by Sharon Winnigham, MJ Marsh, and Cheryl Vance. Thank you to everyone who is willing to take a leadership role in our branch.

## EYH 2025 UPDATE

Co-Chairs, Corene Jones-Litteer and Swede Svenson met with Kathleen Vojdansk-Ward from Centralia College TRIO program and went over the schedule from May through October. Adele Woodward and Barbara Birney, co-chairs for 2026, also attended. In addition the following actions have been taken.

- The budget has been discussed with Donna Loucks.
- Four sponsorships have been secured for scholarships, with the goal to have a total of six companies.
- Returning the parent component of the day is being discussed, but no decision has been made.
- Buses will be offered again to schools with AAUW financial supports, with the decision that Centralia School District will not have buses. Parents will need to bring their daughter(s) and car pools will be encouraged.
- EYH will have an information table at the August Resource Fairs for the schools.

Be ready to volunteer to help as we move into the fall, as there are many duties requiring member involvement.

## Evening with Authors

Jo Martens, Chair

Plans are moving forward for our author event scheduled for Friday, September 12. The two writers who are coming are offering an interesting combination: Patrick Hutchison has written his first book about his experiences remodeling an off-grid cabin in the Cascade Mountains. Jane Porter is very well known within the romance genre, having written over 40 novels.

We hope to have 20 to 24 baskets for the raffles so we will need baskets from more than just our interest groups. Those will need to be delivered to Natalie Vedder early in September. Our venue will again be the Rose Bowman Room in the TransAlta Commons at Centralia College. Sharon Lyons and Jan Leth will be asking for food trays from local restaurants. Donna LaLond is charge of decorations.

We will need volunteers in several areas:

- carry food trays among the attendees
- set up the room on the afternoon of September 12
- sell basket raffle tickets that evening between 6 and 7 p.m.
- sell/take tickets at the door.

Watch for information in the WAAG as we get closer to September. We are hoping each member will sell at least 3 tickets. Those can be picked up at the June branch meeting or from Jo Martens at 360.561.2831 or jj83martens@gmail.com.

## Sharing and Caring

Jo Martens

Our branch will kick off the arriving summer with a relaxed meeting of sharing food and conversation. Many members will be also looking forward to the anniversary of another trip around the sun, an event sometimes not as welcome as it once was for many of us. Commiserate with or congratulate, we wish them all a Happy Birthday. Their birthdays will appear in each week's WAAG as appropriate.

## Program Committee

Kelly Stanley and Wendy Tripp, Program VP's

There will be a planning meeting for the 2025 - 2026 program calendar on Friday, June 6, 10:00 a.m. at Stout Coffee in Chehalis. Suggestions are needed as well as committee members. Everyone who is interested is encouraged to attend. If you cannot attend, please feel free to send any program ideas to Kelly or Wendy.

# Membership

Cathy Cavness Kathy Halsan, Membership VP's

During the month of May we welcomed Alice Flegel to our branch. Please introduce yourself to Alice, give her a call, and do invite her to your favorite interest groups. We are glad to have you as a member, Alice!

Everyone is invited to join us for our ALL Member Get Together on Saturday, May 31, 1:00-2ish, at Mint City Coffee Roaster, 539 N Market Blvd. Chehalis, 98532. Drop by for coffee, tea, and a chance to meet new friends! Watch the WAAG for details about our next tentative Get Together events in July and August. Please contact Kathy Halsan or Cathy Cavness for more information.

## Dues are Due

Please pay your dues at our upcoming meeting on June 5. Check, cash, or credit card are accepted. Also, you may pay your dues using our website. Go to Lewis County AAUW, go to the Contact/Join tab to easily renew your membership. For assistance contact Donna Locks, Cathy Cavness or Kathy Halsan.

### **2026 Book Sale**

We collect books year-around, so if during the summer you hear of someone who has books to get rid of, or if you accumulate more than you can keep, contact Betty Garrett.

### **MOVERS AND SHAKERS**

Our public policy group will meet during the summer months. Please watch the WAAG for Updates. Contact Kathy Halsan, Monique Farland, Kathy Tennyson or Cathy Cavness for further information.

## INTEREST GROUPS

Any events for interest groups that are held during the summer months will be listed in the appropriate week's WAAG with the necessary information to attend. In addition, each leader maintains an email list that they use to inform participants of events. If you are not already on a specific group's list, please contact them to be added.

Early Morning Discussion - Norma Green - [nfgreen@reachone.com](mailto:nfgreen@reachone.com)

Ravenous Readers - Nancy Leventon - nancykatie@gmail.com

Pages & Beans - Corene Jones-Litteer - n7fao@outlook.com

Miles & Smiles - Laura Hewett - lauraandjc@gmail.com

Cinema Chicks - Nancy Kruger - dnkruger@msn.com

Travel Group - Donna Loucks - loucksd@localaccess.com

Art Group - Bonnie Blake - adnablakes@gmail.com

Lewis County AAUW Program Meeting  
May 1, 2025

- President Laura Hewett opened the meeting at 7 pm. She read our Mission Statement. Two new members were welcomed. A sign-up sheet for next year's hostesses was passed around.
- Our guest speaker, Rachel Hunt, J.D., M.P.A., Attorney at Law was introduced. Rachel is a local attorney, specializing in Criminal Defense. Rachel grew up in Chehalis and attended local schools. She graduated from Boise State University where she earned a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice. She returned to the University of Idaho where she earned her Juris Doctorate and Master of Public Administration. Rachel described the stages of defense work. She explained about a new plan now being discussed at the state level to enact case load limits for defense attorneys. A change would mean that defense attorneys would no longer be permitted to take on private clients. Rachel also described the new Chehalis Treatment Court. This court is similar to Drug Court. Attorneys recommend people to take part in this program. The people have to be screened and a judge makes the final decision. Participants take part for twelve months. Housing is not included in the program. Rachel's talk ended when she answered questions from the group.
- Cathy Cavness announced that a new AAUW pamphlet will soon be distributed.
- Julie McDonald Zander has written a book, *Shattered Peace*, which will be released on May 10, 2025.
- The slate of new officers for the 2025-26 year was listed and approved unanimously. The new officers are: President, Viki Draper; President -elect, Monique Farland; Secretaries, Cheryl Vance, MJ Marsh, and Sharon Winningham; Treasurer, Donna Loucks; Membership, Cathy Cavness and Kathy Halsan; and Programs, Kelly Stanley and Wendy Tripp.
- Monique Farland was congratulated for having a photograph she took being chosen to be on one of the notecards the AAUW national office sells each year.
- Cathy Cavness brought up the plans for the June meeting place. After a lively discussion it was decided that alternative plans would be worked out and announced later.
- Jo Martens mentioned that she had "Authors' Night" tickets and posters available. It was announced that "Hope Alliance" has received a state grant that will allow the program to continue.
- Laura thanked the evening's hostesses Nancy Kruger, Donna Loucks, and Kathy Tennyson.
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Respectfully submitted, Sharon Winningham, Secretary

## NOTICE

You may have noticed, or you may not have, that over the past 5 years, I have tried different formats and ways to produce an easy to create monthly newsletter. Other than appreciation for my work, which is nice but not necessary, I have never received any content feedback. This has caused me to question, particularly with the Week-At-A-Glance email sent out each week, how helpful the monthly newsletter is. If you have actually read to the end of this newsletter, I need specific feedback and help. Please contact me about the possibility of either working with me or taking over the newsletter starting in September. Thank you. -Rena Seegmiller



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