

BIRTH, BACHELOR'S AND BEYOND

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2015 AAUW Colorado Public Policy Day

February 7, Marriott Denver South,
Lone Tree

It's time to focus on Public Policy this coming February, with five knowledgeable speakers giving insight into matters as diverse--and cohesive--as Mental Health, Higher Education Funding and Child Care. Study the schedule, and inside this *Bulletin*, meet the speakers, mark your calendars, reserve a room and register for an educational, informative day.

“BIRTH, BACHELOR'S AND BEYOND”

AAUW COLORADO PUBLIC POLICY DAY

Saturday, February 7, 2015

Denver Marriott South

10345 Park Meadow Drive, Lone Tree Co 80124

Just west of the Lincoln Ave. exit of I-25

Included in your registration fee: fabulous speakers; coffee and tea throughout the day; and a Cobb Salad lunch

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:30-9:15 | Registration and Networking |
| 9:15-9:30 | Welcome and Announcements |
| 9:30-10:15 | The Status of Mental Health Care in Colorado-Jeannie Ritter |
| 10:20-11:15 | “Child Care in Colorado: Access, Affordability and Quality”
Stacy Buchanan and Tracey Stewart |
| 11:15-11:30 | Break |
| 11:30-12:00 | Lobby Corps Report on Current State Legislation |
| 12:00-1:00 | Luncheon and Announcements |
| 1:00-2:00 | “Higher Education Funding in Colorado”- Claire Levy & Henry Sobanet |
| 2:00-2:15 | Call to Action |

AAUW COLORADO PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Betty Boyd and Diane Fuchs-Co-Directors

Committee Members:

Amy Blackwell, Georgina Burns, Elaine Gardner, Mary Hassler, Betsy Loague, Sally Mathewson, Barbara McDaniel, Diane Norten, Connie Paeglow, Rhonda Parmley, Joan Peterson, Lindy Reed, and Gail Wilson

Betty Boyd:
bettyboyd@att.net, 303-986-4194

Diane Fuchs:
hdfuchs@msn.com, 303-674-9639

BIRTH, BACHELOR'S AND BEYOND

AAUW COLORADO PUBLIC POLICY DAY

FEBRUARY 7, 2015, 8:30 a.m-2:15 p.m

MARRIOTT DENVER SOUTH

10345 Park Meadows Drive, Lone Tree, Co 80124

Featured Speakers

Jeannie Ritter: Former First Lady of Colorado, Mental Health Ambassador of the Mental Health Center of Denver

Stacy Buchanan: Qualistar, Vice President of Information Strategy

Tracey Stewart: Principal of Colorado Impact Center for Economic Prosperity

Claire Levy: former member of the Colorado House of Representatives and currently Executive Director of Colorado Center on Law and Policy

Henry Sobanet: Director of the Office of State Planning and Budgeting

Register by Friday January 30, 2015

Cost: \$35 (includes registration and lunch - no breakfast is provided)

College students are eligible for Public Policy Day registration scholarships

OVERNIGHT RESERVATIONS: Reservations must be arranged individually with the Marriott Denver South no later than January 23, 2015 to receive the \$92.00 (plus tax) single or double occupancy rate. The toll-free number for the Marriott Denver South reservation desk is 800-686-2767. Ask for the American Association of University Women Block Rate. You may also make your reservation online at the following link:

Book your group rate: American Assoc. of University Women>>

Lunch Menu

Cobb salad of turkey, bacon, egg, cheese, tomatoes, red and green romaine

Questions about registration or to request a college student scholarship

Contact : Diane Fuchs at 303-674-9639, hdfuchs@msn.com

To register online and credit card payment by PayPal:

<http://aauw-co.aauw.net/advocacy/>

Meet Our Outstanding Experts on Public Policy Issues

Stacy Buchanan is Vice President of Information Strategy at Qualistar Colorado, a statewide nonprofit striving to advance quality early childhood education across Colorado. Stacy is responsible for the maintenance, quality and usage of Qualistar's data regarding the supply, demand and quality of child care programs. Prior to assuming this position at Qualistar, Stacy managed the statewide child care resource and referral network, the Colorado T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarship program and quality improvement grants. Stacy holds a bachelor's degree from Montana State University in Family Science and a master's degree in Educational Administration at the University of Denver.



Claire Levy is the Executive Director of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy. She assumed that position in November, 2013. Prior to that Claire was a member of the Colorado House of Representatives, where she was Vice-chair of the Joint Budget Committee and Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations. She also served as Speaker Pro Tem. In her role on the Joint Budget Committee Claire helped secure expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, fought declines in public employee salaries and benefits, and scrutinized sex offender treatment and other programs in Colorado's prisons. Claire Levy is an attorney with experience in criminal appeals, civil litigation and land use law.



Jeannie Ritter joined the Mental Health Center of Denver in 2012 to serve as Mental Health Ambassador and continue her advocacy efforts for mental health which she made her focus as former First Lady of Colorado (2007-2011). Mental illness affects one in five Americans in any given year and touches most every important issue, from homelessness and substance abuse to education and healthcare. Through her efforts to bring a voice to mental health, her hope is that she is helping to create a community that does not avert its eyes but views mental illness with the same compassion as other ailments. She speaks publicly at hundreds of businesses, civic organizations, faith based groups, chamber meetings and community gatherings each year. Her passion for improving access to mental health supports is underscored by her belief that mental wellness is the foundation for healthier families and stronger communities.



Tracey Stewart is a principal at Colorado Impact: Center for Economic Prosperity. She monitors policies and programs that improve access to resources that give every Coloradan the opportunity to work toward economic stability and security. She educates state leaders and communities on the importance of helping Coloradans on the road to economic self-sufficiency through the use of critical tools and resources. She also provides research to inform Colorado businesses, governments and communities on the progress Colorado is making in its poverty reduction efforts. Before joining Colorado Impact: Center for Economic Prosperity, Tracey worked with the Colorado Center on Law and Policy and the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, where she was the project manager for the Colorado Homeless Management Information System. She holds a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a master's degree from the School of Education at the University of Denver.



Henry Sobanet is a Denver native, educated at Regis High School, the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of Colorado at Denver. He was employed as an economist for five years at the Colorado Legislative Council, the nonpartisan research office for the state legislature. In September 2004, Governor Bill Owens appointed him to be Director of the Office of State Planning and Budgeting. In 2005, Henry was the lead negotiator and researcher for the Governor's Office in reaching a compromise with the legislature on the State's budget shortfall. This effort resulted in Referendum C, which was adopted by the voters in November 2005. In 2006, Henry helped develop and negotiate an innovative plan to address the State's pension shortfall. From 2007 to 2011, he was President of Colorado Strategies LLC, a firm that specialized in economics, public affairs, and strategic management. In 2011, Governor John Hickenlooper selected Henry to return as Director of the Office of State Planning & Budgeting.





2015 AAUW COLORADO PUBLIC POLICY DAY

February 7, 2015

REGISTRATION

NAME _____

AAUW OFFICE: _____

ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, ZIP) _____

Email address _____ Phone _____

AAUW Branch or Branches _____

Please check all that apply:

Guest? _____ National Member? _____ 1st Time Attendee? _____
Currently Attending College? _____

To donate a Public Policy Day Registration for a College Student
please add \$35 to your registration check

Any meal alterations? _____

Cost: \$35

To pay by check (payable to AAUW Colorado)

send completed registration to:

Mary Hassler, 4230 Corriente Place, Boulder Colorado 80302-1629

No refunds after January 30, 2014

To register online and credit card payment by PayPal:

<http://aauw-co.aauw.net/advocacy/>

from the president. . .

In early September we gathered in Vail for our **Annual Fall Leadership Conference**. This year we spent the majority of our time in the development of a state strategic plan. Our objectives for the weekend were:

- To examine the Strategic Plan of AAUW, state trends and critical issues and possible alternate directions for the future of the state.
- To complete the formulation of an AAUW Colorado Strategic Plan including, proposed goals and key measurements, for approval by the state board of directors.



We began this process by reviewing the mission of AAUW and the National Strategic Plan. Small groups worked to identify what our critical issues were for the areas of Membership, Program, Public Policy, Communications, Finance and Governance. Each group then developed a proposed goal and key measurements that could address our critical issues over the next several years.

At the end of the weekend we had a good draft of our strategic plan. Since the conference I've worked with committee chairs to fine tune the plan and then we held an electronic vote to approve the plan. As of November 3, the **AAUW Colorado Strategic Plan** was approved by the state board. The AAUW Colorado Strategic Plan will provide direction for our future and will serve as a road map to accomplish the goals.

The approved plan is included in this issue of the *Bulletin* and is also posted on the state website in the Members Only Section.

Just as a reminder, the Members Only Section of the state website includes a great deal of state information. This is where the state bylaws, state policies, state position descriptions and many other documents can be found. The section can only be accessed with a password. If you do not know the password, please contact your branch president/administrator for that information.

Our Public Policy Committee has once again planned an interesting array of speakers for Public Policy Day, February 7. Plan to attend this important day.

Our Program Committee is working hard on the development of plans for a great State Convention to be held in Ft. Collins, April 24-25. Watch for information in the Spring State *Bulletin* and make plans to attend.

Also, remember the National Convention June 18 – 21, 2015 in San Diego, CA. Registration is now open for the convention.

Next year's Fall Leadership Conference will again be held in Vail at Lions Square Lodge, August 28 – 29, 2015. Plan now to attend.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn Zimmerman".

Marilyn Zimmerman

Thank You to My AAUW Sisters

It was an honor to receive the Colorado AAUW Legacy in Leadership award this year. I want to personally thank the many individuals who made the presentation and celebration possible. The setting at Fall Leadership couldn't have been more perfect and, I was pleased to share the time with several former Legacy in Leadership recipients.



Thanks to Diane Norten for all she did to make the occasion memorable, Amy Blackwell for the generous contribution to AAUW Funds, and Janet Weisheit for the beautiful scrapbook. Thanks also to everyone who contributed cards, notes, and recollections of past AAUW events to make the scrapbook a memorable history of my AAUW years. It is with humility that I join Legacy in Leadership recipients: everyone's mentor and inspiration, Judy Sanderson, and Sue Bodis, Betsy Loague, and Lois Florkey.

Pictured: Betty (left) receiving her award from past State President Diane Norten

Again, thank you,
Betty Flaten

AAUW COLORADO STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

VISION STATEMENT

AAUW Colorado empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

GOALS AND KEY MEASUREMENTS

Membership

AAUW Colorado will ensure quality member services, relevant and mission based community engagement and incorporate social media communications to foster a growing diverse community of members, supports, students and others who advance the AAUW mission.

1. AAUW Colorado's diverse community includes women and men of all ages, lifestyles, and cultural perspectives who keep AAUW Colorado vital at all levels of engagement.
2. AAUW Colorado attracts, connects and reconnects members, donors, and supporters to promote organizational growth at all levels.
3. AAUW Colorado demonstrates a commitment to transparent communication among all member levels.

Program

AAUW Colorado will build coalitions at state and local levels using mission based programs and research in order to empower all women to become advocates for women and girls.

1. AAUW Colorado has built coalitions with diverse organizations throughout the state.
2. AAUW Colorado state-wide events have increased in attendance
3. AAUW Colorado has increased the organizations that ask us to bring programs.

Communications

AAUW Colorado communications and marketing will increase AAUW brand awareness among Coloradans creatively, collaboratively and innovatively. AAUW Colorado outreach will orient new and continuing members to the AAUW mission, create common ground on Colorado –resonant equity issues, and convey tools for the empowerment of women and girls.

1. AAUW Colorado has increased number of public figures asking for or citing our information.
2. AAUW Colorado has increased the number of members that understand and communicate the AAUW mission.
3. AAUW Colorado has an increased percentage of engagement with our digital outreach.

Public Policy

AAUW Colorado's advocacy voice helps achieve educational and economic equity for women and girls across the state.

1. AAUW Colorado consistently identifies and advocates critical issues impacting women and girls.
2. AAUW Colorado implements a successful voter education program to promote our mission.
3. AAUW Colorado increases the number of members statewide and in branches actively involved in advocacy.
4. AAUW Colorado is recognized as a resource on women's issues by Colorado policy makers.

Finance

AAUW Colorado will establish and maintain a sustainable financial base to promote the AAUW mission.

1. AAUW Colorado will assess the viability of becoming a 501c3.
2. AAUW Colorado will have corporate and philanthropic sponsorship and support for events (i.e. Tech Trek, etc.)

Governance

AAUW Colorado will attract, identify, develop and retain diverse leadership to achieve the state's vision and goals.

1. AAUW Colorado will connect and mentor counterparts.
2. AAUW Colorado will have a strong state committee structure.
3. AAUW Colorado will identify strengths and interests of future leaders.

Approved by AAUW Colorado State Board by electronic vote, November 3, 2014.

*The goals are not ranked at this time, but will be ranked at the spring AAUW Colorado State Board Meeting.



Voter Ed Wrap-Up

Voter Ed Co-Director Amy Blackwell

This report starts with an attitude of gratitude. Many thanks go to the Aurora, Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Foothills branches for holding ballot issues discussions at their October meetings – and to all AAUW Colorado members and supporters for their individual efforts to turn out the informed women’s vote this election. A special shout-out goes to Lindy Reed for providing key messaging points in AAUW

Colorado’s campaign to defeat Amendment 67. Kudos go to Voter Ed

Co-Director Rhonda Parmley’s student at Front Range Community College, Rachel Towbin, who co-administers the new AAUW Colorado Tumblr account (a social medium that high school and college women find particularly engaging). Rachel did this as a service learning project, posted powerful blog posts, and is now an AAUW enthusiast! Many thanks also go to the student staff at the Institute for Women’s Studies and Services at Metropolitan State University of Denver, an AAUW college/university partner, for helping me with the initial research for our gubernatorial voter guide. And last but not least, I’m thankful for the assistance of Voter Ed Co-Director Rhonda Parmley in this important 2014 Midterm Election voter ed campaign.

What did we do? AAUW Colorado outreach began on Women’s Equality Day, August 26, urging Colorado women to register to vote or to update/verify their voter registrations at govotecolorado.com. While August outreach was broad via social media, Rhonda and I made a special effort to reach out to key higher ed campus contacts to spread the info virally. Amy rallied the troops at Fall Leadership Conference in Vail in early September to get out the vote – especially the vote against Amendment 67. In September and October before ballots arrived in mailboxes, we continued to engage voters via AAUW Action Network e-alerts and social media messaging. Ahead of mail ballot season and all the way through Election Day, our voter ed outreach urged Coloradans to vote no on Amendment 67, to read the AAUW Action Fund Colorado U.S. Senate race voter guide, and to refer to the AAUW Colorado gubernatorial voter guide. We compiled a wealth of additional voter resources on the advocacy page of the AAUW Colorado website and drove traffic to that page. October through Election Day was our busiest voter engagement window with additional AAUW Action Network e-alerts urging no votes on Amendment 67 and a full-on social media campaign featuring 3-5 boosted Facebook posts per week, reaching thousands of Coloradans with every post.

Things to note:

- More Colorado men than women turned out to vote. *We have to turn out more women in future elections!*
- We are thrilled that voters rejected the third iteration of a Colorado personhood ballot initiative, Amendment 67, by a two-to-one margin – but previous versions went down three-to-one. Let’s remember this narrowing margin should another personhood amendment arise.
- The Colorado General Assembly will be split next session with a Republican majority in the Senate and a Democratic majority in the House of Representatives.





- AAUW's eight takeaways from the midterm election → <http://bit.ly/1zCkSkn>

Call for Lobby Corps Volunteers!

Lobby Corps Coordinator Amy Blackwell

The First Regular Session of the Seventieth Colorado General Assembly will convene on January 7, 2015 and will adjourn in early May. Are you hankering to amplify AAUW Colorado's voice at the statehouse this session? Please contact me at ae_blackwell@yahoo.com or cell 303-710-2031 no later than November 21, 2014, so that I can arrange an orientation teleconference in early December. Our volunteer lobby corps reaches out to legislators ahead of committee and floor votes on key AAUW Colorado-resonant bills affecting equity for women and girls. We also strategically mobilize AAUW Colorado members and supporters to reach out as constituents. Many thanks go to the 2014 lobby corps members whom I served as coordinator: Renee Forsythe, Elaine Gardner, Danielle Norris, Connie Paeglow, and Lindy Reed.

Communications

Webmaster & Social Media Coordinator Amy Blackwell

Branch leaders: Please check your branch's info on the State/Branch Events & Meetings and Branch Contacts pages of aauw-co.aauw.net to ensure that I've listed your stuff correctly. Please apprise me of any changes or additions at ae_blackwell@yahoo.com. NOTE: I will no longer hunt down info to post for the rest of 2014-2015. Please make it standard practice to inform me of any branch events, meetings, fundraisers, etc., so that I can help you to promote them. Also, check the Member Center of the state website for info on our free conference call service and AAUW Colorado eNetwork branch's generous offer of free web conference services through Adobe Connect. Need to meet virtually at some point? We've got you covered!



Digital outreach stats of note as of November 8, 2014:

- Google Analytics of state website traffic (tracking launched in mid-October 2014)
 - 186 sessions, 127 users (68.3% new visitors, 31.7% returning visitors)
 - 444 pageviews, 2.39 pages/session, 68.28% new sessions
- Facebook: administered by Amy Blackwell
 - 994 page fans
 - 18 boosted posts for voter ed campaign (1 @ \$50, 17 @ \$20 each) between August 26 and November 4 reached THOUSANDS of voters!
- Twitter @AAUWCO: administered by Amy Blackwell
 - 202 followers (building base on relatively new account)

- One promoted tweet on August 26 (Women's Equality Day) for \$25 – outreach potential lower than Facebook so jettisoned further promoted tweet strategy
- SEEKING NEW ADMINISTRATOR! Contact Amy at ae_blackwell@yahoo.com if interested in volunteering.
- Tumblr: new account co-administered by FRCC student Rachel Towbin and Amy Blackwell – currently building strong follower base

The Day after: 8 Takeaways from the 2014 Midterms

Posted: 05 Nov 2014 09:22 AM PST

written by Lisa Maatz, Vice President of Government Relations at AAUW

The midterm election of 2014 is finally over – well, mostly. There will be a December runoff in the Louisiana U.S. Senate race, and the Virginia U.S. Senate race may be headed for a Thanksgiving recount. But truly, there weren't too many surprises, despite the unprecedented – and quite frankly worrisome – amount of money spent this cycle. These are the takeaways I'm still mulling over.

1. Republicans take control of the U.S. Senate.

The Republican Party will be happy to take over the Senate come January 2015, but not before current Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and company try to shoehorn in as many of President Barack Obama's nominees as possible during what will likely be a lively lame-duck session. I'm not surprised about the Senate changing hands or the GOP increasing their U.S. House majority. Midterm elections in a sitting president's sixth year in office are rarely a picnic for his party, though this outcome is the worst for a president's party in, oh, about 50 years.

2. AAUW-supported ballot initiatives did well.

Measures to increase the minimum wage were successful in four states, plus Illinois voters said they supported raising the minimum wage, and all did so with healthy majorities. We also saw a third state, Massachusetts, pass a paid sick days measure pretty handily. And anti-choice initiatives were rejected in Colorado and North Dakota. This is all very good news and bodes well for AAUW efforts to continue to push our priorities at the state level while gridlock reigns in our nation's capital.

3. Voters are quite comfortable contradicting themselves – especially Independent voters.

AAUW-supported ballot initiatives overwhelmingly went our way (go team!), yet the electorates in those same states chose senators who strongly oppose the very initiatives the body politic passed. This contradiction seems to be especially true for Independent voters, who will take on even more significance in the 2016 presidential election.

4. Some barriers were broken, but it was mostly a rough night for women candidates.

Thanks to her special-election victory, which means she'll be sworn in this week, Rep.-elect Alma Adams of North Carolina will become the 100th woman member of the current 113th Congress. This is the highest number of women in Congress in U.S. history. Despite breaking into three-digit range, it looks like the proportion of women in both the Senate and House will change very little. As for barriers broken, West Virginia and Iowa for the first time elected women to the U.S. Senate, with Iowa's Joni Ernst also becoming the first woman elected to Congress from Iowa overall. Gina Raimondo will be Rhode Island's first woman governor. Rep.-elect Elise Stefanik of New York, at age 30, is now the youngest woman ever elected to Congress. New Jersey sent its first African American woman to the House, and Utah's Mia Love is the first-ever Republican African American woman elected to Congress.

5. The "women's vote" and the "gender gap" are different phenomena.

The women's vote describes the behavior of women voters as a whole – typically more women vote than men – and the divisions among women over a candidate or an issue. The gender gap is simply the voting gap between genders, that is, the difference in the percentages of women and men who support a specific candidate or issue. The gender gap alone may not be enough to push a candidate over the finish line if the women's vote overall is not large enough, and it wasn't this year. Democrats won women voters, but Republicans won men and by a wider margin. In short, elections are decided by those who actually show up.

6. Democrats are pointing the finger at the president, but the White House begs to differ.

In race after race, vulnerable Democrats couldn't escape the specter of an acutely unpopular White House. And before the votes were even tallied, the White House was already distancing itself from the party's dreadful election results. The circular firing squad has commenced, and triangulation is in the wind.

7. ID laws suppress turnout and voting.

A new law requiring photo identification for voters in Texas prevented some longtime voters from casting their ballots. Voters in North Carolina also reported trouble related to a new policy, and voters in Georgia reported being unsure their votes had been processed. In Alabama, a 92-year-old woman who has voted since at least the 1960s was told her absentee ballot wouldn't count because her public housing ID wasn't acceptable. Laws that require voters to show identification reduce turnout among African Americans and young voters especially.

8. The 2016 presidential primary season has officially begun!

AAUW Colorado State Board Meeting Report

The fall meeting of the state board was held during the Fall Leadership Conference. The state board meets two times a year, during the Fall Conference and during the State Convention in the spring.



The following action was taken by the board:

- The 2014-2015 state budget was approved.
- A Colorado designated fund was established for funds to accumulate to send students to NCCWSL.
- Approved AAUW Colorado as an endorsing organization of **Why Marriage Matters Colorado**.

Also reported that the Executive Committee which met the day prior had approved the appointed members of the state board.

Officer and Committee reports were also presented at the meeting.

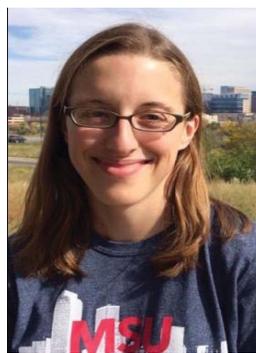
- All position descriptions for the state have been updated and will be posted in the Members Only section of the state website.
- A Free Conference Call account has been set up for the state and information on how to use it is also posted in the Members Only section of the state website.
- The Program Committee reported on plans for the State Convention to be held in Ft. Collins, April 24 – 25, 2015.
- Membership gave a status of membership to date report.
- The June 30 Finance Report was presented and branches were reminded to file their E990-N by the deadline date.
- The Public Policy Committee reported on plans for Voter Education, Vote No on 67 and plans for Public Policy Day to be held on February 7, 2015 at the Denver Marriott South in Lone Tree.
- AAUW Funds received by June 30 were \$12,483.
- The Colorado Springs Branch was awarded a \$450 Eugenia McClure Grant to support three community outreach events.

State Nominating Committee Looks for a Few Good Women

The Nominating Committee reports that about half of the positions for the slate of candidates to start July 2015 have been filled. We are still looking to fill (2) Program positions, a “co” President-Elect position, and (1) Public Policy position. Please contact Sarah Behm, NomCom Chair, if you would like to complete an application – (720) 635-8201, drsar@yahoo.com. As you probably know, if there aren't sufficient applications received by the date of the state conference in 2015, we will have to elect candidates from the floor. Plentiful information and annual schedules will be provided by your predecessors for the positions you'll be taking on, plus the knowledge and expertise of your predecessor will be just a phone call or email away. Additionally, all positions will be "co" positions, and many will actually be chairs of committees, unlike past governance models. You must, of course, be able to use a computer and send files. Rally yourselves, ladies, and get those applications in!

COLORADO STUDENT SERVING ON AAUW's SAC

My name is **Kate Thomas**. I am currently a junior at Metropolitan State University of Denver, studying Rhetoric and



Women's Studies. I am one of ten students in the United States serving as an AAUW National Student Advisory Council (SAC) Member for the 2014-2015 school year.

At the end of October, AAUW brought all of the Council members together in Washington, D.C. to meet, get to know each other, and receive leadership training.

In my role as a Council member, I will be planning events on the Auraria campus that focus on gender equity issues, including an event for Equal Pay Day in April 2015 and an event focusing on networking/mentorship. I am also helping AAUW plan the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), which is taking place in May of 2015 in Maryland. Additionally, I am working with my peers to start an official AAUW student group at MSU Denver.

I am also involved in other organizations on campus. I serve as the Web/Tech Coordinator for the Office of Career Services and as a Supplemental Instruction Leader for the First Year Success program. I chose both of these positions because they allow me to give back to my campus community. In my role as a student, as well as a leader, I have been consistently impressed and inspired by the amazing, hardworking, determined students that I have encountered at MSU Denver, and I am honored to represent

my campus with AAUW this term.

JUDITH C. SANDERSON YOUNG LEADER AWARD

For the 21st year, Colorado AAUW is offering the Young Leader Award to recognize one of its young members for outstanding leadership in AAUW, professional development and community service.

Guidelines for this award suggest that the nominee be 40 years of age or younger, be a member of AAUW for at least 3 years, be a resident of Colorado and a member in good standing of a Colorado branch, have made contributions to AAUW at branch, state and/or national level, have a distinguished record of education, career and professional development.

Please help us to identify young, talented and progressive AAUW members whose activities qualify them for this award. The nomination form is attached and is available on the website, members section. Nominations can be made by branches or individuals. Applications are due no later than March 15, 2015. Completed forms should be submitted to Marilyn Zimmerman and Stormy McDonald. The recipient of the Young Leader Award will be announced at the Colorado State Convention.

Judith C. Sanderson Young Leader Award

Nomination Form

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Branch _____ Years a Member _____ Life Member _____

1. AAUW Activities

a. Branch level

b. State level

c. Other (i.e. Regional, Association, Convention Attendance, etc.)

2. Professional/Education

a. Professional/Career Responsibilities

b. Education (Location and Degree work, Continuing Education)

c. Professional Organization Activities (other than AAUW)

3. Community Activities

4. References

Include a reference letter. References may be contacted for further information.

Name of reference:

Address

Relationship

Phone

Email/Fax

Submit completed application no later than March 15 to the state president and membership vice president.

COLORADO AAUW

EUGENIA MCCLURE STATE GRANT

Through the generosity of Eugenia McClure, a long time member of the Grand Junction Branch, we are pleased to honor this grant in her memory.

The purpose of the grant is to support Colorado branches for projects that will enhance the mission of AAUW.

Grant Requirements and Deadline: Available twice yearly, August 1 and January 1. Completed applications must be submitted to the State President and the Program Vice-Presidents by the deadline. The amount of the grant will not exceed \$500.

Name of Branch/Applicant _____

Program Title _____

Goal of the Program: _____

Please include a one (minimum) or two (maximum) page description of the program including the following:

- ◆ **plans for implementation**
- ◆ **how the grant money will be used**
- ◆ **the number of people affected by the grant**
- ◆ **the expected outcomes**
- ◆ **the expected benefit to AAUW and the community**
- ◆ **any plans for collaborating with other community organizations**
- ◆ **steps for evaluating the project**
- ◆ **a tentative time line for the project**

Please attach a proposed budget for the plan.

What are your plans for long term follow-up to the program?

Contact Person: Name

Address:

E-Mail or Phone

Membership Matters- Helping Us Build AAUW and Its Goals

Let's remember with gratitude the small group of visionary women who paved the way 133 years ago this November 28th. Here's an excellent article telling the story of those pioneers: **Celebrating 131 Years of AAUW.** (<http://www.aauw.org/2012/11/28/celebrating-131-years-of-aauw/>)

Thank you to those who have renewed your membership this year – and to those of you who have become life members committed to our mission of building equity for women and girls. Your actions help fund the research and advocacy of AAUW. If you have not renewed, please look online for your branch renewal information <http://aauw-co.aauw.net/branches/>. If you delay you will have to fill in your information again.

Think of a name of any friend. Does that person know everything they need to know about women's issues and public policy, always keeping abreast of issues important to us? Yes? OK, not that one. Think of someone else. Aha! That's the first person you should invite **now** to join you for Public Policy Day on Saturday, February 7. We can build diversity in our membership and keep AAUW growing. Start with people you know who are unfamiliar with AAUW. Ask them now. Think of younger women and students who could benefit from this important day of information. You will be building recognition of AAUW Colorado, and helping the cause of women everywhere! Plan ahead for Saturday, February 7, Public Policy Day.

Thank you to Amy Blackwell who keeps our state website updated with important information. There's a new columnar calendar of state/branch events. It is such an asset to our state and branches to have information for the future activities within Colorado. Makes it easy for a traveler to Colorado or a new potential member to check us out! Take a look. Is your branch well represented there: <http://aauw-co.aauw.net/calendar/>. You might also find yourself being drawn to a program or fundraiser of another branch.

Thank you to our Colorado branches that have their regular program meeting date info readily available at a glance to anyone who goes to your website. In addition, seven of our Colorado branches have their websites providing the year's future programming information available. This helps attract new members! Lakewood is listed twice, see both their calendar and their programs. Check them all out:

<http://coloradosprings-co.aauw.net/>; <http://foothills-co.aauw.net/programs-2/1312-2/>;
<http://grandjunction-co.aauw.net/events/>; <http://lakewood-co.aauw.net/activities/>;
<http://lakewood-co.aauw.net/activities/programs/>; <http://aurora-co.aauw.net/programs/>; <http://longmont-co.aauw.net/meetings-events/>;
<http://loveland-co.aauw.net/aauw-programs-2014-15/>

Hope to see you and your invitees at Public Policy Day! Thank you for all you do to keep AAUW vital and growing so that we continue to advance women's equity.

Your Membership Co-Chairs

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 **Aurora**

With the elections around the corner, the Aurora branch held a program at its October branch meeting entitled, “The Ballot Issues”. It was open to the public and was very well attended. Our Public Policy Chair, Ingrid Lindemann, planned a very informative program in which speakers discussed the pros and cons of Amendment 68 (Horse Racetrack Limited Gaming Proceeds for K-12 Education) which has a very direct impact on the city of Aurora. Insight was given into the local ballot initiatives and a discussion was held regarding AAUW’s firm stance against Amendment 67 (Definition of Person and Child). The message of “being informed” and “get out the vote” was well received by the attendees.

 **Foothills**

An important community outreach project, Las Amigas, was started by some of our members to engage Latinas of Jefferson High School, Wheat Ridge High School, and Kullerstrand Elementary in mentorship activities, college visitations, workshops, homework club and leadership building. The girls are monetarily rewarded for their participation. Adult advisors from each school as well as AAUW volunteers help with the weekly meetings to ensure that Las Amigas is meeting the goals of Latinas as they become self-actualized. This project is a wonderful way to make a difference in our community. Indeed, September was a busy month during which we hosted our annual Authors Luncheon at Mount Vernon Country Club in the foothills overlooking Denver. A delicious buffet satisfied everyone’s palate and was followed by book talks from three fascinating and talented Colorado authors: Francine Matthews, Gail Storey, and Mary Taylor Young. It was wonderful to have AAUW members from other branches as well as friends and relatives join us! A representative from Tattered Cover was available to sell their books during the event. What a great opportunity to enjoy a fabulous lunch, listen to three wonderful authors, and complete holiday shopping all in one afternoon.

 **Longmont**

The Longmont Branch held our 61st Annual Bargain Book Fair Oct. 17 to 19 at a new location this year, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in south Longmont. The book sale was held for many years at the Twin Peaks Mall but the mall was finally demolished this summer and the branch had to find a new home for our fundraising event. We collected, sorted, and displayed thousands of books at the new location and now look forward to continuing this community service project that involves so many branch members, friends, family and community supporters Our December meeting will be a Holiday Open House held Dec. 7 at the home of Nancy Birchmeier. We will begin 2015 with our annual International Dinner at the First Lutheran Church on Jan. 17. Jeanette Neethling, a master’s student in Environmental Engineering at the Univ. of Colo, Boulder and recipient of an AAUW Selected Professions Fellowship will be our guest, speaking about “Embracing Human Resources: Ecological Sanitation and Cultural Exchange in Southwest Morocco”.

 **Boulder**

Boulder branch members were schooled on ballot issues in October by Steve Colby. In all the years that he’s discussed the issues, Steve has always taken a nonpartisan approach in explaining some of the logic (and politics) that is behind them and selection of judges. Members have always come away with a better understanding of what can sometimes be complex issues and decisions when voting

 **Littleton-South Metro**

Maria Sutton is the award winning author of *The Night Sky: A Journey From Dachau to Denver and Back*. Her memoir is the culmination of her forty-three year search for a stranger who disappeared shortly after her birth in war-torn Germany. Without knowing the spelling of this stranger’s name, nor his date and place of birth, Maria was able to find him. Born in a Displaced Persons Camp in Germany, Maria was three when she immigrated to the United States in 1951 with her sister, mother, and stepfather. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Finance from the University of Colorado, and she also attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



 **Lakewood**

Members of the Lakewood were treated to a special speaker at their Fall Kick Off meeting in September. Jeannie Ritter (wife of Colorado’s former governor and one of Colorado AAUW’s speakers at the 2015 Public Policy Day) addressed “Mental Health Issues in Our Community”. Jeannie Ritter has long been an advocate on mental health issues and has become even more involved since she was First Lady of Colorado.



Colorado Springs AAUW Initiates Community Conversations Through Documentary Films

It all began with our Public Policy Interest Group's choice of two areas of focus this year:

- **The lack of available, affordable quality childcare**
- **The effort to undermine the public school education system**

Through a **Eugenia McClure Grant** to fund the purchase of two powerful documentary films on our chosen topics, we believe we have found an effective way to promote AAUW's mission as we participate in a meaningful way to help improve the quality of life for women and girls, as well as their families. Our experience has shown us how much our effort is needed to advocate for families who are over-extended with financial and childrearing responsibilities, and also early childhood professionals and public school teachers who are carrying increasingly heavy workloads and have little time to address these critical public policy issues that affect their lives.

Our search for an appropriate documentary as part of a branch meeting on the subject of childcare resulted our discovery of an amazing PBS documentary series in the works called *The Raising of America*, to be aired in Spring 2015. It is "an ambitious documentary series and Public Engagement Campaign that seeks to reframe the way we look at early child health and development." Developed with the purpose of stimulating community conversations throughout the U.S., the producers are offering local sponsoring organizations the opportunity to host pre-screening events.

Our Public Policy Director, Cara Koch, approached our local Early Childhood Council with the offer for AAUW to fund the \$50 sponsor fee if they would participate in hosting the event. This led to the formation of a collaboration of 10 organizations (including Alliance For Kids, EPIC, Pikes Peak United Way, Pikes Peak Library District, and others) working together to create this event. As a build-up to the Spring Pre-screening, the collaborative is hosting a number of smaller pre-screening events for targeted stakeholders such as the local business community, where we viewed and discussed one of the episodes: *Are We Crazy About Our Kids: The Cost/Benefit Equation*.

Our second community conversation effort is the screening of *Rise Above the Mark*, which "brings to light the heartbreaking realities of public education [and] what happens when politics enters the classroom. This will be shown at a branch meeting which will be widely publicized as open to the public.

Any branches interested in bringing *The Raising of America* (www.RaisingofAmerica.org) and/or *Rise Above the Mark* (<https://riseabovethemark.com/>) are welcome to contact either Judy Casey, President, or Cara Koch, Public Policy Director for more information. Most communities have a local Early Childhood Council which could be contacted related to early childhood advocacy.

A Story from the Archives

AAUW members in the DC area have recently been going through the archives and bringing stories of the past to our attention. A recent published article in India was *10 Indian Women Scientists You Should Be Proud Of*. One of the illustrious scientists on that list was a 1938 AAUW International Fellow! The archives tell of the work and history of this groundbreaking woman, **Kamala Sohonie**.

Sohonie is widely recognized as the first Indian woman to achieve a doctorate in any scientific field: hers was in biochemistry. In late 1930s India, this was not an easy thing to do. After finishing at the top of her class at Bombay University (today, the University of Mumbai) with a bachelor's in chemistry and physics, she decided to continue her research at the Indian Institute of Science, then under the leadership of famed Nobel laureate C V Raman. He, however, was not at all interested in having a woman attend the institute, despite Sohonie's clear aptitude. After a protracted appeal, Sohonie prevailed and was admitted for a probationary period. Reluctantly, Raman eventually changed his mind and let her study and continue researching at the Institute. Sohonie went on to England's Cambridge University to continue her work. There, she "isolated and purified for the first time an elusive potato enzyme and worked out the oxidation-reduction process in plant tissues, isolating the enzyme systems associated with plant cytochrome c, and demonstrating that the processes are the same in plants as in animals." This was the research that would earn her a doctorate.

Sohonie's interest lay in the nutritive value of foods, and upon her return to India, she set out to study the nutrition of several major foods consumed in India, particularly by the poor. Her work included research on legumes and "neera," a drink derived from the palm tree. Neera is a very popular drink in India, and extensive studies had never been done before on just what its nutritive value was, though people suspected it to be restorative. During the course of her study, Sohonie found that "neera contains sizable amounts of A and C vitamins and iron, and that the vitamin C can survive the concentration of neera into palm jiggery [a sweetener] and molasses." This discovery laid the groundwork for using jiggery and molasses as cheap dietary supplements. And Sohonie's finding led to a crucial humanitarian use: These days, neera is often used to help malnourished children recover their strength. (Source: *AAUW Today: The Science of Feeding the Hungry in India*)

Thanks to the **Loveland Branch** for this information

The Courage of Elsebet Kieler, Holocaust Resistance Fighter

Editor's note: The members of the AAUW Archives Corps gather once a month in Washington, D.C., to go through boxes of documents that haven't seen the light of day in decades to reveal and preserve our great history. The following is a story from an Archives Corps member who opened one of the boxes and found more than she bargained for — a fascinating story of an AAUW alumna who was part of a huge resistance movement in Denmark during World War II.

A large part of my enjoyment of membership in AAUW is the opportunity to volunteer at our headquarters and work with AAUW Archivist Suzanne Gould. Our group, the Archives Corps, has been reviewing and organizing historical files of applications from women around the world for financial support to come to the United States to continue their educations. Although the grants have been awarded since 1888, they were especially important during and after World War II to the women studying and living in occupied European countries, such as France, Holland, Luxembourg, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Denmark. The war interrupted the studies of so many of these women. Colleges and universities were closed, libraries were shut down, and any kind of intellectual discussions were restricted or prohibited. Their stories are remarkable. One of the files I found was for a Danish woman named Elsebet Kieler,



whose graduate studies had been interrupted by the war. She applied for a grant in 1946. Along with her formal application, she included a personal statement that especially piqued my interest, because she mentioned that she and her family were part of a resistance movement against the Nazis. I decided to do further research, so I went to the library at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., which had

more information on the Kieler family and the response of the Danish people to the Nazi occupation.

Elsebet was the oldest of four children, two boys (Joergen and Flemming) and two girls (Elsebet and Bente). Their father was a medical doctor. The family placed a high value on education. The children had traveled and studied in both England and Germany and spoke English, German, and French. After the Nazis invaded Denmark in the spring of 1940, the siblings all worked together in one of the Danish resistance organizations, Holger Danske, publishing an illegal newspaper, Frit Danmark. According to a book that Joergen wrote about their experience, *Resistance Fighter*, the brothers decided to take their resistance to a higher level: They began sabotaging Gestapo activities.

Elsebet was reluctant to help them. She was a political and social pacifist, completely against violence of any kind. The turning point for her, however, came in August of 1943, when she found out that the Gestapo were starting to round up Danish Jews and deport them to concentration camps. She explained her change of heart in a short documentary film, *Rescuers*.

“If you want to remain a human being and take care of your own human dignity, you have to take care of your neighbor. It’s the same thing. You have to protect everyone.”

She decided she had to do something more active in the resistance. At the time, Denmark was a very homogenous country. But Christian Danes didn’t tend to consider their Jewish neighbors different. In 1943, there were about 8,000 Jews living in Denmark. Many Danish people, regardless of age or occupation, banded together to hide Jews and transport them to safety in Sweden. The main hospital in Copenhagen admitted Jews under Christian names. Neighbors cared for and maintained property of Jewish neighbors who had to flee.

It is a remarkable history, and Elsebet played a part. She traveled secretly (in a taxi, would you believe!) all over Denmark to collect monetary donations. In one weekend, she collected more than 1 million kroner (that would be about \$168,000 today)! The money was needed to pay bribes to Danish and German soldiers and to pay the fishermen who faced great danger as they ferried hidden Jewish families the short but treacherous distance across the sea to safety in Sweden.

Ultimately, Elsebet and her family were betrayed by a member of their resistance organization who had been turned by the Gestapo. Her two brothers were arrested and sent to a concentration camp in Germany; Elsebet, her sister, and her father were arrested and imprisoned in Denmark for several months. But their goal had been accomplished. Holger Danske alone was responsible for arranging for the safe transportation of almost 1,000 Jews. Other groups across Denmark risked arrest and death to hide, help, feed, and clothe their Jewish neighbors and also to keep them safe. Tragically, by the end of the war, about 500 Danish Jews lost their lives, but other European countries lost many more.

Elsebet and her family were reunited in May 1945. Although the war left the family changed and left some of them ill, they felt fortunate that their family was still intact. After the ordeal, with the help of an AAUW International Study Grant, Elsebet came to the United States to finish her graduate degree in comparative literature at Radcliffe College. She went on to write several books about Roman Catholicism. She died in 2006.

It is a source of great pride to me to be part of a group that recognizes and supports people like Elsebet: strong, courageous, moral, intelligent, and with a great sense of humanity.

AAUW Member Database

Did you know that the AAUW Member Database is used to send important communications to all members by email and postal mail?

Is your information in the database current and up to date?

Members can update their personal information at any time by entering the Member Database.

Once you are in the Member Database you can update your profile if you have changed your address, telephone or email address.

It is important that your personal information be kept up to date in the database. We have been exploring options for the distribution of our *State Bulletin* and will be able to use the database information to distribute the bulletin in the future to all members in the state at the same time. But effective distribution can only happen if all member’s information is kept up to date.

If you need help updating your information, contact your branch president/administrator or branch treasurer.



EMPOWERING WOMEN
SINCE 1881

AAUW COLORADO **bulletin**

Anita Bemis, Editor, anitabemis@aol.com

Find out the latest news about Colorado AAUW
at <http://aauw-co.aauw.net>

SAVE THE DATE!

AAUW State Convention, April 24-25 Hilton Hotel, Ft. Collins

"AAUW Today and Tomorrow"

Highlights will include:

- Reception on Friday at the Ft. Collins Museum of Discovery
- Stephanie Foote, Girl Scouts of Colorado - "What Do Girls Say", updates on GS research on Leadership, STEM and Financial Literacy
- Kate Farrar, AAUW VP, Campus Leadership Programs - AAUW National and CU Partnerships briefs
- John Howe, Director of the STEM Conference held each summer in Ft. Collins
- Fun and social time with your CO AAUW Friends!

Look for more information and registration forms in the next newsletter.

Looking Ahead in 2015:

February 7	Public Policy Day, Lone Tree
April 9-11	State Science Fair, CSU
April 24-25	Colorado AAUW State Convention
June 18-21	National Convention, San Diego CA
August 28-29	Fall Leadership Conference, Vail