



AAUW Colorado Springs Branch Report 2019-2020

Programs

- Sept. 28 Welcome Coffee was a great kickoff to the year. Patricia Hinnen presented an excellent talk on Capital Sisters, a group she founded to provide micro-loans to needy and deserving women in third world countries. In addition, chapter members had a chance to browse over 25 Interest Group tables.
- November 16 branch meeting was *Viewing Colorado Springs Thru a Woman's Eyes*. It was about how southeast Colorado Springs working women fare; their opportunities, their barriers.
- Dec. 7 lunch and holiday program at Briarhurst Manor featured Summit Ensemble of Colorado Springs Children's Chorale.
- January 18 branch meeting featuring Deb Walker, Executive Director of Citizens Project, speaking on *Voter Suppression in Colorado*.
- February 8 branch meeting, Ladies Luncheon of Laughter, was sponsored by AAUW's Community Outreach. Women from AAUW and SE Colorado Springs gathered at Deerfield Hills Community Center to hear the keynote speaker, Mina Liebert, Director of Community Impact for the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, speak on *The Path to Purpose*.
- AAUW CoS was a partner-sponsor along with seven other local women's organizations for International Women's Day which took place March 7. The theme was *PLANET 50/50 BY 2030: Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change*.
- There were no more in-person events or board meetings after March due to the coronavirus shutdown. Planned STEM and \$tart\$mart/Work\$mart programs have been postponed. Four hundred anti-virus masks were made and delivered by an *ad hoc* committee.

Membership

- Membership for the year stands at 253. New member count for this year, July 1, 2019 through March 15, 2020, is 34. This includes three new student members. Due to virus closings and the inability to host branch meetings, no new members have been added since March.

Public Policy

- January 19 AAUW CoS Branch Public Policy Day on Voter Suppression featured Deb Walker, Executive Director of Citizens Project. Breakout sessions were included.

- Colorado AAUW State Public Policy Day 2020 on Feb. 2 was well attended by CoS members.

Communication

- CoS branch stays well connected to members via the website and monthly newsletter. This year a newly formed communications team has done extensive work to improve information flows to branch members and officials in the most timely and efficient manner possible.

Finance

- The Local Scholarship Committee offered six local scholarships at \$1,500 each to UCCS and PPCC women students this year. The \$3700+ one-time Addie Mae Memorial Scholarship, in the name of a member's deceased granddaughter, was funded through the generosity of individual branch members.

Governance

- Transitioning to 501(c)(3) status was a major initiative of the year. Branch Bylaws and Branch Working Rules and Policies were refreshed and conformed to be in line with AAUW National and Colorado State mandates, and governing documents are being updated. In addition, appropriate changes are being developed for financial processes, record keeping and administrative procedures. So far, 31 newly-developed branch position descriptions, important for defining responsibilities, have been approved.
- CoS branch was well represented at the Fall State Leadership Conference, State Public Policy Day in February, Colorado State meeting on Zoom in June, and the AAUW regional meeting also in June.
- The branch held an online vote for elected officers in the first week of June so they could assume their duties on July 1, 2020.

Kathy Olson, President

Marilyn Parker, Secretary