



BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Branch:	Colorado Springs		
President:	Pam Maier	Date:	June 2021
Education & Training <i>Addressing the barriers and implicit biases that hinder advancement of women.</i>			
Goals:	<i>What goals did your branch set this year that are in alignment with this macro area of National's Strategic Plan? Please prioritize your list and indicate after each goal what the current status is (i.e. completed, % completed, estimated completion date, etc.).</i>		
N/A			
Programs:	<i>Did you identify and/or hold any programs/activities/events that were in alignment with this macro area of National's Strategic Plan? If yes, please give a brief description of each and the date in which it was held/conducted.</i>		
<p>Start Smart Work Smart, scheduled for spring 2020 and cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic, will be rescheduled in FY 2021-2. The leadership of a new Community Outreach VP with ties to local community colleges will enhance program effectiveness.</p> <p>2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment, which extended voting rights to women. In October, as part of branch Get Out the Vote focus, Kathy Sturdevant, a Pikes Peak Community College history professor, spoke to the branch virtually about the critical role that Colorado Springs women have played in securing the vote for women and in establishing equal rights for women.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to participate in two non-partisan voter outreach programs: <i>Vote Forward</i> was an online letter-writing campaign which allowed participants to target underrepresented voters in their own states. <i>When We All Vote</i> was a texting Get Out The Vote campaign.</p> <p>On November 14 2021, 45 members attended a virtual discussion of the national immigration program DACA (Deferred Action for Child Arrivals) featuring local attorney Eric Pavri and DACA recipient Adriana Negrete. The <i>Two Minute Activist</i> initiative, promoting contacting legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, and equality in education, was promoted in every monthly newsletter.</p>			
Economic Security <i>Ensuring livelihoods for women.</i>			



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<p>The annual Welcome Coffee held via Zoom on Sept. 19, 2020 introduced 8 FY2019/20 academic scholarship recipients, 6 receiving \$1500 and 2 receiving \$1850 through branch donations.</p> <p>The virtual December 16 Holiday Scholarship Raffle featuring items including a handmade quilt generated \$1600.</p> <p>A precedent-setting online silent auction of over 100 member-donated items April 2 -16, 2021 generated \$\$ for FY 2021/22 scholarships.</p>	
<p><u>Leadership</u> <i>Closing the gender gap in leadership opportunities.</i></p>	
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Dr. Stephany Rose Spaulding, assistant professor of Women’s and Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, was the featured webinar speaker on February 20, 2021 addressing the topic of systemic racism in a presentation entitled *Recovering from Racism: Foundational Conversations We Need to Have*.

On March 6, 2021, AAUW Colorado Springs Branch joined 7 other women's organizations in Colorado Springs in organizing and underwriting the Colorado Springs International Women’s Day celebration. This year’s theme was *Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights for an Equal Future*. Speakers addressed generational perspectives ranging from women’s movement pioneers through millennials and Gen Z. The annual branch meeting May 15 featured a presentation by Leah Davis Witherow, Curator of History for the Pioneers Museum in Colorado Springs, entitled *Women Shaping Colorado Springs: Historic Changemakers You Should Know*.

A Diversity Officer has been named for the branch and a Diversity Committee formed for FY2021-22. All branch members were asked to read *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo and join in a Zoom discussion May 20, 2021.

The Branch sent 2 of the 12 state-wide scholarship applicants from Colorado to the virtual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) May 25-26, 2021.

Governance & Sustainability

Ensuring the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW well into the future.

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Throughout the challenging pandemic year of FY 2020-21 the Colorado Springs Branch strengthened membership by blending mission-related programming with enjoyable connections events and will grow membership again when in-person meetings are again permissible.

The theme of the year, lead by President Pam Maier, was *You've Got a Friend in AAUW*. Though the fall picnic had to be cancelled there were inspiring monthly newsletter articles along with many virtual meetings and webinars throughout the year.

Representing Colorado

Springs, the branch with the highest membership in the state, the State President and Membership VP were featured with *Membership Matters* at the virtual State Fall Conference Sept. 12, 2020 presenting the history of AAUW membership and the ways in which the Colorado Springs Branch attracts and engages members.

The establishment of a Governance Committee facilitated the revision and strengthening of bylaws and working rules and the development of Position Descriptions to maintain standards and update as needs change. The establishment of the Membership Coordinator position to send notes to ill and bereaved members underscored the theme of the year, *You've Got a Friend in AAUW*.

In addition, the branch joined the Colorado Nonprofit Association which offers resources including webinars on the management of nonprofits.