



**BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022**

**Due: May 31, 2022**

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| <b>Branch:</b>  | Durango  |              |              |
| <b>President:</b>   | Marcy Jung   | <b>Date:</b> | May 29, 2022 |
|   | <p>The Durango Branch board is resistant to SmartGoal development with regard to the national strategies associated with the 5 Star Program. Therefore, this report will be completed by associating our branch activity and success as it relates to the established national goals.</p>  |              |              |
| <p><b><u>Education &amp; Training</u></b></p> <p><i>Addressing the barriers and implicit biases that hinder advancement of women.</i></p> |  |              |              |
| <b>Goals:</b>   | <p>We did not establish specific branch goals for Education and Training, however, there are accomplishments that the Durango Branch has achieved this year relative to the national goal to <i>champion equal access in education with emphasis in STEM.</i></p>  |              |              |
|   | <p>A national suggested strategy is to <i>improve access to learning environments.</i> We awarded our 3rd annual AAUW-Durango/Village Aid Project Gift of \$500 to support the travel expenses of a student participating in the Village Aid Project and traveling overseas to develop water systems. This year, Jessie Urban will travel to Nicaragua. Further, <i>supporting educational pathways for women and girls</i> is encouraged too. We are nearly halfway to endowing our fourth scholarship at Fort Lewis College. The Sandy Brown Fund will be endowed at \$25,000 and provide another student with an annual scholarship. Our three currently endowed scholarships, again supported the tuition expense of three young women at Fort Lewis College this past year through the Virginia Schoser, Janet Watson, and Cheryl Jackson scholarships.</p> |              |              |
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## **Economic Security**

*Ensuring livelihoods for women.*

**Goals:**

We did not establish branch goals for Economic Security, however, our public policy leader set a goal to recognize Equal Pay Day as we had in years prior.

**Programs:**

The Equal Pay Day activity did not happen as planned.

## **Leadership**

*Closing the gender gap in leadership opportunities.*

**Goals:**

We did not establish branch goals for Leadership, however, there are accomplishments that will be reported here providing evidence of actively supporting the national goal of *expanding women in leadership*.

**Programs:**

The Durango Branch sponsored the participation of three women from Fort Lewis College at the 2022 NCCWSL: Dariul Shorty, Hannah Jones, and Tehani Waahila. While our membership does not exemplify diversity across race, our participation at NCCWSL overall is exceedingly diverse and all three 2022 participants were women-of-color.

## **Governance & Sustainability**

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

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| <b>Goals:</b> | Goals were not set directly relative to the strategies outlined by AAUW National. However, we demonstrate commitment to governance and sustainability by actively engaging with our membership and seeking to grow it. Additionally, given the first year with a DEI chairperson, we were highly aware of incorporating themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion which is specific to the Governance & Sustainability goals and strategies. Therefore, the national and state emphasis on <i>embodying the spirit of equity, inclusion, diversity, and intersectionality across all AAUW activities</i> is apparent in the overview of our 2021-2022 year. |
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| <b>Programs:</b> | <p><b>Specific to DEI:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Our book club interest group, Edouard, selected several titles this past year that were educational and thought-provoking relative to DEI themes: “Two Old Women”; “This Tender Land”; “The House of Rain”; and “Braiding Sweetgrass”.</li><li>2. Video pieces were shared with members that highlighted Native American issues.</li><li>3. Our 75<sup>th</sup> branch anniversary was an event called the Party in the Park. Two feature speakers, Jenni Trujillo and Hailey Danz both shared their experiences of DEI as women, a woman of color, and a para-olympian.</li><li>4. Our monthly San Juan Sage was revised into a one page document that not only highlighted activities of the branch, but sought to bring awareness to DEI.</li><li>5. A new interest group called Walk and Talk invited branch members to participate in a walk through the college art gallery that featured the native experience of college students through art. Additionally, a field trip took the group to the Aztec Ruins in Aztec, NM.</li></ol> <p><b>Governance &amp; Sustainability as it relates directly to our Durango Branch and Membership:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Attempting to keep members connected, interest groups remained active and returned to meeting again, e.g. our monthly birthday lunch. And two new interest groups were started.</li><li>2. Short video snippets were prepared and distributed to members about long time members and women in the community.</li><li>3. Focus on the need for a member committed to communications and specifically keeping our new website up-to-date.</li><li>4.. A document <i>Interest Group Guidelines</i> was prepared in an attempt to remind and maintain the AAUW mission as a focal point.</li><li>5. Our membership took a dip during the pandemic. We are seeing some new growth again. The 75th Anniversary celebration attracted 7 new members and we are currently at 79 members.</li></ol> |
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