



BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Due: May 31, 2022

Branch:	Littleton-South Metro		
President:	Donna Zimmerman	Date:	May 31, 2022
<p><u>Education & Training</u></p> <p><i>Addressing the barriers and implicit biases that hinder advancement of women.</i></p>			
Goals:	<p><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></p>		
<u>GOALS:</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Hold a minimum of two fundraising events by June 1, 2022 to support scholarship awards. (100% complete) 2) Hold one program aligned with this focus area on Education & Training by June 30, 2022. (100% complete) 3) Award scholarships by May 1 to 2022 high school grads: (100% complete) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two for Littleton HS grads going into STEM (\$1,000/each) - Two for Sheridan HS grads (\$1,000/each) 4) Continue supporting Sheridan HS students through donations of personal items and books when possible, during the 2021-22 school year. (100% complete + increased range of donated items also) 5) Provide volunteer support for the Society of Women Engineers GESTEM event in May 2022. (0% complete – we were not asked to volunteer) 6) Advance partnership with Arapahoe Community College (ACC) by: (50% complete) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing a relationship with the Title IX Coordinator and providing support where and when needed by June 30, 2022. - We were able to connect again with Dan Balski, Director of Student Life, to find a student to attend NCCWSL. Additionally thru Dan, we were connected with Philip Drum, Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA Member who added us to their new communications and partnerships list for possible collaborations in the future. Philip also shared the name of their Title IX person, but we have not been able to connect as of the completion of this report. 		
Programs:	<p><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>		

Virtual Fundraising Event Featuring Author Pam Houston & Her Memoir *Deep Creek* (March 26, 2022): Colorado author Pam Houston read excerpts from and discussed her memoir, *Deep Creek: Finding Hope In The High Country*. At 31 years old, fresh off a tour promoting her first collection, *Cowboys Are My Weakness*, Pam had “no job, no place to lie except her North Face tent.” On an impulse and a good instinct, she spent her royalties on a 120-acre ranch near Creede, Colorado. It was more than she could afford and required more maintenance than she could manage. And yet, 25 years later, it’s the piece of land that’s defined the largest part of her life. Pam took us into the depths of her life’s difficult journey, not only as an abused child, but also as a woman working her way through school, faced by an endless array of discrimination by her instructors.

The Conductor Virtual Documentary Screening (January 15, 2022): We had the amazing opportunity to enjoy a private virtual screening of the acclaimed documentary, *The Conductor*. The Conductor takes the audience into the heart of classical music, and into the soul of one of its top, most beguiling artists, the internationally renowned conductor Marin Alsop. Alsop first saw the legendary Leonard Bernstein when she was nine-years old. That’s when she knew what she wanted to be in life: a conductor. Told that girls can’t do that, Marin struggled against enormous prejudices and institutional obstacles for decades to become one of the world’s most renowned classical music conductors. The film follows Marin’s improbable rise and her single-minded pursuit.

Economic Security

Ensuring livelihoods for women.

Goals:

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.).

GOALS:

- 1) Continue advancing partnership with Arapahoe Community College. (100% complete)
- 2) Hold one program aligned with this focus area on Economic Security by June 30, 2022. (100% complete)
- 3) 25% of members attend Public Policy Day 2022. (Unsure at the time of this report)

Programs:

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.

The Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Women in Colorado (November 13, 2021): This program, presented via Zoom, focused on an in-depth look at how the pandemic is impacting women in Colorado. Presented by the [Women’s Foundation of Colorado](#) (WFCO) VP of Programs, Louise Myrland, the program dove even deeper into the existing inequities experienced by women of color that have been exacerbated as a result of COVID-19. Like AAUW, WFCO conducts extensive research and Louise had powerful data to share.

EnCorps STEM Teachers Program (November 13, 2021): Following Louise, we heard from Sue Pitts, National Recruitment Director from EnCorps. This program recruits professionals (retired or not) to become teachers

or fellows in the program and then trains and positions them in under-resourced community schools to give disadvantaged students access to high-quality STEM education. We also discussed ways to partner, including options for our members to volunteer in the program

Leadership

Closing the gender gap in leadership opportunities.

Goals:

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.).

GOALS:

- 1) 50% of membership attend Virtual Leadership Conference on August 21, 2021. **(Unsure)**
- 2) Hold one program aligned with this focus area on Leadership by June 30, 2022. **(100% complete)**
- 3) Gift one *Equity Network Social Change Ambassadors Certificate Program*. **(0% complete)**
- 4) Advance partnership with Arapahoe Community College by gifting a NCCWSL registration to one of their students. **(100% complete)**
- 5) Gift a scholarship to *Law School Yes We Can*. **(0% complete)**

Programs:

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.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Where Do We Go From Here (May 14, 2022): For our second in-person program and last one of the AAUW year, we had the great pleasure of hearing from Candice M. Smith, from the Aurora Branch, as we embarked on a short training on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Candice is a coach and the Founder and CEO of [Boss Generation](#), a nonprofit organization that proactively addresses the student loan debt crisis that impacts Black women and women of color. Prior to starting this organization, she spent over a decade in education, as a teacher, teacher coach, and district trainer for [Denver Public Schools](#). Candice holds a master's degree in Education from Regis University and a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace certification from the University of South Florida. She is also the Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness Coordinator at the [Mental Health Center of Denver](#).

Governance & Sustainability

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

Goals:

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.).

GOALS:

- 1) Gift two young women Equity Network memberships for one year. **(0% complete)**
- 2) Hold one program aligned with this focus area related to AAUW by June 30, 2022. **(100% complete)**

- 3) Hold a minimum of two fundraising events, raising a minimum of \$2,500 by June 30, 2022. (100% complete / \$3,078)
- 4) Establish a list of area women's and/or related organizations by June 1, 2022. (30% complete)
- 5) Complete review & update all Job Descriptions by June 1, 2022. (50% complete)
- 6) Conduct Membership Survey. (100% complete + planning to conduct another one this fall, 2022)
- 7) Create a plan for implementing Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) discussions with membership by September 1, 2021. (100% complete / started with an Interest Group with the intent of a recommendation on next steps by year end [June 30] followed by a presentation at July 2022 Board Retreat, which is on track)
- 8) Appoint a DEI Officer by September 1, 2021. (100% complete / Susan Brodie)

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>
------------------	---

September Kick-Off Meeting Focused on Reengaging (September 18, 2021): After not being able to meet for so many months due to the COVID-19 pandemic (except for a picnic in June) members gathered at Progress Park in Littleton for some much-needed social time. We also heard from our Interest Group leaders, learned about how AAUW National is *Reframing & Refocusing for Impact* and engaged in a short business meeting where we discussed the year ahead and voted on the 2021-22 budget.

Redistricting in Colorado (October 9, 2021): This informative program was presented via Zoom by Dr. Rebecca Theobald, who is Assistant Research Professor in the Geography and Environmental Studies Department at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. The program focused on the important and very current topic of redistricting. The Colorado Independent Legislative Redistricting Commission is responsible for drawing new boundaries for all 65 state House districts and 35 state Senate districts. In addition, Colorado was slated to send an eighth congressperson to the U.S. House of Representatives because of Census determined population growth, requiring the reformation of boundary lines for its U.S. House districts.

The New American Annual Holiday Program & Fundraiser (December 11, 2021): With the pandemic still posing restraints on in-person programs, we held our 2nd virtual holiday event via Zoom. *The New American: The Great Wave of Immigration Through Ellis Island* was produced by award winning theatre company, Living Voices. Presenting a very engaging look at the journey from steerage to Ellis Island to the sweatshops of New York City, the performance shed light on how immigrants were exploited and forced to work long hours with little pay in textile factories. On March 25, 1911, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory burst into flames, and 146 workers — nearly all young women, many of them teenage immigrants perished.

Five Star National Recognition Program

Programs: *Recognized August 31, 2021*

Advancement: *Recognized August 19, 2020*

Communications and External Relations: *Recognized August 31, 2021*

Public Policy & Research:

Governance & Sustainability: