**BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

Due: May 31, 2023

|  |
| --- |
| **Office: Public Policy Committee** |
| **Name: Su Ryden and Candice Smith, Co-Directors Date: 15 May 2023** |
| **STRATEGIC PLAN AREAS**  **Education & Training:** *Addressing the barriers and implicit biases that hinder advancement of women.*  **Economic Security:**  *Ensuring equal pay and job opportunities for women.*  **Leadership:** *Closing the age gap in AAUW leadership opportunities.*  **Governance & Sustainability*:*** *Ensuring the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW well into the future.* |
| **Goals:** *What goals did you set this year that are in alignment with this Strategic Plan? Please prioritize your list and indicate after each goal what the current status is (i.e. completed, % completed, estimated completion date, etc.).* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Education & Training**  **Economic Security**  **Goal**: To assess and advocate for or against bills in the Colorado General Assembly.  **Status**: 100% completed  **Goal**: To educate and inform AAUW members and the general public about policy issues.  **Status**: 100% completed  **Leadership:**  ***Goal****: Closing the age gap in AAUW Public Policy committee leadership opportunities.*  ***Status****: In progress* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Programs:** *Did you identify and/or hold any programs/activities/events that were in alignment with this Strategic Plan?* ***YES****. If yes, please give a brief description of each and the date on which it was held/conducted.*  **Public Policy Day**  We held our annual **AAUW Colorado Public Policy Day**, Sat., Feb. 4, 2023, via Zoom Webinar. More than 120 people attended. The theme was *Behavioral Health…help, hope and beyond.* The session featured Summer Gathercole, Deputy Commissioner of the new State Behavioral Health Agency, was the keynote speaker. She provided an overview of the new agency and new reasons to be optimistic about the future of mental healthcare in Colorado.  A panel discussion featured State Representative Dafna Michaelson Jenet, who has focused much of her work on mental health, especially on youth services. She was joined by Dr. Tony J. Poole, Assistant Superintendent, who is leading the development of the new youth mental health center in the Cherry Creek School District, and by Michelle Quattlebaum, Community Relations Director for Wellpower (Denver Mental Health), and a Denver Public Schools board member. Former State Senator Nancy Todd moderated the panel. Public Policy Co-Director Candice Smith managed the Q&A session.  Former State Rep. Su Ryden and former State Sen. Betty Boyd provided a legislative update on AAUW priority bills.  The event included an update on AAUW’s efforts to ratify the 28th Amendment( Equal Rights Amendment) from AJ Conroy with the AAUW Chicago branch. State President Joan Brown also gave an update on national AAUW news.  The annual event is designed to help members and guests learn more about the state government, and how they can become more involved in the legislative process.  The evaluations from this event were extremely positive and will be reference in planning the 2024 Public Policy Day. |
| **Legislative Advocacy**  During the Legislative session (Jan-May), the Public Policy Committee assesses proposed CO bills and decides whether to support or oppose bills, with priority given to those that address the National AAUW Public Policy.  On those bills we **actively support or oppose,** our state lobby coordinator and committee members submit letters and provide testimony**.** We list other bills which we support or oppose, but do not participate actively.  We post the bills, along with our positions and bill status, on our AAUW Colorado website. This posting is updated weekly.  AAUW Colorado also collaborates with a number of women’s advocacy groups, including League of Women Voters, The Women’s Lobby, COLOR (a Latina reproductive rights organization), and Cobalt (formerly Colorado NARAL). |