

**of Colorado**

**BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

**Due: May 31, 2023**

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| **Branch:** | Fort Collins Branch |
| **President:** | Barb Slattenow | **Date:** May 2023 |  |
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| **Education & Training***Addressing the barriers and implicit biases that hinder advancement of 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.).* |
| Education and Training was the 2nd Priority in AAUW’s National Strategic Plan1. Impact of Banned Books in an educational setting. 100%
2. Contacting staff at Colorado State University in the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology. 100%
3. Branch member as a volunteer judge to represent AAUW of Colorado at the Colorado and Science & Engineering Fair at Colorado State University. 100%
4. Continuing to reach out to Colorado State University and Front Range Community College Students to become AAUW Undergraduate and Graduate Student Members 100%.
5. Having an online scholarship application process for 2023-2024 on our branch website. Scholarships awarded June, 2023. 100%
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| **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.* |
| 1. On September 17 a Banned Books program was presented by Linda Preston, Lisa Rhoads, and Sandra Munger looking at the history, current state of banned books and our society.
2. Program on January 21 by Dr. Sara Bombaci, CSU staff and a recipient of an AAUW National Grant. Dr. Bombaci conducts research in both conservation biology/social justice and prioritizes diversity and inclusion in STEM education. She also conducts research, teaching, and outreach to foster great equity and inclusion in academia.
3. Girls & STEM Program on April 15 presented by member volunteer judge Lisa Rhoads focused on recap of the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair hosted by Natural Science Education and Outreach Center at Colorado State University. AAUW of Colorado awards were given in the Junior Division to Jocelyn Kramer and Senior Division to Cami Wolkow. Program closure was fun activity Marshmallow Tower Challenge done by member teams.
4. Sending branch newsletters/emails with info to students, prospective members to attend in person branch meetings/webinars at the state and national level, August, 2022 to May, 2023. Also registering for Virtual Fall Leadership Conference August 20, 2022 and Virtual Public Policy Day on February 4, 2023.
5. Our branch awards scholarships to 2023 High School Graduates enrolled at Colorado State University and Front Range Community College; Freshman/Sophomores at Front Range Community College; Juniors/Seniors enrolled at Colorado State University. In addition to the scholarships recipients are given AAUW membership for AAUW National, AAUW of Colorado, and AAUW Fort Collins Branch. Donations and fundraiser Taste of FC support.
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| **Economic Security***Ensuring livelihoods for women.* |
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| Economic Security was the 3rd Priority in AAUW’s Strategic Plan1. Ballot Issues covering both local and state with pros, cons and budget implications. 100%
2. Learning about facts and decreasing risk of developing dementia and the need for being a caregiver. 100%
3. Frauds and scams seem to be a part of our everyday life. What red flags to watch for to keep yourself and your resources safe? 100%
4. Our community continuing needs for the aftermath of Covid. Our branch reaching out with donations and in volunteering in projects. 100%
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| 1. Program on October 15 was presented by members of the League of Women Voter’s Speakers Bureau for midterm elections.
2. February 18 program was presented by Angel Hoffman, Regional Director of Northern Colorado Alzheimers’s Association, Colorado Chapter. Tips and strategies for your own self-care were the focus on becoming a resilient caregiver.
3. Barbara Bennett, Coordinator of the Larimer County Sheriff’s Crime Prevention Unit presented at the branch meeting on May 20. She is passionate about educating our community about what each of us can do to deter criminals.
4. Branch members were involved in matching funds for donations for the Food Bank for Larimer County; New Socks Drive for pre-school children to high school; and other projects to be continued in the community.
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| **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.).* |
| Leadership was the 1st Priority in AAUW’s Strategic Plan1. Encouraged members to register/attend AAUW of Colorado Virtual Fall Leadership on August 20, 2022. 100%
2. Recap program of 2022 Virtual NCCWSL with one student member registering and attending on May 24-26. 100%
3. Four women veterans sharing experiences in the military. 100%
4. Encouraged members to register/attend Virtual Public Policy Day on February 4, 2023. 100%
5. Celebrating Black History Month with panel of women sharing their paths. 100%
6. Encouraged members to register/attend 2023 AAUW of Colorado State Conference and Annual Business Meeting on April 22, 2023. 100%
7. Contacting two student members of our branch considered eligible to apply for NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Students Leaders). Both had already had studies/research planned at the time of the conference. 100%
8. Installation of Officers for 2023-2024. 100%
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| 1. Opportunity for all members to attend the Virtual Fall Leadership Conference on August 20, 2022.
2. Corinne Neustadter attending the 2022 Virtual NCCWSL Conference. Corinne was a scholarship recipient of our branch and a student member while attending Colorado State University.
3. Program “Women Veterans and Women in the Military: Then and Now on November 19 was presented by Maryanna Wienbroeer Bunkhorst (USAF), Jessica Milford (USAF), Maria Secrest (USA), and Dorothy Clark (USA). Each shared separately on being in the military, careers, and being a woman in the military.
4. Positive number of members attending Public Policy Day on February 4, 2023.
5. A panel of three included Ernestine Munsey, Dorothy Martin, and Margaret Grant sharing individually how far women have come while acknowledging the need to guard against erosion of those rights today.
6. Seven members from our branch registered and attended AAUW of Colorado 2023 State Convention and Annual Business Meeting on April 22. Program included: Fighting for our Reproductive Rights; Women Mean Business, International Business Day; Women’s Suffrage National Monument and Keynote with Phil Weiser - What Are We Doing About the Erosion of Women’s Rights?
7. NCCWSL Plans for 2024 will remain the same for a student to attend.
8. Installation of Officers was held at branch meeting on May 20. A good leader is often described as decisive, confident, optimistic, and inspiring. Leaders must embrace the changes that must occur within the organization in order for it to survive and respect the past.
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| **Governance & Sustainability***Ensuring the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW well into the future.* |
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| Governance & Sustainability was the 4th Priority in AAUW’s Strategic Plan1. Sustaining membership after the Pandemic was lifted. Everyone is not the same as before the Pandemic. Keeping in touch with members not able to attend or not being comfortable to an in person setting. 100%
2. Maintaining and strengthening relationships with Colorado State University and Front Range College, Fort Collins with AAUW University/College Partner. 100%
3. Encouraging members to take action with AAUW’s Two-Minute Activist and contacting legislators in Colorado. 100%
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| 1. All branch meetings with programs were in person – September, 2022 to May, 2023. Branch newsletter, Barb Wire, was prepared and sent to all members and guests interested in joining our branch or interested in program. Communication with cards, notes, texting, and emails to members not able to attend.
2. Interest Groups – AAUW Book Group is active year round and other groups include:

Happy HourLunch OutInternational DinnersTaking Care of YouOut and About1. AAUW University/College Partner fees were paid by Colorado State University and Front Range Community College for 2022-2023. Renewal is important for AAUW awareness.
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Send a copy of this report to

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And to

Scott Brown (*boomer 19@gmail.com*) for Colorado Website